

Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore – 641 002.

Report on Training on “Bamboo Value Addition”

Date: 19th & 20th February, 2018

A two day training programme on “**Bamboo Value Addition**” was organized on 19th & 20th of February, 2018 by Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB), Coimbatore to sensitize Tamil Nadu bamboo growers and bamboo entrepreneurs on opportunities available for value addition in bamboo, with funding support of Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), Dehradun. Around 27 participants, including farmers, entrepreneurs & artisans from various districts of Tamil Nadu participated in the training programme. Inaugural programme commenced with welcome address by Dr. K. Palanisamy, Head of Division, Forest Genetic Resources (FGR) Division, IFGTB. In his felicitation address, Dr. S. Murugesan, Group Coordinator Research, IFGTB, informed participants that though India had more area under bamboo, China was leading in exporting bamboo products. He insisted upon focusing on organized cultivation of bamboos in clusters. Shri. M. Maria Dominic Savio, Scientist and Training coordinator, presented an overview of bamboo research carried out in IFGTB and steps taken by IFGTB to support bamboo growers to meet their marketing needs. Dr. Mohit Gera IFS, Director, IFGTB, Coimbatore in his inaugural address emphasized on bamboo growing for livelihood, need for its value addition as handicrafts and other products. Director insisted upon importance of developing market linkages & making updated market information available to farmers at periodical intervals. He assured bamboo farmers that IFGTB would continue to function as a platform for linking bamboo growers and bamboo entrepreneurs and will provide support for bamboo value addition activities through Skill India Mission. Two brochures on “Bamboo Value Addition” and “Bamboo Cultivation in Tamil Nadu” were released by Director, which ended with vote of thanks by Training coordinator.

Technical sessions commenced with a lecture on “Value addition potential of Bamboo”, by Shri. M. Maria Dominic Savio, training coordinator who informed participants on diversity of bamboos and their value addition potential. Conducted in an interactive manner, participants were informed about bamboo species suited for meeting food, fodder, handicrafts, furniture and construction needs along with technology used and its monetary value. Shri. N. Baskaran, a bamboo entrepreneur from Chennai shared his 30+ years of experience on harvesting and selling bamboos for different end uses. He requested bamboo growers not to harvest all culms in their clumps but only the matured culms to ensure quality for end user. In the afternoon, hands-on training sessions were conducted for making *Shishi Odoshi* which is a bamboo based Japanese fountain by Shri. Vincent, a proponent *Shishi Odoshi*. Shri. Natrajan, a national level artisan award winner, demonstrated making of miniature boat and house models, using bamboo strips which was appreciated by the participants.

On 20/01/2018, training commenced with a visit by participants to the Bamboo Market Information Centre (BMIC), located within Forest Campus, Coimbatore. Participants were

explained on steps involved in construction of BMIC which is a Bamboo mat board based structure and its benefits. Handicrafts assembled from across country were explained in terms of their value addition. Dr. C. Muralidharan, Assistant Professor, Agri-business Centre, Tamil Nadu Agriculture University (TNAU) made a presentation on ‘Farmer Producer Company (FPC)’ with special reference to bamboo growers. He explained, in detail, procedures involved in forming a FPC by different central and state government agencies and emphasized bamboo growers to organize themselves and form a FPC to get better price for their produce apart from starting value addition operations. Shri. Sivaraju, Secretary, URAVU, Wayanad addressed participants on his 20+ years of experience in bamboo value addition especially in handicraft & furniture making and bamboo construction. He offered services of master artisans to train participants under Skill India Mission, as and when IFGTB conducts such programs. Shri. N. Shanmugham, bamboo farmer who was associated with IFGTB in raising several model plantations – including bamboo - shared his experience on making bamboo handicrafts and furniture using bamboo grown in his field. He requested IFGTB, to organize more hands on training on bamboo artisans to develop a pool of skilled artisans in Tamil Nadu. He also suggested skill development trainings be conducted in bamboo grower’s fields such as his field. In his concluding remarks, Shri. M. Maria Dominic Savio, Training Coordinator requested participants to take forward message of training program amongst bamboo growers who could not attend training program.

During valedictory function, chaired by Dr. Mohit Gera, Director, IFGTB, participants appreciated manner in which training program was conducted and requested for conducting more skill development training programs with hands on training for longer duration. Dr. Mohit Gera, in his valedictory address informed participants that IFGTB would be conducting more bamboo skill development trainings for better hands on training of longer duration which would enable bamboo growers to produce value added products in their own farms. Training concluded with the distribution of certificates to participants.

Training on 'Bamboo Value Addition", IFGTB, Coimbatore. 19-20th February, 2018.



















