EXPOSURE VISIT CUM TRAINING OF BAMBOO FARMERS AND ARTISANS FROM ODISHA

ICFRE-Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat (Assam) conducted tenday long **Exposure Visit cum Training of Bamboo Farmers and Artisans from Odisha** from 1st to 10th September, 2023. The Training Programme was sponsored by Odisha Bamboo Development Agency, Government of Odisha. There were ten Bamboo Farmers and Artisans along with two Forest Officials. Dr. R. K. Borah, Director of the Institute welcomed the participants with traditional *Phulam Gamosa* in a brief inaugural session and addressed the Participants. Shri R. K. Kalita, Head, Extension Division of the Institute, who is also the Course Director of the Training programme, apprised in details about the training programme.

Shri R. K. Kalita delivered a presentation on bamboo based employment opportunities for the people of Odisha. He also imparted training on bamboo propagation and nursery techniques. He delivered presentation on Bamboo Cultivation and Management. He spoke about three most important aspects for development of bamboo sector such as need of quality planting stock to productivity, large scale commercial cultivation enhance and entrepreneurship development. He put emphasis on selection of species based on location, climatic & edaphic conditions; common uses; commercial uses; market preference; availability of planting materials. He put emphasis on growing at least two-three species together. He dealt other silvicultural practices such as land preparation, planning method, spacing, fertilizer and intercultural operations, intercropping, harvesting etc. irrigation, Α documentary on bamboo of the Institute was also shown to the Trainees

The participants visited various research and development facilities related to bamboo of the Institute on the first day of the training. Shri Kumud Bora and Shri Debojit Neog demonstrated different bamboo propagation techniques such as rhizome, culm cutting, branch cutting, macro-proliferation. They also demonstrated preparation and application of hormones in cuttings, nursery methods, soil solarization process, planting methods etc. Casual nursery man, Shri Budheswar Rajkhowa assisted various operations.

Participants were taken to field visit to Sivasagar district of Assam. They visited different shops selling variety of bamboo handicraft products. They also witnessed the historical monuments constructed by Ahom dynasty, such as Rong Ghor, Tolatal Ghor, Shiv Mandir etc. They visited bamboo handicraft unit of Shri Mohan Saikia at Na-Nath Gaon of Bokota area where the Participants witnessed large number bamboo handicraft products. They had interaction with Shri Saikia and other bamboo workers and saw the factory. R. K. Kalita, Bibhuti Deka and N. C. Das guided the Participants to the Sivasagar today.

Dr. R. D. Borthakur, ACTO, RFRI, Jorhat taught about the bamboo preservation treatments. She dealt with various preservation treatment methods, chemicals used, duration and amount of treatment, cost calculation etc. She also demonstrated various bamboo preservation treatments techniques. Dr. Borthakur also imparted training on theory as well as practical aspects of bamboo charcoal making. She demonstrated loading and staking of bamboo in brick kiln.

Dr. R. D. Borthakur, ACTO, RFRI, Jorhat demonstrated firing process of bamboo charcoal making technique. The Trainees actively participated in the activity and performed with their own hands. The Trainees also leant the skills of making of various bamboo handicraft items. Dulal Bora, Debakanta Bora and Nripen Gogoi taught various skills of making of these products.

Participants learnt various techniques involved in making of Chair, Tray, Flower, Napkin Stands and Wall Clock. They also leant to make bamboo boards. Many of these items have good demand in local market. They have tried to make these items with perfection. Dulal Bora, Nripen Gogoi and Debakanta Borah meticulously planned and taught various techniques and skills. Dr. R. D. Borthakur, ACTO, RFRI, Jorhat also taught the making of bamboo charcoal briquettes. Shri Sudeep Nayak, IFS, Mission Director, Odisha Bamboo Development Agency, Government of Odisha visited ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat and interacted with the Trainees. He witnessed various research and development activities of the Institute related to bamboo. He was formally welcomed to the Institute by Dr. Nitin Kulkarni, Director of the Institute in a Session where Training Completion Certificates were distributed to the participants. Dr. Kulkarni encouraged the Trainees and urged them to continue the workmanship in future so as to earn their livelihood. Shri Nayak informed that set of implements will be provided to the Trainees. He appreciated ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat for its support in providing the training.

The Participants visited ESES Bio-wealth Pvt. Ltd, Jagiraod, Marigaon (Assam) and saw various modern products of bamboo such as bamboo wood floor tiles, bamboo wood door and door frames, bamboo wood furniture etc. Shri Saurabh Saikia, Proprietor of the Industry explained various processes for making the bamboo wood during the visit.

The Participants also visited North East Cane & Bamboo Development Council, Burnihat, Guwahati where Dr. T. C. Bhuyan, Consultant apprised various activities of the organization.

















10-day exposure visit cum training of ^{Pa} bamboo farmers and artisans from Odisha

CHRONICLE NEWS SERVICE

JORHAT: ICFRE-Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat (Assam) has started a ten-day long Exposure Visit cum Training of Bamboo Farmers and Artisans from Odisha from 1st September 2023.

The Training Programme is sponsored by Odisha Bamboo Development Agency, Government of Odisha. There are ten Farmers and Artisans along with two Forest Officials.

Dr. R. K. Borah, Director of the Institute welcomed the participants with traditional Phulam Gamosa in a brief inaugural session. Shri R. K. Kalita, Head, of the Extension Division of the Institute, who is also the Course Director of the Training program, apprised in details about the training program.

In his first technical session, Shri Kalita delivered a presenta-



tion on bamboo-based employment opportunities for the people of Odisha. He also imparted training on bamboo propagation and nursery techniques. The participants visited various research and development facilities related to bamboo at the Institute on the first day of the training. During the entire period of training, it is planned to impart training on Bamboo Plantation Management, Propagation Techniques, Bamboo Preservation Treatments, Bamboo Charcoal Making, and Hands-on Sessions on Bamboo Handicrafts, apart from visits to bamboo handicraft Units and Bamboo Industries.



Training on bamboo plantation management, propagation techniques, bamboo preservation treatments, bamboo charcoal making, hands-on sessions on bamboo handicrafts, apart from visits to bamboo handicraft units and bamboo industries, will be covered during the 10-day programme.