

# BAMBOO PLANTATION & INTERVENTIONS NEEDED

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# Long Term Strategy for Plantations

- The target of planting more bamboo on farm lands is the mandate of the NBM and to create the atmosphere for farmers to adopt to the new culture should be created for farmers to understand the fact that bamboo delivers good and consistent returns, for which the following few steps should be initiated to create the ground for bamboo plantations

# Plantation Models

- 1) Medium size Bamboo - 330 Plants per acre @ 4 x 3 meters, Good furniture grade bamboo is attained in this method.
- 2) Dense for Biomass – 500 Plants per acre @ 3 x 3 meters. (Only for biomass)
- 3) Large Species – 160 – 200 Plants per acre @ 5 x 4, 5 x 5 or 5 x 6 meters.
- 4) Farm Bunds – 8 x 8 feet (Single Row)
- 5) Intercropping – Encouraging Results

# Standard Planting Method

- Bamboo sector needs to prepare a detailed guide for plantation guidelines with FAQ's
- Brief information leaflets on bamboo are also needed on the subject.
- The Guides shall be in print and digital format, small video clips should be planned.
- Social Media should be used for dissemination of the subject.

# Agro Climatic Species Selection

- Bamboo has a huge potential for several uses; however, there are many species with numerous climatic growth requirements. This makes it difficult to characterize the agro-climatic bamboo demands, in order to define areas suitable for its cultivation.
- There's a urgent need to setup a study which would work on the aspect of selection of the right species based on agro-climatic regions for bamboo plantations and this shall give the planter the best results of yield.

# Monetising Existing Bamboo

- The first major initiative should be to manage the existing bamboo clumps spread across villages, these haven't been harvested and clear felling should be initiated and the same can be sold as fuel to industries using biomass. This activity shall spread the word that bamboo pays.

# Bamboo Schemes

- Awareness about the schemes available for farmers:
- MNREGA for BPL, SC, ST
- POCRA Scheme in select villages (Maharashtra)
- NBM Schemes
- Bank loan for Bamboo plantation has been finalised by SBI.
- IDBI, UBI and other banks have also shown willingness for finance.

# Krishi Publication & Magazines

- Magazines can be approached for better dissemination of bamboo related matter in easy language for farmers. A series can be planned and experts can opine on the subjects.
- NBM / State missions can publish a newsletter quarterly and articles on bamboo can be called from experts and achievers.



# Strengthening of Bamboo Setums

- The setums that have been created should be maintained properly and its location made public so that farmers can visit these for better understanding.
- Fortnightly workshops can be held at these setums for farmers, where planting technique and product development can be taught.

# Taxonomical Studies

- Till date many varieties of Bamboo in India are unidentified botanically.
- Appointment of a committee to study the bamboo's of India.
- The appointed committee shall employ local scholars in every major city / town where the study is undertaken.

# Seed Banks & Study

- There is no mechanism, data in India to study the seeding pattern, which would be handy for successful plantation.
- Establishment of Bamboo seed bank.
- Establishment of study group on this very important aspect on bamboo propagation and safeguarding the germplasm.

# Nursery Certifications

- This is necessary for maintaining the quality of saplings. A committee to be formed to write the guidelines.
- Bamboo is a slow maturing crop as compared to cash crops, if the planting material is defective, the results are visible only after a long duration and the farmer is helpless as time and money are lost.

# Mobile App

- Identification of bamboo species is a very tough job and isn't easy to do so as there are 125 species in the country and not much work has been done on bamboo plantation or at the propagation level. In the entire country there isn't any dedicated website or mobile app which can disseminate knowledge about bamboo to farmers, nursery owners, farm workers, students of agriculture or forestry and others who use bamboo. The availability of laptops or desktop computers is not common in rural areas, whereas the availability of Smartphone's is very good and most phone users are good in using and surfing the net. A app for bamboo shall work wonders for the villagers as it would become very easy for them to get information and to identify species.

# Mobile App Features

- Crop record – this can be filled by the individual farmer or by our co-ordinator; the inbuilt feature shall have the ability to record the coordinates of the field location.
- Store images of the clumps in the field.
- Calendar and scheduling parameters of planting and nutrient dosing
- Farm and clump management.
- Advance crop planning
- Advance crop harvesting scheduling
- Colour coding by year
- Crop harvest / yield / revenue generated
- GIS module
- Data import facility
- IMD GIS + Soil data integration with examples of successful plantation in the state by agri, soil and weather samples.
- More features shall be added once the application goes online....

Thanks