

## ***Study Tour of Bihar's Bamboo Craftsmen to Tripura for Skill Enhancement & Entrepreneurial Training on Value Addition of Bamboo under SASVPESY Project.***

*Under Samuday Adharit Samanvit Van Prabandhan Evam Sanrakshan Yojana (SASVPESY) in Vaishali district of Bihar( pilot project on Agroforestry promotion) a large section of small, medium & big farmers were involved by way of Kisan nursery raising & plantation of Poplar & other species over their farmlands. These activities also benefited the other stakeholders like landless labourers, drivers & extension workers as employment opportunities.*

*But an important section of the society who earns his bread solely by working on a versatile forest produce Bamboo was stranded as spectator of the project as they don't have land to plant the tree. After getting nod from Planning Commission during review meeting a program on Bamboo has been added within the provisions of SASVPESY. As one of its activity, focuses on enhancement of their working & entrepreneurial skills, a fourteen (14) member team was taken to different clusters of Tripura Bamboo Mission (TBM) around Agartala on ten (10) days Study Tour during 09-16<sup>th</sup> September, 2012.*

*Selection process of the team begins with the initial survey of the villages where the Bamboo craftsmen families (mainly Dom community) resided in good numbers. Although their population is distributed throughout the Vaishali district but in Bidupur Block they are present in good number. For developing cluster this area has been chosen as focal point.*



**Bamboo craftsmen during screening for selection of Study tour Team at Bidupur, Vaishali, Bihar.**

*Extension workers contacted door to door among the 250 plus families work on Bamboo in the vicinity. The community was convinced that only skill development can give them better output per bamboo and improve livelihood conditions. With their consent thirty five (35) craftsmen of age 20 to 40 were invited for relative grading of their working performance. So that better lot can be selected for exposure visit to Agartala.*

*The participants were rated with the help of experienced member of their community on the basis of their speed, precision work and willingness for learning. Finally team was selected giving representation to the rest of the potential area of the district. Visiting team were covered with Personal Accident Insurance for rupees one lakh each for one year term and compensated for their wage loss during visit, to provide some sort of relief during their absence from the work.*

*The group was taken to Incense stick Common Facility Centre (CFC), Bamboo Furniture CFC, Bamboo Handicraft (Mat & Basketry) CFC to give them an exposure of the products that can be made out of bamboo. During the visit of Bamboo Furniture cluster at Katlamara & Kalibazar, the team got an opportunity to see the different furniture design, use of hand-tools for making them and the bamboo species suitable for making furniture with various treatment methods applied to bamboo. They also learnt the process of grinding and polishing of bamboo for getting good finish.*

*The group visited Handicraft (Mat & Basketry) and turning product CFC at Mohanpur, Jirania, Melaghar, Rajdhanagar, Charilam & Baikhora and got exposure of numerous designs of baskets used in decoration and packaging of sweets, fruits, dry fruits, flowers, daily used items etc. Adding natural colors and innovative design was a new world of Bamboo craftsmanship for them.*

*Incense Stick manufacturing exposure began with the visit of bamboo stick making-semi mechanized way at Lankamura & Ambassa and starches to mechanized Round Bamboo Stick Making Unit ("P.S.Green Gold") visit at Dharamnagar. Group learnt the process of stick making in both ways via mechanized as well as semi-mechanized. The team got exposure on Masala making process at Kumarghat & Kailashnagar. They also learnt the process of hand rolling, perfuming and packaging of incense sticks at Nabinagar, A D Nagar, Teliamora & Joynagar. By this learning process the local households are committed to take up production of incense sticks of Vaishli, Bihar at large scale which is going to create a sustainable livelihood opportunity particularly for this economically & socially backward section of society.*

*The study tour has provided an opportunity to the team members to get an insight into the commercial utilization of Bamboo and made them confident to take up entrepreneurial leap in the field of Bamboo value addition and enhancing the per bamboo return by using better designing and techniques.*



**Exposure & hands on training of Bamboo craftsmen from Vaishali Bihar to manual & mechanized incense stick making, polishing, masala rolling, scenting & packaging around Agartala, Tripura.**



Exposure & hands on training of Bamboo weaving & mat cluster at Radhanagar, Jirania, Agartala.



***Exposure & hands on training of Craftsmen from Bihar on Bamboo wood furniture making at Furniture Cluster at Katlamara, West Tripura 10<sup>th</sup> September, 2012.***