NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON BAMBOO

"Plantation, Management and Its Utilization"

About the symposium

The symposium is financially supported by the BTSG (ICFRE) scheme of National Bamboo Mission. National Bamboo Mission is centrally sponsored scheme of Government of India. The mission envisages promoting holistic growth of bamboo sector through area based regionally differentiated strategies, to increase the area under bamboo in potential cultivation, post felling management, processing and marketing etc. The Mission is also taking adequate steps to strengthen marketing of bamboo products, especially those of handicraft items.

One of the most unique, fascinating and versatile group of plants known to mankind is bamboo. Bamboo's long life makes it a Chinese symbol of longevity, while in India it is a symbol of friendship. It is without doubt one of the most important agricultural plants in the world. Their strength, straightness, smoothness, lightness and extraordinary hardness makes bamboo most suited for many purposes. Bamboo is the fastest-growing plant on Earth. Besides known conventional practiced propagation techniques, a lot of work on mass propagation of the plant through tissue culture has also been done.

Bamboo have been closely related to the agriculture , cottage industries, arts and crafts, culture and day-to-day life of more than half of the world's population. Recently bamboos have also entered highly competitive markets in the form of pulp for paper and rayon, plywood and as a canned vegetable. Bamboo is a plant that provides considerable environmental benefits. It conserves soil, re-greens eroded slopes, stabilize riverbanks and also helps to preserve ecological balance of an area.

In Ayurveda, the Indian system of traditional medicine, the silicious concretion found in the culms of the bamboo stem is called banslochan. It is known as tabashir or tawashir in Unani-Tibb the Indo-Persian system of Medicine. Bamboo is used in Chinese medicine for treating infections. It is also a low calorie source of potassium. It's known as madou for Indian witch docters. It has also been known for its sweet taste and good source of nutrients.

Besides its use as a construction material, it is also used for fence-making, bridges, toilets, walking sticks, canoes, tableware, decorative artwork carving, furniture, chopsticks, food steamers, toys, bicycles, hats, and martial arts weaponry, including fire arrows, flame throwers and rockets.

The multifarious uses of bamboos, especially their use as industrial raw material have increased their

demand much beyond the availability.

Because of severe deforestation and the limitations of bamboo propagation and improvement fulfilling the ever-increasing demand is very difficult. While several classical propagation techniques are available, shortage of planting material and depletion of natural resources are both increasing rapidly.

Objectives

Sincere and concerted efforts are required to raise bamboo plantations in all bamboo growing areas including barren lands. A genuine effort must be made to raise new bamboo plantations under various social forestry and agroforestry programmes. The scientists are well aware about the potentials of bamboos and efforts are being made to overcome the hurdles in the field of propagation and improvement. It is still very essential that these ongoing researches may be presented at a forum, discussed and reviewed by a group of experts for the fruitful directions and future course of action.

With this background and need of the hour, a National Symposium on Bamboo with the theme "Plantation, Management and Its Utilization" is being organized at Arid Forest Research Institute, Jodhpur under the auspices of Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), Dehradun. This symposium aims to bring together researchers, cultivators, managers and industry people to brainstorm the gaps in the bamboo related aspects from research to production of bamboo based goods. The bamboo sector is facing various constraints from lack of scientifically standardized propagation methodologies for propagation and cultivation to value addition, inadequate trained man power, and poor market linkage to list a few. The symposium envisages to address these issues.

Themes

I Nursery techniques and conventional propagation of Bamboos
II Biotechnological interventions
III Management of Bamboo stands and conservation strategies
IV Bamboo utilization and value addition
V Bamboo marketing and Trade

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