

# BAMBOO CULTIVATION IN TRIPURA

## Background:

Bamboos are popularly known as *green gold & poorman's timber* and can generally adapt to wide range of climatic and edaphic conditions. The North Eastern state represents 28% of the countries bamboo stock and Tripura has 2397 sq. Km of bamboo forests forming about 23% geographical area of the state.

Muli bamboo comprises about 80% of the bamboo resources and this is the only single stand-bamboo (non-clump forming) most widely used species in the state.

## Details of Initiatives

Bamboo is the most important non timber forest produce used extensively by tribal and rural people of Tripura and plays an important role in employment generation and socio-economic upliftment in rural sector. It is estimated that around 6.1 million mandays is generated per year by way of harvesting and utilisation of bamboo in different forms

## Bamboo species available in Tripura:

21 species of bamboos are found in Tripura. Most common bamboos are;

- Muli (*Melocanna baccifera*),
- Barak (*Bambusa balcooa*),
- Bari (*Bambusa polymorpha*),
- Mritinga (*Bambusa tulda*),
- Paora (*Bambusa teres*),
- Rupai (*Dendrocalamus longispathus*),
- Dolu (*Neohuzeaua dullooa*),
- Makal (*Bambusa pallida*),
- Pecha (*Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*),
- Kanak kaich (*Bambusa affinis*),
- Jai (*Bambusa spp.*)

## Cultivation of Bamboo

Bamboo can be vegetatively propagated through rhizome planting, branch cutting, culm cutting and even through tissue culture. Bamboo flowers after long intervals and hence availability of bamboo seed is less. As after flowering culm dies so seed collection and cultivation of bamboo through seeds is recommended in course of bamboo flowering.

### Achievements of the Initiatives

#### ➤ Bamboo plantation raised by Forest Department

A total of 50828 ha plantation has been raised so far including 3147 ha in private land through different Schemes of National Afforestation Project, JICA, IGDC, Tripura Bamboo Mission, Rural Development, ADC and National bamboo Mission schemes etc.

#### ➤ Productivity of bamboo:

As per FSI report the productivity of bamboo in the state:

Estimated number of bamboo clums and equivalent green weight	
Number of clums (in millions)	Equivalent green weight (in 000 tonnes)
830	4965

#### ➤ Value addition in bamboo sector:

The Forest Department with JICA, IGDC, Tripura Bamboo Mission has taken up massive training programmes for the rural artisans in value addition of bamboo through community capacity building in elevating bamboo products as bamboo sub-sector industrial avenues for the state of Tripura.

Local name	Agarbatti stick	Handicrafts	Mats	Furniture	Other Uses
Kanakaich		√		√	Fishing rods, javelins
Barak				√	Scaffolding
Bom		√	√	√	
Mal/ Makhla		√	√		
Paura	√	√	√		

Mirtinga	√	√	√		Edible shoots; paper mills
Bari/ Jai		√		√	Fencing, shoots, paper
Rupai	√	√	√	√	Paper
Lathi Baans		√		√	Paper; edible shoots
Muli	√	√	√		Utility items, shoots, paper
Dolu		√	√		Handicrafts

## Future Programme

Initiatives taken towards high density bamboo plantation to meet the present day market demand and efforts are being taken to use of technology in value addition activities to suit the National and International standards.

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### Agarbati stick making

