



National Workshop on Bamboo Development Mission

Thursday, 30 December 2021

Venue: Hall No. 5, Vigyan Bhawan

Concept Note

Bamboo is a versatile commodity having a niche as basic raw material in industries like paper and pulp, construction, furniture, textile etc. Despite India being the second largest producer of bamboo, India remains a net importer of bamboo. The recent reclassification of bamboo from ‘tree’ to ‘grass’ has brought relief to bamboo farmers as they can now cut and ferrying non-forest bamboo. However, owing to lack of synergy among various stakeholders in the value chain of bamboo economy, much of India’s bamboo potential remains untapped.

It is interesting to note that the total use of wood in India is approximately 70 million cum (excluding fuel wood) and a mere 10% replacement of the wood demand by bamboo may create around 7 million direct jobs. This is especially important for rejuvenating the rural economy, conserve forests and doubling of farmers’ income.

There is a substantial wastage in bamboo used in various industries despite proven methods in its efficient utilization. For instance, the waste generated from manufacturing of bamboo furniture can be further utilized for making incense sticks, cosmetics and increasing the quality of soil. The need of the hour therefore is the involvement of scientific, socio-economic and industry experts for developing sustainable and indigenous technologies to convert bamboo into commercially viable bamboo based products to utilize the circular economy.

To scale up the utilization and commercialization of Bamboo, NITI Aayog is in the process of formulation of pragmatic policies/ technologies to leverage the Indian bamboo industry from its present status. In that context, a techno-commercial report titled “*Bamboo Development Mission Document*” is envisaged to be prepared for sustainable development of bamboo economy in the country. The report plans to analyze the complete bamboo chain: from plantation, production, processing, standardization and utilization in India.

The objectives of the initiative include curtailing bamboo imports to achieve ‘*Atma Nirbhar Bharat*’, generate employment in rural economy through *Doubling Farmers’ Incomes*, and improve value addition and diversification in bamboo products for giving a fillip to exports.

In this regard, a *one-day workshop is planned on 30th December 2021 involving stake holders from India and abroad to understand the opportunities, challenges and thereby develop strategies and roadmap for the development of bamboo circular economy.*