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Dr. Rekha Shivaji Rao Jadhav,
Assistant Professor in Economics,
Shrimati Vimlaben Khimji Tejo
kaya Arts, Science and
Commerce, Deolali Camp, Nashik
Email: rekhaj60@gmail.com

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Bamboo Plant: A Review

Dr. Rekha Shivaji Rao Jadhav

Assistant Professor in Economics, Shrimati Vimlaben Khimji Tejo kaya Arts, Science and Commerce, Deolali Camp, Nashik

Abstract

Agriculture plays a vital role in India's economy. Agriculture is the backbone of the Indian economy. Almost 67% of the people depend on agriculture for their livelihood. In the study of developed country, it is found that the economic progress of that country is due to agriculture. Agriculture plays an important role in increasing industrialization. Considering production, productivity, and crop pattern, it is necessary to commercialize agriculture on a large scale. For this, along with many complementary businesses related to agriculture, such as Animal husbandry, dairy farming, horticulture, poultry farming, bamboo farming has also become important in recent times. Bamboo or reed is a very useful Ayurvedic medicinal herb growing in India. Bamboo is a strong, fast growing and very sustainable material, having been used structurally for thousands of years in many parts of the world. In modern times it has the potential to be an aesthetically-pleasing and low-cost alternative to more conventional materials such as timber, as demonstrated by some visually impressive recent structures. Bamboo farming has a unique role in creating new opportunities for India to generate high-quality employment alongside economic growth, while working within global environmental limits to create sustainable livelihoods.

Keywords: Bamboo, Importance, Sustainable livelihoods. Uses.

Introduction

Maharashtra State Government had decided to establish an autonomous institute "Bamboo Research & Training Centre, (BRTC) Chichpalli", to enhance the skills in the Bamboo Artisans, on priority basis and to promote Bamboo sector Development through Maharashtra Forest Department. The Chinese called "Friends of people" and "The plants with thousand faces". The Vietnamese call "My brother", the Indians call "Green gold". Elsewhere they are called "Poor man's timber", "Green gasoline", "Cradle to coffin". In Japan since olden days bamboo shoot is such a popular delicacy that it is called "King of vegetables". A general outline of diverse uses of bamboo in India illustrate how it is integral part of rural life and society. Bamboos are not only economic life line for rural people in India, but they are integral part of social, cultural life as well as necessity of day-to-day household activity. This particular aspect is comparable to the importance of bamboo in the social, cultural life and economy of the developing countries. Since ancient times in entire North-East India rural houses, including animal shades, granary, village community halls, prayer halls are made of only two components-thatch grass as roof and remaining all like posts, walls, ceiling, door, window etc. are made of bamboo. A number of agricultural appliances are either entirely made of bamboo. A number of fishing traps and appliances are made of bamboo. The land boundary for dwelling house or garden are protected and demarcated with sieve type bamboo wall which is a special feature of rural life seldom found outside North-East India. Baskets of different sizes and design needed for day-to-day work including storage of food grain and other food items are prepared of bamboo and are distinguishing feature of rural as well as urban households of N. E. India. The traditional skill for making diverse types of bamboo baskets, other utility items as well as decorative items are cultural identity of different ethnic groups of N. E. India.

Objectives of the Study

1. The objective of this research is to know about bamboo.

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2. To study the Importance and Uses of Bamboo.

Methodology

The present research paper is based on secondary data. Secondary data has been collected from reference books, magazines, articles, report, literatures, newspapers and websites.

LIVELIHOOD:

India is primarily a rural country with about threequarters of its population residing in its 600,000 villages. Out of these, an estimated 170,000 villages with a total population of 147 million are located in the vicinity of forests (FSI 1999). A vast majority of the Indian population depends on forests for meeting basic needs. Because of its many uses—including agricultural implements, handicrafts, construction material, as food, fodder and medicine—Bamboo is in great demand throughout the country. Bamboo craft is one of the oldest of traditional cottage industries in India. The origin of this rural craft is traced from the beginning of the civilisation when man started cultivation of food crops thousands of years back. People started making baskets, mats and many other products of household use with Bamboo that was abundantly available in nearby forests. Later, tribal and rural people in the vicinity of Bamboo Forest took up this as a means of livelihood. In terms of employment, the Bamboo sector currently generates 432 million workdays annually. Bamboo based handicrafts alone employ nearly 10 million people. The noteworthy aspects of this employment are that women constitute a majority of the mat weaving and Bamboo crafts work and out of 68 million tribal population, 50% depend on Non-Timber Forest Produces like Bamboo for their livelihood requirement. As of now the paper and pulp industry is the only major industry to provide employment to the people. The Bamboo sector can potentially provide in the following ways:

- (A) Self-employment (craft workers),
- (B) Direct employment (Plantation, maintenance and extraction),
- (C) Secondary employment based on forest industries.

Market economy and new initiatives

One outstanding aspect of bamboo is that in the present era of science and technology, when technology and technological products are replacing traditional and bio resources; bamboos are unaffected. For example, till the middle of 20th century indigo needed for cloth washing at domestic level, laundry and dye industry came from indigo plant. However, with the development of synthetic indigo; commercial cultivation of indigo plant got abolished. On the other hand, traditional bamboo technologies nicely blended

with modern technologies to generate new and useful consumer products. Processed bamboo products using modern technology, like mats for false ceiling, wall panelling, corrugated sheets, bamboo fabric, tiles, flooring materials are becoming immensely popular in market. These are eco-friendly substitute for mineral fiber board, PVC board, gypsum board etc. Therefore, market demand for bamboo is on the rise. Bamboo based cottage, micro and small industry require mostly skilled manpower and so far, a country like India with serious unemployment problems it has potential for employment generation. Architectural structures were designed as bamboo pavilions in agricultural exhibitions at Nagpur, Pune and Nashik. Maharashtra Bamboo Development Board (MBDB) started also agarbatti making activity. Presently Agarbatti is made in two districts in Maharashtra. In Gadchiroli, a tribal and aspirational district and Chandrapur district. Cycle Pure Agarbatti and ITC are partners to MBDB providing technical guidance, procurement the raw material and also marketing the agarbatti. Considering this United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) is taking initiative to promote bamboo-based enterprises and following this Govt. of India is also taking a number of initiatives in this direction. At state level Govt. of Tripura has taken initiative for Tripura Bamboo Mission with the objective of collection, processing and marketing of tender bamboo shoot in India and abroad. The objective is to harvest 250 tonne bamboo shoot annually; expansion of bamboo cultivation to 50,000 hectares. This is likely to give livelihood to 2 lakh people.

Important Industries related to Bamboo Sector.

- Agarbatti – sticks & rawbatti.
- Bamboo and construction – boards, tiles, doors, ply etc.
- Food - Bamboo shoots, vinegar.
- Food contact articles - straw pipes, cutlery, bottles, etc. – good replacement for plastics.
- Fiber and fabric for textiles
- Handicrafts
- Herbal/ Medicine
- Paper industry
- Ethanol for fossil fuel blending.
- Other product for waste' utilization – charcoal, activated carbon, briquettes, cutlery, chopsticks, skewers, tooth picks, powder, home décor, office utility, etc.

Uses of Bamboo

Bamboo is very useful for humans and has many uses. Bamboo is used as a useful plant in Ayurvedic medicine as it is rich in magnesium, sodium, zinc, copper, potassium and phosphorus. In many parts of

India, the young parts of bamboo are used for respiratory diseases. The young leaves of bamboo are fed to cows, while its young parts are cooked and eaten. Young bamboo is pickled or its chutney is prepared.

Bamboo cures mouth ulcers

If you have ulcers in your mouth due to malnutrition or any other disease, then bamboo paste can help as a treatment. When bamboo combined with honey it is used to cure mouth ulcers.

Bamboo reduces lung inflammation

The properties of bamboo help in treating pulmonary edema. Extracting the juice of bamboo leaves, eating 10-20 ml of it and chewing it helps in reducing cough, sore throat and lung inflammation.

Bamboo relieves discomfort associated with dry cough

If you have a dry cough due to changing weather and it does not improve, then using bamboo as a treatment with honey helps in clearing phlegm and getting rid of dry cough.

To relieve Diarrhea

If your diarrhea does not get better and you eat a lot of spicy, packaged or outside food, then bamboo is a really beneficial home remedy. In China, bamboo leaf decoction is given for diarrhea and constipation.

To reduce Hemorrhoid pain

If you have a habit of eating spicy food, then using bamboo as a home remedy for hemorrhoids is successful. Massaging the hemorrhoids with a mixture of bamboo leaves etc. reduces their discomfort.

Diabetes is controlled by bamboo

In today's busy and demanding world, eating and sleeping are not regulated by any standards. As a result, diabetes is becoming more common. Consuming Vansh Yaw-derived foods helps in managing diabetes.

Bamboo helps in bladder related problems

Many problems like burning or pain while urinating, irregular or less frequent urination etc. can be caused due to urinary diseases. Bamboo is really beneficial in this disease. Gokhru, Vansh Lochan and sugar sweets in raw milk helps in reducing urinary burning.

Useful in Menstrual Problems

Menstruation and menstruation are associated with many problems, such as pain during the process, irregular menstruation, bleeding during the process and excessive or insufficient bleeding. Bamboo home remedies are beneficial for each of these. A mixture of 25 grams of fenugreek leaves and

50 grams of fenugreek leaves (dill) is taken with jaggery. This reduces menstrual problems.

Use of bamboo to reduce swelling

If you have swelling in any part of your body due to an illness or injury, bamboo is a great home remedy. Grind fenugreek sprouts and apply the paste on the wounds and swellings.

Bamboo plant tea helps in digestion

Fresh bamboo leaves can be crushed to make tea. This healthy drink helps in improving digestion and it also helps in controlling cholesterol levels and purifying the bloodstream.

Along with this, bamboo has many benefits such as, since the hard back bamboo is strong and durable, it is useful for construction. Bamboo is used to build pavilions. Small and thin bamboo is used for supporting plants like tomatoes, fishing rods, as well as for fences, sticks, pegs, etc. Bamboo is widely used in woodworking and baskets, bowls, garlands, canes, fans, mats, curtains, etc. are made from it. Some items such as kite poles and spinners are made from it. Bamboo is also used in shipbuilding, rafts, Knives and other tools are made from hard bamboo. Some kitchen utensils and furniture are made from it. Bamboo is used for the entire house, interior decoration, flooring, ceilings, vases, dividing screens, decorative items, etc. It is also used to make boards and planks. Bamboo is used to make slippers, shoes, pens, pipes, doors, umbrella poles, bows and arrows, bullock carts, and cages for chickens and pigs. It is widely used in making paper.

Conclusion

Bamboo plant usually uses for making houses in sub-urban and rural areas. It is also, used as raw materials of different house hold products, production of paper and useful handicrafts. Bamboo shoot has been suing one of the delicious vegetables in different countries. Research has revealed that bamboo shoots have a number of health benefits. So, it is necessary to promote bamboo cultivation through appropriate methods. As well as verify the impacts of the plants extract in human body as traditional medicine by using modern technology for further recommendation.

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Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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