

Kerala Bamboo Fest 2004

In line with the bamboo development plan with the recommendations of National Mission on Bamboo Applications (NMBA) launched by the Government of India, Government of Kerala had constituted the State Bamboo Mission in November 2003. Government has initiated a series of activities in consultation with all sections of stakeholders in the sector and chalked out the Mission programmes and strategies to be initiated in the first phase of its programmes. The plan envisages a holistic approach aimed at increasing the State's bamboo resource base and making available appropriate technology for ensuring its better utilization.

Considering the major scope for development of bamboo in Kerala both as a raw material for the traditional handicraft sector as well as for modern industry, special programmes are developed for cultivation of bamboo, creation of new designs for innovative products in the handicrafts sector along with the appropriate skill development, promotion of bamboo-based modern industries supported by technology adaptation and development by R & D organizations. By this, it is expected to create greater employment opportunities at various levels, especially among women, and improving the living standards of the rural people thereby contributing to the overall growth of the sector.



Kerala Bamboo Fest 2004

As part of the activities of the Kerala State Bamboo Mission, Government had approved for the conduct of “Kerala Bamboo Fest 2004” at Town Hall, Kochi from December 17-19, 2004.

The three-day event was intended to achieve the following objectives: -

Provide a platform for artisans, craftsmen and the bamboo industry in the State to showcase their products.

Bring together the key local players and experts in the sector for sharing of information and experiences.

Expose our bamboo community to mechanization and advanced processing techniques and practices.

Obtain the involvement of national / international agencies in furthering the State's activities in the bamboo sector.

Foster links between national level research agencies and local researchers/ industry.
Sensitize local consumers to the role, advantages and importance of bamboo in the State's economy.

'Kerala Bamboo Fest 2004' was held at Town Hall, Kochi from 17th – 19th December 2004. The event was organised by Department of Industries, Government of Kerala in association with the Kerala State Bamboo Mission.

Participation in the Fest comprised representatives of the Bamboo communities in the State including artisans & craftsmen, manufacturers and producers, bamboo processing machinery manufacturers, Technologists & researchers, national level leaders in the sector, publishers, NGOs and new product/technology pioneers.

Kerala Bamboo Fest 2004 showcased products such as Handicrafts, Furniture, Wood substitutes, Building, construction & structural applications, Industrial products, Specialized bamboo processing machinery/techniques, Decorative & artistic products, Research & applications as well as publications.



Inaugural Address

The Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri. Oommen Chandy inaugurated Kerala Bamboo Fest 2004 on 17th December 2004 at a ceremony presided over by Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries & Sports, Shri. Dominic Presentation. Other dignitaries present during the function included Shri K.V. Thomas, MLA, Shri John Mathai, IAS, Principal Secretary (Industries), Shri. P.H. Kurian, IAS, Secretary (Investment Promotion), Shri. C.P.John, Member (Planning Board), Dr. Vishnukant Chatpalli, Chief, BMTPC, Bangalore, Dr. J.K. Sharma, Director, KFRI, Shri. S.K. Pandey, Mission Coordinator, NMBA, New Delhi and Shri. V. Rajagopal, General Manager, KBIP. Shri C.P. John, Member (Planning Board) & Vice-Chairman, State Bamboo Mission welcomed the gathering and briefed about the activities taken up by the Mission since its inception. He also outlined the activities in the anvil aimed at tapping the enormous potential of the bamboo sector in the economy of the State.

In his keynote address, Shri. John Mathai, Principal Secretary (Industries) and Convener, State Bamboo Mission spoke of the wide-ranging initiatives undertaken by the State Bamboo Mission to involve the entire bamboo community of the State in its activities. He also assured the gathering that there would be sustained support from the Department of Industries in the future activities of the Mission.



Inaugural function

Shri. Dominic Presentation, Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries & Sports, in his presidential address stressed upon the need to evolve a focused approach for the bamboo sector. He commended on the wide variety of products on display at the Fest and said that it offered innumerable opportunities for value added items and suggested that Kerala State Bamboo Corporation also be considered for attention under the activities of the Mission. Thereafter, he invited the Hon'ble Chief Minister to formally inaugurate Kerala Bamboo Fest 2004.



Shri. Oommen Chandy, Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurate the Fest

Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri. Oommen Chandy then lit the ceremonial lamp to signal the inauguration of the Fest. In his inaugural speech the Chief Minister expressed his appreciation of the efforts made by the State Bamboo Mission to provide this platform for the benefit of bamboo based communities and agencies in the State. He stressed the need to initiate more concerted actions aimed at rejuvenating the bamboo sector. Towards this, he continued, a meeting of all successful craftsmen, artisans, organisations and related

Government Departments will be called on 4th January 2005 to discuss problems being faced by the sector and to explore means of revitalizing it.



Inaugural function

Shri P.H. Kurian, Secretary (Investment promotion) and Executive Director (K-BIP) spoke of the activities being taken up by the Bamboo Mission and informed about the future plan of action and targets. He expressed the hope that with a focused approach, especially by drawing on the concepts of Industrial Clusters, the bamboo sector would be able to reassert itself on a strong foundation for providing new employment opportunities and income generation.

Thereafter, felicitations were offered by Dr. Vishnukant Chatpalli, Chief, BMTPC, Bangalore, Dr. J.K. Sharma, Director, KFRI and Shri. S.K. Pandey, Mission Coordinator, NMBA, New Delhi. Shri. V. Rajagopal, General Manager, K-BIP proposed the vote of thanks.



Inaugural function

The Kerala Bamboo Fest 2004 consisted of two components viz the Exhibition and the Technical seminar.

Exhibition



Inauguration of Exhibition

In all, 70 exhibition stalls were set up to display various products made from Bamboo, Reed, Rattan and Screw pine. Individual Artisans, Master craftsmen, NGOs, SHGs, Small scale industries, Government controlled institutions, machinery manufacturers and organisations from outside the State working in the Bamboo sector participated in the Expo and displayed their products. About 98 artisans / crafts men/ entrepreneurs etc. from Kerala participated in the Fest.



Bamboo Exhibition

In addition to this, a large Demonstration area was provided to the Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) to display the skills of Artisans sponsored by them under the AHVY Scheme for Cluster Development of Government of India. Government agencies like Kerala State Bamboo Corporation (KSBC), Kerala Forest Research Institute (KFRI), Surabhi and Kairali also took up stalls at the Expo.

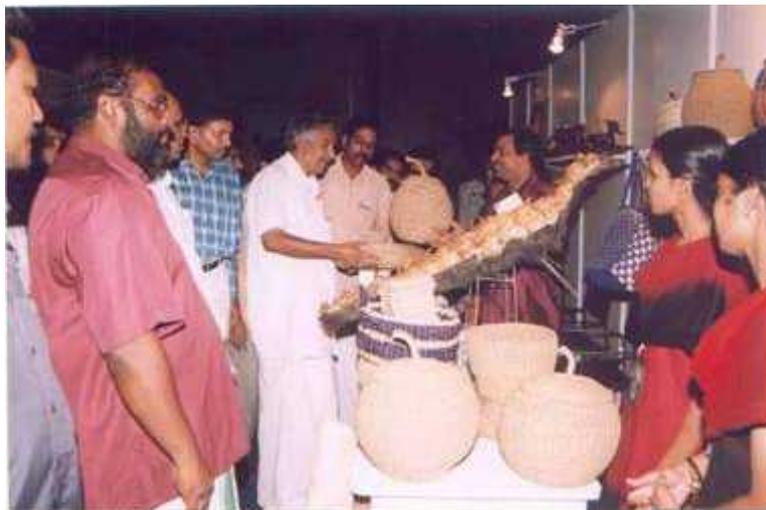
Products on display included Handicrafts, Furniture, Wood substitutes, Building, construction & structural applications, Industrial products, specialized bamboo processing machinery/techniques, Decorative & artistic products, Research works and publications.



Bamboo Exhibition

Judging by the huge crowds that thronged the Expo on the two days (18th and 19th of December 2004), the Expo was an unqualified success. Quite a few of the Exhibitors managed to dispose of their entire stock and many more managed to obtain substantial enquiries and orders.

Besides this, the exhibitors got the opportunity to interact with each other and establish business linkages, which would be of mutual benefit in times to come. They also used the occasion to catch up on the developments being made in other States by interacting with invited dignitaries from National Mission on Bamboo Applications (NMBA), Building Materials and Technology Promotion Council (BMTPC), Indian Plywood Industries Research & Technical Institute (IPIRTI), National Institute of Design (NID), Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), International Network of Bamboo & Rattan (INBAR) etc.



Bamboo Exhibition

By organising the Fest, the State Bamboo Mission was largely able to achieve close association with the bamboo based players in the State, cement the bonds between Government agencies and private enterprises and explore ways to establish strong linkages to carry out the activities of the Mission aimed at the bamboo community in the State.

This is borne out by fact that during the conduct of the Expo itself, the State Bamboo Mission was able to get the support of NMBA to set up a bamboo mat based roofing and wall paneling facility in Kerala. This will be implemented through Kerala State Bamboo Corporation and an MOU has been signed to this effect between NMBA and KSBC.



Kerala High Court Judges at the Exhibition

The relations fostered during Kerala Bamboo Fest 2004 would open up opportunities in future for faster exchange of information, creation of linkages between producers and marketers, adoption of new production techniques/technologies, sourcing of machinery and technology for new products, better and regular interaction with designers, researchers and technologists and in help exploring new avenues and access to a wider market.



Cultural Evening at Bamboo Fest

Technical Seminar

A Technical Seminar was organized on Integrated Development of Bamboo Sector in Kerala concurrent to the Kerala Bamboo Fest. The Technical Seminar was coordinated by Kerala Forest Research Institute, Peechi.



Shri. P.H. Kurian IAS inaugurating the Technical Seminar

Shri. P. H. Kurian IAS, Secretary and Executive Director, K-BIP in his inaugural address provided the information about the National Level programmes being implemented for the development of Bamboo Sector along with the recent initiatives made by Government of Kerala, especially by K-BIP and Kerala Bamboo Mission in the State.

Resource persons from various organizations presented seventeen papers for the two day Technical Seminar which can contribute significantly to the development of bamboo sector of the State.

The following areas were focused for the Technical Seminar:

1. National and State level initiatives

Four papers were presented from KBM, KFRI, NMBA and IDRC on the initiatives taken on bamboo research, potential of bamboo and the development of bamboo sector.

Kerala State Bamboo Mission: Targets and Achievements by Shri. C. P. John, Member, Planning Board and Vice-Chairman, Kerala Bamboo Mission.

Modern trends in bamboo sector by Dr. J. K. Sharma, Director, KFRI

National Mission on Bamboo Applications by Shri. S.K. Pandey, Mission Coordinator, NMBA, New Delhi

INBAR and its contributions to Bamboo & Rattan by Shri. T. P. Subramony, Resident Manger, International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR), New Delhi.

2. Design and tool development

Two papers were presented on design and tool development from National Institute of design and Indian Institute of Technology. The achievements clearly show that we have the potential to develop innovative products and compete with domestic as well international markets.

- Design, Tools and Small machineries for Bamboo Craft Bamboo craft by Prof. A. G. Rao, Industrial Design Centre, IIT, Mumbai.
- Design Development in Bamboo by Shri. C.S. Susanth, NID, Ahmedabad.

3. **Bamboo in construction**

For application bamboo in construction three papers were presented from BMTPC, IPIRTI and RV TIFAC. The products like glass fibre composites corrugated roofing sheets and panel materials can uplift bamboo from poor man timber to a higher place in the construction sector. BMTPC offered to provide help to construct some model demonstration houses in Kerala and KBM and KFRI will be considering the proposal.



Technical Seminar

- Application of Bamboo based products in housing by Dr. C. N. Pandey, Director, Indian Ply Wood Industries Research and Training Institute (IPIRTI), Bangalore
- Technology Development of Bamboo-Composite Sandwich Materials and Products for Socio-Economic and Industrial Applications by Dr. R. Gopalan, Director & CEO, RV – TIFAC, Bangalore
- Application of bamboo in construction by Dr. Vishnukant Chatpalli, Chief Technology Marketing, Building Materials and Technology Promotion Council (BMTPC), Bangalore.

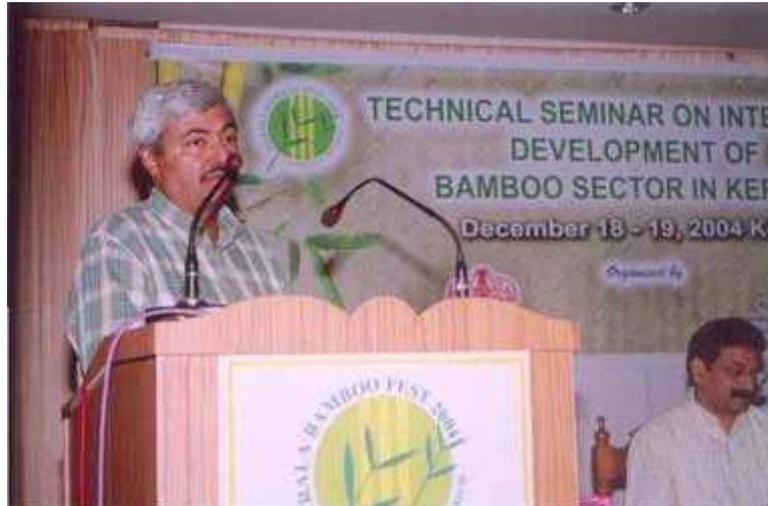
4. **Pioneering Bamboo Industry in Kerala**

- Status of bamboo industries in Kerala and Challenges by Shri. N. C. Balakrishnan, Managing Director, Kerala State Bamboo Corporation (KSBC), Angamaly

5. **Post harvest technology**

The technology for prolonging the life span of harvested bamboo through simple and cost effective preservative treatments were presented from KFRI.

- Post-harvest technology for bamboo by Dr. R. Gnanaharan, Research Coordinator, KFRI, Peechi



Shri. Subir Hari Singh IAS, Principal Secretary (Housing), Govt. of Karnataka during Technical Seminar

6. Bamboo for food

Bamboo shoot is rich in vitamins, cellulose, amino acids and trace elements and the nutritional value can be comparable to that of an onion. It is a good source of dietary fibre and low in Cholesterol. Engineering Resources Group gave processing technology of bamboo shoot.

- Nutritional aspects and processing of bamboo shoots by Shri. Sanjunath, Engineering Resources Group, Bangalore

7. Policies and Legal Changes

The need for comprehensive legislation for promoting bamboo cultivation, provision for harvesting from the cultivated areas by the farmers, subsidy for development of plantation, bamboo cultivation in degraded areas, river banks and development of bamboo industries is urgently required.

- Policy and legal changes to promote cultivation and utilization of bamboo in Kerala by Shri. Trivedi Babu IFS, Chief Conservator (Planning and Research), Kerala Forest Department

8. Processing machineries and project cost

Different processing machines are available and viable projects have been planned in the bamboo sector. Details were explained in a presentation from Oriental Enterprise, Nagpur City

Bamboo Processing and Promotion of Bamboo Industries in Kerala by Shri. Pratab Gosami, Oriental Enterprise, Nagpur City, Maharashtra

9. Resource enhancement

For all the industries bamboo raw material is required. The species suitable for plantation and cultivation techniques were provided from KFRI and commercial application of tissue culture was explained from Grow more Biotech.

- Bamboo resource development by Dr. K. K. Seethalakshmi, Scientist, KFRI, Peechi

10. Bamboo development plan in Wayanad: A case study

- Role of Local Institutions in Bamboo Sector Development: A case study from Wayanad District by Shri. C. Surendranath, URAVU, Wayanad



Technical Seminar

Support for bamboo based products by NMBA, Government of India, New Delhi
During the Bamboo Fest, we were able to make several rounds of discussion with the National Mission of Bamboo Applications (NMBA), New Delhi and the following support has been extended by NMBA for our State.



MoU with NMBA

Technology Transfer

Technology transfer and development of production facility of bamboo matt glass fibre composites at KSBC, Angamaly. The MoU on this has been signed between KSBC and NMBA on 18th December, 2004.

Bamboo Cultivation and Development

Technology demonstration to enhance productivity of forest bamboo. Discussions held with KFRI and KFRI will arrange selection of respective forest areas and formulate proposal to NMBA.

Production facility for specie specific furniture

Setting up of a commercial production unit for specie specific furniture. Discussions with URAVU have been initiated and NMBA agreed to visit URAVU, Wayanad for further activities.

After 3 days of elaborate exhibition and detailed Technical Seminar which was attended by eminent personalities, experts and scientists in the Bamboo sector, the Kerala Bamboo Fest 2004 concluded on 19th December, 2004

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