

Success Stories of State Bamboo Development Agency, Assam

The State Bamboo Development Agency, Assam is the implementing agency of the Restructured National Bamboo Mission in the state of Assam. While implementing the Restructured National Bamboo Mission, the agency focused on optimum utilization of the funds received from the Government of India and Government of Assam while proceeding towards efficient planning of the activities. The following are the success stories in ensuring a well developed bamboo value chain in Assam.

- 1. Ensured availability of Quality Planting Materials:** SBDA, Assam recognized the fact that availability of bamboo quality planting materials is essential and as such funded 9 bamboo nurseries in various Krishi Vigyan Kendras of the state and 1 nursery at Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat. This step ensured utilization of the knowledge about nursery maintenance techniques of these specialized institutes while stockpiling bamboo QPM for bamboo plantation in the states. A license agreement was signed with Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat for providing four genotypes (2 each for *Bambusa balcooa* and *Bambusa tulda*) for making the Quality Planting Material available for macroproliferation.



2. Organized bamboo cultivation: The SBDA, Assam recognized the fact that providing incentives for bamboo plantation to individual farmers may not yield the best of the results due to small land holdings, lack of proper plantation knowledge, absence of hand holding by specialised agencies and lack of proper inspection. As such, the SBDA decided to introduce bamboo plantation through a Farmers Producer Company, a first of its kind concept in bamboo plantation sector. As such, Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC), a Government of India society which is focused on increasing incomes of small and marginal farmers, was selected as the implementing agency for bamboo plantation in the state of Assam. SFAC involved an FPC named Ampri Orange Farmer Producer Company Limited involving 609 farmers and 585 Ha of land. SBDA ensured proper capacity building of the farmers involved with the project along with procurement of tissue cultured bamboo saplings from Tripura Bamboo Mission. Looking into the success of the Ampri Model, the same was replicated in Nagaon and Golaghat clusters by SBDA alongwith NERAMAC wherein the work is under progress. SBDA, Assam is trying to provide market linkages to FPOs undergoing plantation. Cycle Pure Agarbatties and ABRPL have approached SBDA for the same. Keeping in view that the idea of FPC is becoming very popular in Assam, 18 bamboo based FPOs were proposed by SBDA for promoting organised farming in 14 districts of Assam under the scheme of “Formation and Promotion of 10,000 new Farmer Producer Organisations” under the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmer’s Welfare, Govt of India which is also approved by the Ministry of Agriculture.





- 3. Tie up with Export Promotion Council for Handicraft:** SBDA, Assam in association with Export Promotion Council for Handicraft (EPCH) conducted an export oriented training to 10 bamboo artisans of the state on advanced export oriented bamboo crafts. After the training was over, the products created were displayed at the 50th edition of the Indian Handicraft Gift Fair (IHFG) Delhi virtually, which ensured market linkages to the bamboo artisans. A business of Rs. 3.65 lakh was generated and various buyer inquiries were received through the website and other social media platforms. The artisans who participated in the production, based on their skill were able to generate an income of around Rs 300-350 per day.



- 4. Signing of MoU with Cycle Pure Agarbatties:** SBDA, Assam signed a Memorandum of Understanding with M/s Ranga Rao & Sons, the maker of Cycle Pure Agarbatties. The MoU arranges for a buy back system by the company from the incense stick manufacturers of the state along with state of the art training in manufacturing of incense stick through advanced machineries. The advanced machineries for incense stick manufacturing is to be procured by SBDA, Assam and to provide it to the Common Facility Centres to be established under State Bamboo Mission. The MoU is expected to increase the income levels of persons involved with the incense stick industries.