

PRESS RELEASE

A new chapter for productive co-operation and collaboration between the North East and the Western India has opened where officials of the Cane and Bamboo Technology Centre (CBTC), Guwahati and the Uttaranchal Bamboo and Fibre Development Board (UBFDB) have signed a memorandum of understanding for sharing of knowledge and know-how in bamboo sector was signed between the CBTC and UBFDB on November 24, 2005 at Guwahati. The MoU was exchanged in presence of the Hon'ble Minister for Forest & Environment, Uttaranchal, Shri Nav Prabhat and Hon'ble Member, North Eastern Council (NEC) Shri P.P. Shrivastav at a function held at Hotel Brahmaputra Ashok.

In order to finalize the MoU, Mr. Nav Prabhat, the Minister for Forests and Environment, the function was attended by senior officials from the Govt. of Uttaranchal including the Chief Executive Officer of the Uttaranchal Bamboo and Fibre Development Board, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Assam Shri S. Doley, Adviser, NEC Shri T.P. Khaund and officials of CBTC.

Speaking on the occasion Shri Nav Prabhat described it as a historic occasion. "We can buy each other's products and also provide a market" the Forest and Environment Minister said both the regions having hilly terrain share same problems and can join hands together for a better future. The Minister said that in the coming days, MoUs will be worked out with the States of the North Eastern Region for mutual sharing of information on bamboo development and also to facilitate export of bamboo from the North East to Uttaranchal.

The Minister said 5000 hectares of bamboo has been planted in seven districts of Uttaranchal. "Bamboo is an important resource in community development programme" he added. Uttaranchal is implementing a unique bamboo and bio-fuel based public private partnership model to "plant, maintain and earn" in the state with the involvement of community on van panchayat and private land with a mandate of poverty alleviation in rural areas.

Speaking on the occasion, the MoU signed between the UBFDB and the CBTC provides that Uttaranchal shall transfer the know-how to the northeast through the Cane and Bamboo Technology Centre. The CBTC which has access to crafts-persons (skilled in handicrafts and utility items) and who have mastered the art of bamboo processing and value addition shall help in carrying out exchange programmes of Northeast and Uttaranchal on mutually agreeable terms.

Uttaranchal will explore the possibility of bringing in semi-processed bamboo from the Northeast to Uttaranchal for various industrial applications and utilisation by the bambioo handicraft based cottage industry or on individual basis. Uttaranchal has agreed to market the bamboo-based products developed in the Northeast in their tourist markets.

Uttaranchal requires 15 lakh metric tonnes of air-dry bamboo per year to enable it to run the proposed industrial units. The CBTC will explore the possibilities of availing transport subsidy on the bamboo supplied to Uttaranchal. The Chief executive officer of Uttaranchal Bamboo and Fibre Development Board S T S Lepcha said private parties in Uttaranchal wanted immediate bamboo supply and hence the need to have a MoU with CBTC.