

Bamboo Handicraft Training at RFRI, Jorhat from 21st to 25th October, '13

“Where there is a will there is a way”, this saying was again proved to be true with the Don Bosco drop out students who presently undergoing different trainings under the NGO, *Institute for Cultural and Rural Development (I-CARD)* based at Jorhat, Assam. As a part of it, a training programme was organized on bamboo handicrafts at RFRI from 21st October to 25th October 2013 under the **‘Direct to Consumers’** Programme of ICFRE. The entire participants are from the ***Mishing*** tribal community of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. Out of total 21 participants, 4 were from Dhemaji, 3 from Lakhimpur, 7 from Jorhat, 4 from Tinsukia District of Assam and 3 were from Arunachal Pradesh.

On 21st October, 2013 the programme was inaugurated by Dr. N.S. Bisht, Director, RFRI, Jorhat, in presence of other scientists and officials of RFRI. He exchanged a candid conversation to make them realise the value of the specific training and future prospect of bamboo sector of this part of the country. The SAARC representatives from Govt. of Bhutan also took part in the inaugural session and Sri Sangay Wangchuk, Director, SAARC, Forestry Centre, Bhutan lauded RFRI for taking up such project and expressed happiness for selection of such drop out students so that they will be able to find a path for livelihood instead of searching job elsewhere. Principal Investigator of the project Dr. T. C. Bhuyan briefed the august gathering about the aim and objectives of the project. Dr. R. K. Borah Group Coordinator (Research) also spoke on the occasion. Sri R. K. Kalita, Head, Extension Division formally welcomed all the participants and other officials. The inaugural session was concluded with a Vote of Thanks by Dr. T. C. Bhuyan.

At the beginning of the training, Dr. T. C. Bhuyan explained the detailed process about the bamboo treatment which is mandatory for durability of products and to protect from pests and diseases. He also explained the advantages of using machines and mechanised tools for faster, varied and quality production and also gave hands-on training.

During the training session the masters tried their level best to make the new participants understood the use of bamboo to bring out enormous products. During the five days of training participants were trained in production of ***sofa set, racks, trays, hair clips, the traditional Assamese ‘kakoi phoni’*** with specific design. Sri Mohan Saikia and Sri Sanjib Duwara were specially invited as the Resource persons to assist the programme.

During the training session, Honourable representatives from SAARC countries also visited and were highly impressed on the varied bamboo products made at RFRI.

The concluding session on 25th October, 2013 was much more spectacular as it was accompanied by a short but fascinating cultural show performed by the participants. They performed a group song and a beautiful dance with contrasting cultures. It was amazing to see a group of tribal (***Mishing***) students performing different art and culture with mere dedication and interest. Though the drop out candidates don't possess the so called academic certificates for a govt. service, they are wonderfully skilled to be self-employed, through which one of the motives of this very project was fulfilled. Sri K. A. Thomas,

Director of I-Card, expressed his satisfaction and gratitude to the Director and other members of RFRI for offering the training to the participants. The participatory certificates were distributed by Director, RFRI and he emphasized on the self-employment which could be achieved by the participants after completion of the training. He also called attention towards the enormous resources available in their villages and to utilize these resources for the production of different bamboo articles. The Director also expressed that the facilities available in the institute can be utilized in the future as and when required.

Finally Sri Rajib Kumar Kalita, Head, Forestry Extension Division offered vote of thanks to all the participants as well as other esteemed personnel for their intense involvement.

The Inaugural Session



The Director, RFRI, Jorhat Dr. N.S. Bisht conversing with the participants



Dr. Sangay Wangchuk, Director, SAARC, Forestry Centre, Bhutan addressing the participants



Bamboo Handicraft Training at RFRI

Dr. R. K. Borah Group Coordinator (Research) speaking on the occasion



Group song performed by the participants



Dr. T. C. Bhuyan explaining about the bamboo treatment for its durability



Dr. T. C. Bhuyan demonstrating the use of machines in BCC



Bamboo Handicraft Training at RFRI



Participants with trainer Sri Mohan Saikia



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The project was lauded and encouraged by Sri A.K. Wahal, IFS, PCCF, Arunachal Pradesh



The SAARC Representatives visited BCC during the training session



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The Training session

















Bamboo Handicraft Training at RFRJ









The Closing Ceremony





Brief Cultural programme performed by the participants



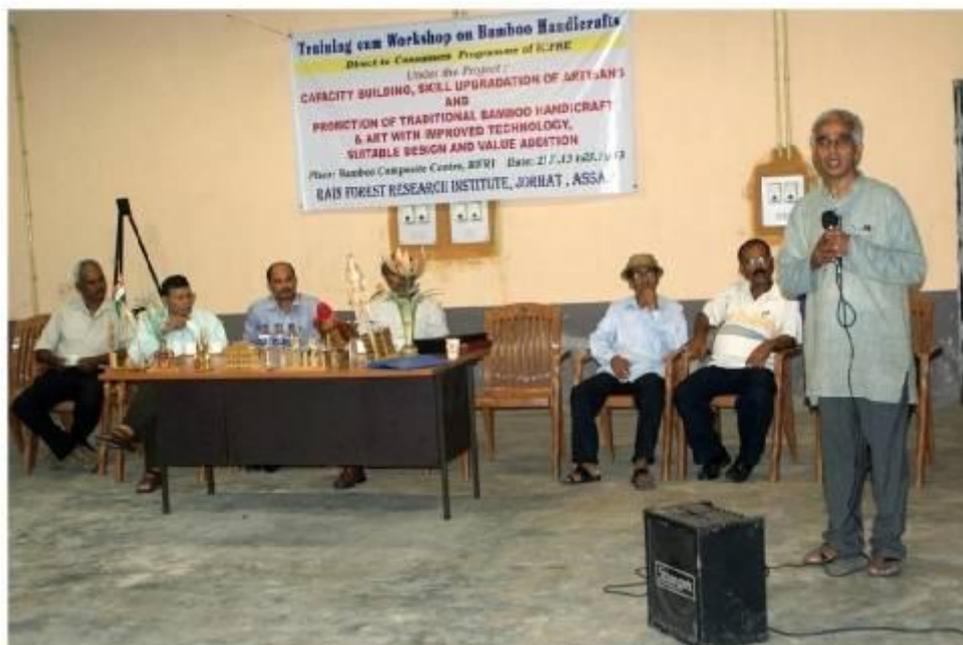


The Director addressing the participants



The Director distributed certificates to the participants





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