

# Bamboo Plantation and Utilization Handbook

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Bamboo is an important non wood forest product. In India, bamboo, which is traditionally considered the Poor man wood, and labelled as Green Gold is being considered a major export item by the centre for the global market. Bamboo is perfectly suited to agro forestry as a woody grass. Bamboo has been exploited from natural stands from time immemorial. Bamboo is increasingly being cultivated like other agricultural crops, that is, in professionally managed plantations. The growth of industries utilizing bamboo requires the sustainable cultivation and management of bamboo resources. India is blessed with very rich bamboo resources. Bamboo can play an important role in raising forest cover and a major role in stabilization of the environmental problems. The annual yield in tonnes/ha depends on the environment as well as the species. It is estimated that almost 25% of the biomass in the tropics and 20% in the subtropics, come from bamboo. The cultivation of bamboo as a wood substitute helps to offset depletion of the rain forest. Its rapid growth ensures an effective reconstruction of damaged eco systems. Bamboo is one of many sustainable non wood resources that can generate income for a large forest dependent rural population and it needs to take further steps to realize its full potential. In India, the North East has the largest stock and diversity of bamboos. Though India has the largest area under bamboo, the yield per hectare is very low compared to other countries. Bamboo plantation rising should be encouraged & promoted due to their high value, productivity, uniformity of crop, choice of species linked to peoples' need and industrial need. Bamboo forest constitutes about 13% of the total forest area of the country. About 50% of bamboo produced in India grows in North Eastern region and West Bengal. India has the second largest bamboo reserves in the world after China. This book basically deals with bamboos in India, the bamboo plant harvesting, cultivating, silviculture and management, collection of material and preparation of cuttings treatment for root induction in cuttings, preparation of nursery and planting nursery management transplanting, pattern of biomass allocation in growing bambusa bamboos, biochemical characteristics of plantation bamboo leaf (bambusa bambos) with reference to organic productivity, economic analysis, bamboo plantation, problems and prospects, need for bamboo plantation, consumption pattern of bamboos in India, working and finishing qualities of bamboo, bamboos for structural use, pipe water supply system and drainage, bamboo furniture weaving industry etc.

This book provides a complete detail on Bamboo plantation and its utilization. This book contains chapters like types of bamboo in India, taxonomy, cultivation, harvesting, growth management, bamboo utilization, Bamboo products and many more. This book will be very helpful to all its readers, environmentalists, agronomists, entrepreneurs, industrialists, or anyone with a special interest in bamboo cultivation.

## Contents

### 1. INTRODUCTION

## 2. DISTRIBUTION OF BAMBOOS IN THE WORLD

Bamboos in Asia

Bangladesh

China

India

Indonesia

Japan

Korea

Loas

Malaysia

Myanmar

Papua New Guinea

Phillippines

Singapore

Sri Lanka

Thailand

Vietnam

Africa

America

## 3. BAMBOOS IN INDIA

Arundinaria Michaux s.s.

Bambusa Schreber

The Chinese Bamboo

Chimonobambusa Makino

Dendrocalamus Nees

Dinochloa Buse

Drepanostachyum Keng

Gigantochloa Kurz

Himalayacalamus Keng

Indocalamus Nakai

Melocanna Trin.

Ochlandra Thw.

Oxytenanthera Munro

Phyllostachys Sieb. and Zucc.

Pleiblastus Nakai

Pseudosasa Nakai

Pseudoxyenanthra Soderstrom and Ellis

Schizostachyum Nees

Semiarundinaria Makino

Sinarundinaria Nakai

Sinobambusa Makino

Thamnocalamus Munro

Thyrsochloa Gamble

## 4. THE ENVIRONMENT

The Bamboo Plant

Culm

Rhizome

Flower

Flowering

## 5. CULTIVATION

Soil

Preparation for Plantations

Fertilizers

Regeneration  
Propagation  
Silviculture and Management  
6. HARVESTING  
Yield  
Production  
7. TAXONOMY  
8. ECOLOGICAL REQUIREMENTS  
9. GROWTH CHARACTERISTICS  
Development of Bud  
Clump and Culms  
Rhizomes  
Flowering  
In Vitro Flowering of Bamboo  
10. ESTABLISHMENT AND MANAGEMENT  
Direct Sowing of Seeds  
Seed Characters  
Direct Sowing  
Transplanting  
By Culm With Roots and Rhizome  
By Stock With Roots and Rhizome  
By Rhizome With Roots  
By Offset Planting  
By Culm Cutting  
Collection of Material and Preparation of Cuttings  
Treatment for Root Induction in Cuttings  
Preparation of Nursery and Planting  
Nursery Management  
Transplanting  
Precautions  
By Branch Cuttings  
By Tissue Culture and Macroproliferation  
Tissue Culture of Bamboo  
Collection of the Bud Materials  
Sterilisation of Explants  
Preparation of Media  
Sub Culture  
Rooting and Outplanting  
Transplanting  
Production of Culms  
Macroproliferation  
Season of Planting  
Number Under Planting  
Method of Planting  
Guidelines for Management  
11. GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT  
Growth of Seedlings  
Development of Rhizome  
Culm Growth and Development  
Annual Recruitment of Culms  
Culm Height and Diameter  
Monthly Recruitment of Culm  
Daily Height Growth

Pattern of Biomass Allocation in Growing Bambusa Bambos

## 12. BIOMASS AND YIELD

Biomass Production

Total Biomass

Below Ground and Above Ground Ratio

Biochemical Characteristics of Plantation Bamboo Leaf (Bambusa Bambos) With Reference to Organic Productivity

Economic Analysis

Bambusa Bambos

Dendrocalamus Strictus

Expenditure

Income

## 13. CYCLE AND FERTILIZER APPLICATION

Felling Cycle

Fertilizer Application

Three Elements (Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium)

Amount of the Three Elements to be Applied

Effect of the Various Kind of Nitrogen Fertilizers

Other Elements (Silicate)

Season of Fertilizer Application

## 14. INTRODUCTION IN SOCIAL FORESTRY

Strip Plantation

Community Forestry/Programme

Degree of Local Participation

Local Institutions

Land Allocation

Procedure of Working

Requirements/Rule of Working

Resource Sharing

Monitoring of Works

Limitations

The Problem of Land Use Conflicts

Lack of Identity of Interests

Scope for Community Forestry

Agroforestry Plantation

Bamboo with Horticulture Crops

Rehabilitation of Degraded Forest

Afforestation

Reclamation of Wastelands

## 15. NEED FOR BAMBOO PLANTATION

Present State of Pulp and Paper Industries

Raw Material

Raw Material Status

Guidelines for Raising Bamboo Plantation

Preparation of Nursery and Planting

Transplantation

Production of Culms

Research Work on Selecting Bamboo Species for Paper-making

Comparison of Pulp and Paper Making Characteristics of Plantation Bamboo with some Tree Species

Establishment of a Bamboo Plantation by Paper Industry Bamboo

## 16. BAMBOO PLANTATION—PROBLEMS AND

## PROSPECTS

Cultivation Techniques

Projection of Culms  
Problems of Cultivation  
Seed Collection  
Vegetative Propagation  
Soil Moisture Conservation  
Plant Protection  
Weeds  
Grazing and Fire  
Clump Congestion  
Socio-economic Constraints  
Prospects of Bamboo Cultivation  
Economic Analysis  
Employment Generation  
17. UTILIZATION  
Consumption Pattern of Bamboos in India  
Other Recent Uses  
Bamboo Parquet (Block Flooring)  
Laminated Bamboo  
Bamboo Strip for Air Craft  
Bamboo - Reinforced Concrete  
Artificially - Shaped Bamboo  
Bamboo, New Raw Material for Phytoserol  
18. MASS PROPAGATION  
Materials and Methods  
Results and Discussions  
19. NON-LINEAR MODELS IN BAMBOO SEEDLINGS  
Materials and Methods  
Results and Discussion  
Conclusion  
20. PROPERTIES AND PRESERVATION  
Natural Durability of Bamboo  
Preservative Treatment of Harvested Bamboos  
Prophylactic Treatment of Bamboos during Storage  
Drying or Curing and Seasoning  
21. BAMBOO AND ITS USES  
Bamboo Shoots  
Seeds  
Leaves  
Fruits  
Rhizomes  
Banslochan, Tabashir or Tabasheer  
Culms  
Working and Finishing Qualities of Bamboo  
Bamboos for Structural Use  
Pipe Water Supply System and Drainage  
Bamboo Furniture  
Weaving Industry  
Bamboo Board  
Bamboo Reinforcement in Concrete  
Bamboo-reinforced Mud Walls  
Light Bamboo Wall  
Paper Pulp  
Rayon Pulp

Bamboo as Fuel  
Bamboo as Charcoal  
Conservation of Soil  
Bamboo as a Saviour of Environment  
Phytoremediation of Polluted Environment  
A Renewable Resource for Agro-forestry Production  
Bamboos as Ornament  
Artificially Shaped Bamboo  
Bamboo for Alleviation of Poverty  
Women Empowerment  
Potential in India

## 22. BAMBOO CUISINE

Sungsi  
Sayur Rebung  
Garang Asam  
Gulai Manis Rebung  
Gulai Rebung Masam  
Gulai Rebung Teri Basah  
Beko

## 23. GROWTH YIELD AND ECONOMICS

Productivity  
Demand and Supply Position  
Market  
Price-Trend  
Employment Generation  
Economic Analysis  
Resource Survey  
Trade  
Socio-economics

## 24. BAMBOO PRODUCTS

Strength Properties and Other Parameters  
Characteristic Uses  
Seasoning of Bamboo  
Seasoning Behaviour of Round Bamboo  
Air Seasoning  
Kiln Seasoning  
Chemical Seasoning  
Shrinkage Behaviour of Round Bamboo  
Inter Section Point (I.S.P.)  
Electrical Resistance of Bamboo  
Preservation of Bamboo  
Preservative Treatment of Bamboos  
Methods of Treatment of Bamboos  
Treatment of Dry Bamboos  
Treatment of Green Bamboos  
Performance of Treated Bamboos  
Specialised Technological Uses of Bamboo  
Building Boards from Bamboo  
Properties of the Boards  
Packaging Purpose Boxes  
Structural Applications of Bamboo  
Technology of Bamboo constructions and Erection Aspects  
Erection of Truss

## 25. CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF BAMBOO TISSUES

Experimental

## 26. OPTIMUM DIGESTION CONDITIONS FOR PRODUCTION OF STRONG BAMBOO PULPS —A PRELIMINARY STUDY

Experimental Procedure

Results

Conclusion

## 27. ANATOMICAL FEATURES OF BAMBOO USED FOR PAPER MANUFACTURE

Growth of Bamboo Culm

Structural Topography of Internode

## 28. STUDIES ON COLOUR REVERSION OF BAMBOO PULP BLEACHED WITH C-E-H SEQUENCE

Introduction

Literature Review

Experimental

Set 1- Effect of Delignification

Set 2 – Effect of Over and Underchlorination

Set 3 – Effect of Alkali Charge in Alkali Extraction

Set 4 – Effect of Temperature in Alkali Extraction

Set 5 – Effect of Hypochlorite Charge in Hypo Stage

Set 6- Effect of pH (Buffer) in Hypo Stage

Set 7 – Effect of Temperature in Hypo Stage

Observations and Discussion

Conclusion

## 29. EFFECT OF BEATING ON THE CELL MECHANICS OF THE INDIVIDUAL BAMBOO FIBRE

Elementary Fibril

Cell Wall Mechanics of Wood Fibres

Cell Wall Structure

Force Distribution Across the Cell Wall

Internal Fibrillation

External Fibrillation

Bamboo Fibres

## 30. STUDIES ON THE FINES OF BAMBOO PULP

Experimental

Fractionation of Pulp

Isolation of Fines

Chemical Composition of Fines & Coarse Fractions

Evaluation of Whole Pulp and Fractionated Pulp in Valley Beater

Evaluation of Recombined Pulps

Discussion of Results

Fractionation of Pulp

Chemical Composition of Fines and Coarse Fibre Fractions

Influence of Fines on Some Pulp and Sheet Properties

Properties of Recombined Pulps

Conclusions

## 31. PULP AND PAPER MANUFACTURE

Chemistry and Morphology

Hemicelluloses

Fibre Morphology

Proximate Chemical Composition

Chemical Pulping  
First Stage Digestion  
Bleaching of Chemical Pulps  
High Yield Pulping  
Bleaching of High Yield Pulps  
Rayon Grade Pulp  
Fibre Morphology and Sheet Properties  
Beating Characteristics  
Decay on Storage and Its Effect on Pulp Properties  
Industrial Experiences on Paper Making From Bamboo

## 32. PESTS OF BAMBOO

Seed Pests  
Control  
Nursery Pests  
Termites  
Control Measures  
Plantation and Natural Stands of Bamboos  
Culm and Shoot Borers  
Defoliators  
Witches Broom  
Sap Suckers  
Felled and Stored Bamboos  
Termites  
Protection Strategies  
Protection of Bamboo Seeds  
Nursery Pests  
Plantations and Natural Stands  
(a) Defoliators  
(b) Sap Suckers  
(c) Culm and Shoot Borers  
Felled and Dried Bamboos

## 33. DISEASES AND DECAY OF BAMBOO

Microflora of Stored Bamboo Seeds  
Nursery Diseases  
Damping-off  
Foliage Diseases  
Witches' Broom  
Diseases of Bamboo in Plantations and Natural Forests  
Bamboo Blight  
Rhizome Bud Rot  
Rhizome Rot  
Basal Culm Rot  
Culm Rot  
Culm Sheath Rot  
Rhizome and Root Rot  
Stem Infection  
Foliage Infection  
Decay in Bamboo

## 34. ASSOCIATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

The Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun  
The State Forest Research Institutes (SFRIs)  
Support to Craft and Artisan Related Activities: Training, Extension and Marketing  
Industry and Related Applications



Integrated Rural Bamboo (IRB) Project  
Bamboo Information Centre (BIC-India)  
American Bamboo Society  
The Bamboo Society of Australia  
European Bamboo Society  
The International Bamboo Foundation & The Environmental Bamboo Foundation of Indonesia, Indonesia  
International Bamboo Association (IBA) and the  
International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR)

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