BAMBOO: RURAL SKILLS TRAINING IN INDIA





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ILO Recommendation No. 195 on Human Resources Development: Education, Training and Lifelong Learning adopted at the 92nd Session of the International Labour Conference (Geneva, 17 June 2004) calls for, among other things, innovative approaches in skills development directed towards poverty reduction and socio-economic empowerment of rural poor and their communities. Similarly, the Conclusions of the Committee on Skills at the 97th Session on the International Labour Conference (Geneva, 9 June 2008) noted: "the problem of access to education and training is most acute in rural areas. In rural areas, the three goals are to expand infrastructure and availability of skills development, create more employment, while also improving the quality of education and training".

With this end in view, and within the framework of the ILO Decent Work agenda, the Skills and Employability Department of the ILO promotes and provides technical and advisory awareness in developing national capacities in applying the processes of the training for rural economic empowerment methodology. This systematic methodology ensures that training is linked to economic and employment opportunities, and that disadvantaged target groups, including poor women and people with disabilities, can realize these opportunities and thereby be economically empowered.

I Quotes from

The **Rig Veda** "Bestow upon us a hundred Bamboo clumps" most accepted of Hinduism people:

The Swami Vivekananda "Give me 100 youth, So that I will make a strong India"

The **Prime Minister** "If we have to promote the development of our country, then our Mission has to be Skill Development and Skilled India":

The Vision Document of NITI Aayog enumerates issues "Employers' complain of lack of availability of skilled labour. The new entrants to the labour force coming out of the institutions of higher learning are not able to find jobs matching their aspirations. This skill mismatch arises due to disconnect between the industry and the institutions of higher learning".

Bamboo Global concern for environment and bio-diversity conservation in recent years is shared by the nation and is reflected in various national policies. Complexity of values attached to environment, forests, bio-diversity often seems to conflict with the basic needs of human survival. The role of Bamboo product research and training of personnel in the Bamboo product manufacturing technology are even more critical now than ever before. Bamboo policy aims at integrated development of bamboo sector for generating livelihood options for communities as wells as revenue for the National. It promotes both industrial and traditional use of bamboo through private-public-people partnership. It facilitates evolving strategies for augmenting production, application of relevant technologies and adaptation to global market.

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India has 136 bamboo species under 75 genera. About 89 bamboo species out of 136 recorded in India fewer than 16 genera grow naturally in different forest areas or are cultivated. As per the FAO report on world forest resources, India is the second richest country after China in terms of bamboo genetic resources. The annual bamboo production in India is estimated at 3.23 million tons. India has 30% of the world's bamboo resources with largest growing area of 11.36 million ha, but the country taps only one-tenth of its bamboo potential and contributes only 4% share of the global market mainly because of low productivity of around 2 tons/ha/annum. As per the Forest Survey of India (FSI) 2013 report, the density of Bamboo in Forest Area is 7, 71,821 sq km. Government has planned to diversify its uses to reap the benefits in the Rs 500 Billion (\$11.9 billion) global bamboo product market. Between them, India, China and Myanmar have 19.8 million hectares of bamboo reserves – 80 percent of the world's bamboo forests. Out of this India's share is 45 percent, with nearly 125 different species of the plant, but only 4 per cent of its global market. However, only 50% of that demand can be met because of lack of facilitilities for value addition and transportation.

The domestic Bamboo industry has been held back owing to a wide variety of issues in its value chains, including regulatory and legislative barriers to cultivation and harvesting of Bamboo, challenges in its procurement, lack of technical know-how among the primary users of Bamboo, lack of market linkages and insufficient market demand. There are various gaps at policy level like there is no national clarity at policy level on management of minor forest products and stake in Bamboo sector has been a major issue of confrontation between the Forest Department and the local communities, particularly after PESA and FRA; gaps at production level like while conservation and regeneration of Bamboo species did not receive adequate attention in the timber-centric forest management system, unsustainable harvesting practices along with diversion of forest land for non-forest use caused substantial degradation of the resource base.

Its bamboo industry, concentrated in the northeast of the country, take 27 percent of the world market is expected to be Rs.950 billion.

The Skill Training Schemes Trade in Bamboo Technology in India under developing by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India the only one of its type in the Nation, is highly recognized by the Bamboo Technology industry are in good demand.

CTS course – Cane Willow and Bamboo Worker (Code-092) as now re-designed of Bamboo Works (Code-283) or CoE Basic and Advance courses - Bamboo Technology for ITI, CITS course – Bamboo Works for CTS on Bamboo works trade ITI passed/Diploma in Bamboo Technology passed, MES course – Bamboo for School dropout and ITI passed, Diploma in Bamboo Technology and Post Graduate Diploma in Bamboo Technology for Colleges and Universities course, Apprenticeship training courses of designated and optional is one of the most efficient ways to develop skilled manpower for industry provides a unique opportunity to the young people for a career in one of the green gold industrial processing sectors viz. bamboo based industry, responsible for processing bamboo and other renewable fiber materials to meet certain vital human needs in most environment friendly manner.

It is hoped that it will be helpful to nation in strengthening for bamboo sector their capacities in planning and delivering skills and post-training programmes for poverty reduction and economic empowerment in rural areas.