

Tour Note of Shri Ram Muivah, IAS, Secretary, NEC, to Beijing, China to attend the Bamboo and Rattan Congress (BARC)-2018.

A team of eight officials from NEC, Ministry of DoNER, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) and Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), Government of India visited Beijing, China to participate in the Global BARC, 2018 from 25th-27th June 2018. NEC Ministry of DoNER was represented by Messrs Ram Muivah, IAS, Secretary, NEC and T. Imkonglemba Ao, Principal Secretary, Agriculture, Government of Nagaland and Mission Director, Nagaland Bamboo Development Agency.

The Indian Embassy, Beijing had coordinated the whole programme and was of great help in making the visit a success.

25.06.2018 - Opening Ceremony

Attended the opening ceremony which showcased the importance of bamboo and rattans in the development of the rural economy and combating climate change caused by carbon emission because carbon sequestration potential of bamboo is very rich and it was highlighted that development of bamboo based economy is carbon neutral.

In the opening summit on 25th June, 2018 messages of China's Premier Li Keqiang, President Juan Manuel Santos of Colombia, President Lenín Moreno of Ecuador, José Graziano da Silva, Director of the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and Achim Steiner, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme were read out in which all recognised the role of bamboo and rattan's in creating jobs, supporting rural development and helping with national climate change mitigation strategies.

As per the communication from INBAR, approximately 1500 participants from different countries and over 20 Ministers and high-level policymakers participated in the 3 day event. There were 80 sessions, and three large plenaries which marked the occasion of the first Global Bamboo and Rattan Congress.

The country was also represented by various Institutions including the North East Council of India under DoNER, Nagaland Bamboo Development Agency, Maharashtra Bamboo Development Board, IPIRTI and other private Institutes involved in development of Bamboo such as Centre for Green Building Materials and Technology, Bengaluru, Grow more Biotech Ltd., Hosur, Tamil Nadu, Bamboo and cane Development Institute, Tripura, Green Bam Infra Tech Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi and others.

Parallel session on "Bamboo and Rattan in BRICS" (25th June)

The parallel session on Bamboo and Rattans in BRICS was attended by BRICS countries. Together with Mr. Deepak Kumar Sinha, IGF (SU) MoEF&CC the undersigned represented India.

India recognizes that five BRICS countries represent over 3.1 billion people, or about 41% of the world population and shares vast natural resources. The bilateral and multilateral



cooperation among the BRICS countries will certainly help in building great economy in the world. The BRICS Forum, encourages commercial, political and cultural cooperation between the BRICS nations. Intra-BRICS cooperation is increasing and a broad agenda has developed in various areas such as finance, agriculture, science and technology, health, education among others. However, the cooperation has not been so encouraging in the field of development of Bamboo and Rattans resources.

It is important to identify areas where bilateral and multilateral cooperation can be established for the development of this sector. There is a need to share the resources, expertise developed so far and exchange technology for enhanced production of bamboo and rattan and development of value chain for best economic return to farmers globally. There exists huge market for the bamboo based products in all countries. The need of the hour is to focus in the market based research, product development, skill development and explore and develop market for export. The research and identification of suitable species for mass cultivation of bamboo and rattan will ensure supply of raw material for bamboo based industries.

India realized the potential of bamboo and started National Bamboo Mission (NBM) as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme in 2006-07 which continued till 2015-16 and subsequently the restructured NBM was constituted in 2017. The new restructured NBM is aimed at propagation of quality plantations of bamboo, product development and value addition including primary processing and treatment; micro, small & medium enterprises as well as high value products; markets and skill development, thus addressing the complete value chain for growth of the bamboo sector. Another key focus area would be promotion and development of Infrastructure for Bamboo Market.

BRICS countries too have great potential for scientific development of bamboo sector both for production, marketing and export. There is greater need for cooperation in this field for mutual benefit.

India has great potential for the development and growth of bamboo. It has huge market for bamboo based products especially in housing, construction, furniture making, artifacts, utensils etc. India is willing to collaborate with other countries especially fellow countries in BRICS in the field of research, technical development and innovations and export of bamboo based products. The research facilities in India such as Indian Plywood Industries Research and Training Institute (IPIRTI), Bangalore, Indian Council of Forestry research and Education (ICFRE), Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), are excellent institutes working on research and development in bamboo.

The representatives of Brazil, China, and Russia also highlighted the need for greater cooperation in development of bamboo and its product among BRICS countries and wanted to promote exchange programmes for greater cooperation among BRICS countries. South Africa invited India to visit South Africa for greater understanding in the field of bamboo development. Russia has little area under bamboo but was keen to extend cooperation in development of bamboo.

26.06.2018 :

Session: 32D: Bamboo Development with a Special Focus on North East India.

- **Time: Day-2; 16:00-17.30 June 26 2018 Tuesday**
- **Venue: 402A+B, China National Convention Center**

Chaired by Mr. Saibal Dasgupta, Addl. Director General of Forests, Ministry of Environment Forests and Climate Change

Key note address by Dr. Hans Freiderich Director General INBAR

Speakers:

1. Mr. Ram Muivah, Secretary, North Eastern Council and Additional Secretary, Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, Shillong. India
2. Mr. T. Imkonglemba Ao, Principal Secretary, Agriculture, Government of Nagaland and Mission Director, Nagaland Bamboo Development Agency.
3. Mr. Peter Lichamo, NCS Addl. Secretary. Government of Nagaland & Team Leader Nagaland Bamboo Mission-IT
4. Dr. Abhinav Kant I/C Bamboo and cane Development Institute, Tripura, India
5. Ms. Pushpanjali Das, Managing Director, Green Bam Infra Tech Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi, India
6. Mr. Subhash Bhatia, Farmer and Bamboo Grower, Madhya Pradesh

Summary: This session focused on the status of bamboo and rattans in the North Eastern states of India. Shri Ram Muivah, IAS, North Eastern Council explained that bamboo has been integral to the lives of the people of North East India. He explained about the Govt. of India's efforts to promote the bamboo sector in the North East States. He mentioned that in the Northeast of India bamboo resources are used for food, housing, furniture, handicrafts, utility products, tools and various ethno-religious and cultural purposes. Bamboo plays a very significant role in food and nutritional security in the lives of the tribal communities in the region. The North East India has potential in improving the livelihood of the artisans in the cane and bamboo handicraft, furniture, bamboo shoot processing, bamboo charcoal and bye products, bamboo plantations and community based bamboo nursery. There can be more value addition through design intervention, quality improvement, standardization and value packaging to make it more acceptable in the global market. This has been the thrust area in the North Eastern Council (NEC) funded project "Promoting Sustainable Livelihood in North East India: The Cane and Bamboo Cluster Development Project" which is being implemented by the NEC supported Institute – Cane and Bamboo Technology Centre. The project covers all the 8 North Eastern States with a target to develop 2 model clusters in each state. Given the huge potential for setting up of high end bamboo industries like bamboo flooring, bamboo textiles, bamboo boards etc. Shri Ram Muivah invited investors to invest in the Northeast of India. He mentioned that the North East Industrial Development Scheme with a slew of fiscal and subsidy benefits has been introduced by the Govt. of India to attract investment to the Region and therefore investors should take benefit of this scheme.

This session presented the bamboo's role in economic development and showcased different business models in North East India for sustainable development.



Mr. Ram Muivah explained the role of North East Council (NEC). NEC was constituted as a statutory advisory body under the NEC Act 1971 and came into being on the 7th November, 1972 at Shillong. The eight States of Northeast India viz. Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim, are members of the council, with their respective Chief Ministers and Governors representing them. Sikkim was added to the council in the year 2002. NEC functions under the ministry of home affairs of the Government of India. The constitution of the Council has marked the beginning of a new chapter of concerted and planned endeavour for the rapid development of the Region. Over the last thirty five years, NEC has been instrumental in setting in motion a new economic endeavour aimed at removing the basic handicaps that stood in the way of normal development of the region and has ushered in an era of new hope in this backward area full of great potentialities. He envisages greater role of bamboo which is grown naturally in the NE States of India. Over 50% of the bamboo is grown in NE states.

Recommendations:

India made a strong presence in the BARC by presenting the strengths in the field of research and training in development of Bamboo and its value chain. The new National Bamboo Mission was appreciated by all and the commitment of the country in leading the world in bamboo and its product development.

The need of bilateral and multilateral cooperation among bamboo bearing countries for increasing productivity of bamboo using latest advanced technology was recognised. The recent developments in Bamboo technologies for manufacture of Wind turbine, blades, Bamboo winding pipes, motorised Bamboo bicycles are take away from countries like China, Vietnam, Ghana etc.

The National Bamboo Mission is a landmark mission of the Government of India to increase the production of bamboo on non-forest land and value chain development for greater consumption of bamboo based products is commendable.

The development of bamboo inside the forest land which accounts for around 23% of land mass in India also deserves attention for better carbon sequestration and meeting the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) of 2.5 to 3 billion tCO₂.

A workshop of all concerned private and Government institutions involved in production of bamboo seedlings, progressive farmers, development and marketing of value added products made out of bamboo, consumers and policy makers must be organised urgently by the Ministry of Environment Forests and Climate change and Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare and National Bamboo Mission.

Establishment of quality seedling production centres across the country under NBM.

Conclusion:

I wish to place on record the support provided by the Indian Ambassador and especially the contribution of Mr Rajesh Parihar, First Secretary and Mrs Anupama Singh, Second Secretary in the Indian Embassy who not only facilitated the entire programme of the delegation but also took active part in all deliberations.



The final version of the Beijing declaration is attached as Annexure –I

28.06.2018: Departure Beijing for Delhi by flight CA-6509.



(Ram Muivah)

Secretary
North Eastern Council

Tour note dated: 16.08.2018

Shri Naveen Verma, IAS

Secretary, MDoNER, Government of India, Delhi.

Copy to:

1. The PS to Vice Chairman, NEC, New Delhi.
2. NIC, NEC. They are requested to upload the above Tour Note in the NEC website.

Annexure – I

Beijing Declaration

- Launched at the Global Bamboo and Rattan Congress

25-27 June 2018, Beijing, China

We, ministers, senior officials and participants, attending the Global Bamboo and Rattan Congress (BARC2018), the first ever high-level policy-oriented global meeting on bamboo and rattan, organised by the International Bamboo and Rattan Organisation (INBAR) and National Forestry and Grassland Administration of China on 25-27 June 2018 in Beijing, China,

Acknowledging the important role and great potential of bamboo and rattan in achieving UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);

Calling for new partnerships to strengthen South-South collaboration in the spirit of extensive consultation, joint contributions and shared benefits in order to build a community with a shared future for mankind;

Recognising that bamboo and rattan are two of the most important non-timber forest resources widely distributed across the world and can contribute significantly to achieving many of the social, economic and environmental goals and targets of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and to the creation of an ecological civilisation, particularly:

- Poverty alleviation - Bamboo and rattan have an estimated 10,000 uses which can create jobs, empower women and contribute to green growth;
- Addressing climate change - Bamboo stores carbon at a fast rate, making it a strategic tool for climate change mitigation and adaptation actions;
- Sustainable construction and human habitats - Bamboo's strength and light weight make it an excellent construction material for affordable, disaster-resilient housing and infrastructure;
- Environmental protection – Bamboo and rattan make up a critical part of forests and ecosystems, and bamboo is a very effective resource for restoring degraded land and managing water;
- Clean energy - Bamboo can provide a sustainable, renewable source of bioenergy which reduces pressure on forest resources and energy-poor communities;
- Sustainable production and consumption – Bamboo and rattan provide a low-carbon, renewable alternative to a number of materials used in construction, furniture, paper and packaging;

Acknowledging the opportunity for shared benefits through consultation among bamboo and rattan consumer countries, with their expertise in value-added production and trade;

Further acknowledging that technical innovation will promote the sustainable use and development of bamboo and rattan and facilitate industrial advancement;

Reaffirming INBAR's important contributions to facilitating South-South and trilateral cooperation via bamboo and rattan, and looking forward to its greater role in advancing the achievement of SDGs and international development cooperation as Observer to the United Nations General Assembly;

Recognising that most countries in the Global South have yet to realise the full potential of bamboo and rattan due to a lack of awareness, technical capacity, and political and financial support;

Further recognising that the Global Assessment of Bamboo and Rattan, 'GABAR', as INBAR's flagship programme, is working to tap the potential of these strategic plants by providing inventories, comprehensive assessments and policy-relevant information.

Commit to calling upon national governments and other relevant parties to implement the following recommendations:

1. Develop appropriate policy frameworks and allocate domestic resources to support the sustainable management of bamboo and rattan resources, development of local industry, and production and trade of bamboo and rattan goods, for the achievement of related SDGs and the building of an ecological civilisation;
2. Carry out inventories, natural capital accounting and assessments so as to get a better understanding of bamboo and rattan's distribution, availability, properties and uses;
3. Strengthen coordination and collaboration among INBAR Member States and partners to ensure that bamboo and rattan are included in and contribute to the implementation of relevant regional and global policies, programmes and initiatives regarding the SDGs, climate change mitigation, adaptation and green growth;
4. Establish value chains with access to local, regional, and international markets via appropriate standards setting, implementation and monitoring of sustainable forest management guidelines, and maintenance of quality control;
5. Encourage bamboo and rattan technology innovation and the establishment of formative partnerships which connect research institutes, technology centres and the private sector;
6. Participants attending the plenary session on South-South Cooperation and Belt & Road Initiative encourage interested countries and international organisations to work together to replicate successful bamboo and rattan projects that are easily scalable and replicable to advance South-South and trilateral cooperation for common and sustainable development, including in the context of development cooperation initiatives such as Belt & Road Initiative announced by individual countries;
- 1 The Indian delegation did not attend the plenary session on South-South Cooperation and Belt & Road Initiative.
7. Encourage bamboo and rattan knowledge sharing and technology transfer to promote collaboration and enhanced local participation for common development;
8. Call for investment from bilateral and multilateral financing mechanisms to support bamboo and rattan programmes and initiatives, and resolve to work together to jointly mobilise resources;
9. Call upon all nations to recognise the high value of bamboo and rattan, to join INBAR as new Member States, and to contribute to a more sustainable world via bamboo and rattan;
10. Encourage the use of this Declaration to work together to support tangible examples of South-South and trilateral cooperation to help developing countries achieve economic, social and environmental sustainability and build an open, inclusive, clean and beautiful world that enjoys lasting peace, universal security and common prosperity.