

## **T**RAINING CUM WORKSHOP ON BAMBOO HANDICRAFTS AT RFRI, JORHAT.

The gifted artisans can produce wonderful objects of craft from simple materials like cane and bamboo and now a-days the bamboo handicrafts are highly in demand due to their beauty, elegance and exquisite designs. To enhance production, capacity building and skill up-gradation of artisans, a ten days training cum workshop was held in RFRI, Jorhat under the *Direct to Consumer's Programme of ICFRE* during 26<sup>th</sup> September,13 to 5<sup>th</sup> October,13. A total of 21 artisans were participated out 26 invited from four different districts of Assam. (3 from *Tinsukia*, 6 from *Sibsagar*, 7 from *Jorhat* and 5 from *Dibrugarh*).

The programme was inaugurated by Dr. Rajib Kumar Borah, Group Co-ordinator (Research) in presence of other scientists and officers of RFRI. In his inaugural address Dr. Borah requested all the artisans to take the advantage of the workshop and utilize their skills after going back to their respective places. Sri Rajib Kumar Kalita, Head, Forestry Extension Division formally welcomed all the artisans and other members present. Dr. Arun Pratap Singh, Head, Ecology and Biodiversity Division also spoke on the occasion. The Principal Investigator of the project Dr. T.C. Bhuyan briefed the artisans about the programme and gave a presentation specifically on bamboo products and designs and emphasized on the use of machines and mechanized tools for faster and quality production.

Before going to hands on training, Dr. Runumi Borthakur gave demonstration about bamboo treatment for prevention of pests and diseases. The artisans were also familiarized with the bamboo primary processing machines and its utility.

During the course, the artisans were trained in production of *Dining set, Bed, Centre table, Easy chair, Tray, Jewellery box, Flower vase, Wall hangings, Combs, Spoons and Forks, specially designed comb" Kakoi Phoni", Hair clips, Pen etc.* At the time of training,

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more emphasis was given on design and finishing of products together with quality production.

Experts in bamboo handicrafts were also invited as resource persons to assist in the programme. They were Sri Mohan Saikia, Sri Sanjeev Duwara and Sri Ananda Gogoi.

The programme was concluded on 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2013 and certificates were distributed to the artisans by the chairman of the concluding session Sri A. K. Deka, Head, Silviculture and Forest Management Division. Sri Mohan Saikia also spoke in the concluding session and emphasized on value added products.

Finally, Dr. T. C. Bhuyan, offered vote of thanks to the participants for their active involvement in the programme and also to the other officials present for sparing their valuable time.



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