

PRESS RELEASE

BAMBOO DEVELOPMENT IN MEGHALAYA

The awareness of the people about bamboo is growing by the day and with the nation poised for an industrial revolution in bamboo, it is no wonder that bamboo has caught the imagination of the masses. To further the interest of the local populace, the Cane and Bamboo Technology Centre (CBTC) located at Guwahati has been taking a number of steps to achieve optimum output from the vast resources of bamboo available in the North Eastern Region.

On June 9, 2003, Shri Kamesh Salam, Project Coordinator of the Cane and bamboo Technology Centre called on Shri D. D. Lapang, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Meghalaya at Shillong. It is noteworthy to mention that the State of Meghalaya has one of the highest number of bamboo-based industries – Meghalaya Chip Boards, Cosmicrafts Industries, TIMPACK Industries, Eastern Bamboo Products Pvt. Ltd. (which is being set up with the assistance of the CBTC). In order to meet the requirements and demands of these industries, the CBTC has proposed to the State Government of Meghalaya to set up Bamboo Based Clusters in the Ri Bhoi district of the State. These Clusters will go a long way in supplying semi-processed bamboo products to these industries and pave the way for mass production of bamboo based industrial products.

The CBTC will provide technical assistance in developing the bamboo based Clusters. The CBTC also suggested to Mr. Lapang that some kind of nodal Agency has to be constituted by the State Government to look after the interests of the bamboo sector. This could be on the lines of the Bamboo Development agency set up by the Government of Mizoram and the Bamboo Nodal Cell constituted by the Government of Tripura. This Nodal Agency could be constituted by drawing officials from the Environment and Forests and the Industries Departments.

The CBTC is ready to extend its helping hand in developing the Projects for the State of Meghalaya, which will aim primarily at Livelihood Development and Sustainable growth under the Special Area Project of the SGSY Scheme of the Government of India.

Further to this, another round of fruitful discussions took place between Mr. Lapang and Mr. Salam on the need for Meghalaya to set up the first Bamboo Processing Zone of the country at Byrnihat. In this regard, the Chief Minister of Meghalaya was informed that the CBTC has already undertaken a Survey cum Feasibility Study through a Consultancy Agency to study the modalities involved. Mr. Salam also brought to the knowledge of the Hon'ble Chief Minister about the recently published report on " National Mission on Bamboo Technology and Trade Development" prepared by the Planning Commission, Govt. of India where CBTC has been entrusted with various responsibilities to act as a Lead Institution for this region.

The Chief Minister of Meghalaya, Mr. D. D. Lapang evinced keen interest in the activities of the CBTC and requested the CBTC to take up the initiative in setting up the Bamboo Based Clusters at the earliest possible time. He further requested the CBTC and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to lend their helping hand in tapping the vast resources of bamboo available in the State for achieving sustainable development.

The meeting was also attended by Mr. S. K. Tewari IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Govt. of Meghalaya, Mr. H. Marwein IAS, Commissioner, Industries, Mr. V.K. Nautiyal, IFS, PCCF, Mr. K. A. Rangad, Director of Industries, representatives of MHHDC.