

Bamboo Handicraft Training at RFRI, Jorhat

In the developing and less-developed countries where unemployment leads to civil unrest, the manufacturing of bamboo products provides job opportunities more particularly in the rural areas. There is an ample scope for the school drop-out students to take bamboo handicraft as their livelihood option more particularly among the tribal youth of this part of the country. The tribal peoples have the potentiality in the field of different ethnic art and culture. Only it needs the proper handling of instrument and development of skill, increase efficiency and exquisite designs, so that they can able to enter into present marketing system of bamboo product. Therefore, Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat organized a training programme from 18th to 30th August, 2014 for generating livelihood opportunities for twenty *Mishing Tribal* school drop-out youth of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. The youths are selected through the Jorhat based local NGO, Institute for Cultural and Rural Development (I-CARD). The Programme was organised under the *Direct to Consumers Programme* of Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, Dehradun. Dr. T. C. Bhuyan, PI of the project welcomed all the participants and briefed them about the programme and familiarized with the different bamboo products through power point presentation and imparted hands-on training with different machines at Bamboo Composite Centre of the Institute. The Trainees were explained the detail procedure of bamboo treatment for the protection from pest and diseases. During the training two Master trainers, Sri Dilip Moran and Sri Dipen Kumar Payun were engaged for providing training on specialized type of bamboo products viz. dry decorated flower, butterfly, comb, woven trays with graphic design, cloth hanger etc. Besides these, they were trained in production of Centre table, rack, alna, decorated items, hair clips, wall hanging, Chair, Flag etc.

Valedictory Session was organized on the concluding day where Dr. T. C. Bhuyan presented detail report of the programme. Dr. R. K. Borah, Group Co-ordinator (Research) chaired the session and other Scientists, Officers and other members of the Institute were present. Dr. Borah emphasised on quality production so that one competes with the present market. Sri R. K. Kalita, Head of Forestry Extension Division also spoke on the occasion and requested the participants to take advantage of the training and take bamboo as their livelihood in future. Sri K. A. Thomas, Director, I-CARD was also present on the occasion and commended over the training programme and expressed his gratitude to the Director of RFRI, Jorhat for his support and encouragement in the development of bamboo sector.

A colourful cultural programme was organized on the occasion where the Trainees exhibited their talents through various songs and drama which mesmerised the audience.









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