

Q1: FY '08 - '09

TRIPURA BAMBOO MISSION



**[QUARTERLY PROGRESS
REPORT.**

APRIL '08 – JUNE '08]

PROGRESS ACHIEVED - FACT SHEET

- **Community Mobilization :**
 1. Survey of artisans profile in major clusters.
 2. Community level meetings in all major clusters.

- **Capacity Building**
 1. Training on pre-production of split bamboo mat.
 2. Training of trainers on Bamboo Treatment at IPRITI, Bangalore,
 3. Training of artisans on Bamboo Treatment.
 4. Training of machine operators at Bishramganj.
 5. Training of artisans at Baikhora.
 6. Collaboration with Broocklieen, Allepy, Kerala for production efficiency

- **Institutional Development**
 1. Registration of handicrafts society
 2. Registration of stick traders cooperative societies
 3. Organizing & strengthening the JFMCs
 4. Organizing the traders/ entrepreneurs of bamboo for a SPV

- **Market Linkages:**
 1. Market Linkage with JK Cane established for the furniture clusters.
 2. Small orders procured for bamboo turning glasses, flower vases, cups.
 3. Orders procured for a bamboo partitions.
 4. Market linkage for split bamboo table mat.
 5. Buyer-seller meet at Allepy, Kerala
 6. Production in collaboration with Industree craft foundation,
 7. Registration of artisans/ traders of e portal

- **Mats Sector**
 1. Training activity in 6 clusters
 2. Market linkage and involving other local community based organization

- **Handicrafts & Furniture Sector:**

1. Establishment of the Baikhura Community Production centre
 2. Establishment of the Shankhela Community Production centre
 3. New Product development training in Jogendranagar, Jirania, Nalchar
- **Resource Generation**
 1. Procurement of 25,000 Tissue Culture plants
 2. Plantation of 10 Ha of Kanakaich in Amarpur and Omphi.
 3. Development of bamboo demonstration plot at Anandnagar
 4. Raising the nursery for 3 lakh plantlets
 - **Industrial Application of bamboo**
 1. Inauguration of the mechanized round stick making centre in St Xaviers Vocational Training centre, Bishramjung.
 2. Training of 20 youth in handling bamboo related machinery.
 3. Revival of the community stick making centre in Killa & Kwoifung
 - **National Bamboo Mission Implementation**
 1. Participation in the International Conference on Bamboo productivity held in New Delhi and Exposure organized to Alleppy and Coimbatore
 2. Total of 57 members participated in the training & exposure program outside the state.
 3. 128 field functionaries has been trained
 - **Incense (Agarbatti) sector: Stick making and agarbatti rolling**
 1. Training & organizing producers in the tribal areas on stick making
 2. Organizing the traders in the Bagafa forest subdivision in to cooperative
 3. Market linkage with ITC for polished stick
 4. Three clusters namely Udaipur, Bilonia and Teliamura has started production
 5. Collaboration with Jayanti Domestic Products for input supply and market linkage

Community Mobilization:

TBM completed a large scale cluster level mobilization program. Under the program a detailed assessment exercise was conducted for each of the 15 clusters, that included complete mapping of the cluster, cluster level survey, value chain analysis of the bamboo based products produced in the cluster. Based on the assessment, the project implementation is being carried out in each of the clusters.

During the year, series of programs have been undertaken to build awareness about the TBM project objectives and mobilization of the grassroots participation in the program. The artisans and poor producers have been organized to come together, federate the existing SHGs and form their own collective enterprise. A detailed enumeration exercise covering 1500 artisan households has been completed to build the baseline for the project implementation, and study the impact made by the project TBM also conducted several community level meetings for mobilization of artisans meetings were conducted at Agartala, Jirania, Jogendranagar, Nalchar, Charilum, Baikhora, Damcherra, Khedacherra, Udaipur, Amarpur, Sankhala

Capacity Building:

TBM conducted several capacity building trainings of artisans & entrepreneur in all the sub-sectors and identified clusters, more than 3000 artisans were trained. Trainings on pre-production of split bamboo table mat, floor mat and window blinds were conducted at major split bamboo mat weaving clusters Jogendranagar, Jirania and Mohanpur. Artisans were trained on making better quality split bamboo table mat, floor mats and window blinds by treatment, bleaching, sorting and dyeing of bamboo sticks. The trainings were conducted in collaboration with Industree Crafts Foundation, Bangalore

The treatment of bamboo is very integral for better quality of bamboo products for this purpose a training of trainers which included TBM staff, community SHG leaders and entrepreneur was conducted in association with IIPRTI, Bangalore in

April and twenty trainers were trained at the institute and the programme on bamboo treatment is conducted across the state in all clusters.

To build the capacity of artisans and semi skilled persons a training on operations and repairing of machine used in mechanized units of bamboo sticks and sliver making unit was conducted at St. Xavier Vocational Training Centre, Bishramganj.

Baikhora is an important center for handicrafts as the best quality sheetal pati is woven, the new production centre at Baikhora was started with the vision of becoming a centre for making good quality & marketable products from bamboo and sheetal pati, fifteen artisans were trained by trainers from ICF, Bangalore through several rounds of training on making contemporary products from sheetal pati and bamboo.

Institutional Development

The institutional development activity was taken very seriously, the vision of building these institutions in all clusters is to empower the artisans and build their capacities to run a profitable production centre in their own. Under this activity the process of registering six new societies was initiated and new members were registered in all the societies. The societies were registered especially under the handicraft and bamboo furniture sub-sector. The vision behind forming societies is to form a **Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)** in the next quarter with member representative from all the societies.

Energizing the JFMCs: The meeting with FJMCs members of Bagafa, Dhalai and Udiapur had been done in order to sensitize about the various value addition of bamboo like agarbatti rolling, polishing of bamboo agarbatti stick, mat weaving etc. Many applications have come to TBM through proper channel for supporting the ongoing activities and taking up new activities in stick making and agarbatti rolling. Executive body meeting of JFMC has been organized to sensitize about the utilization of resource and better value addition.

Market Linkages

Market linkage for all the sub-sectors were established with various retail and production centers outside the state. The bamboo furniture cluster was establish with JK Cane, Kerala purchase order for 1000 beach reclining chair was received. Purchase order for bamboo turning products and room divider was also receive. For the mat cluster order for split bamboo table mat was received from Industree Crafts Pvt. Ltd. Bangalore and order for more than 5000 mts of split bamboo fine quality table mat has been executed. Market linkage for polished bamboo stick has been established with ITC and many visit has been made from both the side to establish the quality issues and shipment details.

Handicrafts & Furniture

The programs under the project are being undertaken in all major craft clusters that include: Jogindranagar, Jirania, Nalchar, Charilam, Bakhura & Katlamara. Two new clusters Shankhela (Hezamara block, West Tripura) and Amarpur have been developed as furniture clusters in addition to Katlamara. The interventions under the program include organization of the artisans into societies (like Rubber Producer Societies), capacity building for enhanced productivity and commercial levels of production management, creation of infrastructure (Common production centres), design inputs and market linkages. During the period six societies have been conceptualized and are under registration. Two CFCs have been set up in existing buildings provided by the ADC in Shankhela and the DRDA in Baikhura. CFCs for the other identified clusters will be newly built for which land has been identified. Design inputs for development of a contemporary line of products were provided through national and international consultants. Most of the new products developed have been backed by buy-back arrangements.

The Baikhura cluster in South Tripura, is an important cluster for the production of sital pati. Currently 150 artisan households are linked to the craft and strengthening of the cluster will result in ensuring sustainable livelihood for the artisans.

The shital pati production in Baikhora currently is in the form of 8ft by 4ft mats. Women can weave a maximum of two pattis in a month and earn Rs 700 /-mth @ Rs 350 / patti at the end of the month. In the current scenario, the returns earned by artisans are very low and most women were quitting the craft on account of low earnings and delayed payments. The existing market linkage is weak with over dependence on local traders and Purbhasha, the state handicrafts corporation that has limited intake capacity.

TBM has set up a centre for production of higher value added home utility products and accessories, which is ensuring higher earnings for the artisans. The centre has been established as a joint venture in partnership with DRDA South Tripura and Industree Craft Foundation (ICF) Bangalore on the PPP model. ICF will manage the entire operations of the centre for duration of one year and will also buy back the marketable grade of production. The Japani Jiki machine has been introduced in the cluster for producing the contemporary sittal patti and bamboo product.

ICF also conducted skill development training at the mat clusters Jogendranagar, Jirania and Mohanpur. Trainings on pre-production of split bamboo table mat, floor mat and window blinds were conducted at major split bamboo mat weaving clusters Jogendranagar, Jirania and Mohanpur. Artisans were trained on making better quality split bamboo table mat, floor mats and window blinds by treatment, bleaching, sorting and dyeing of bamboo sticks. This training was very integral to upgrade from the existing system of production. The value and income from the current mat products is very low and with the new techniques artisans will be able to weave more and earn higher rate from the products. ICF will also do the marketing of the split bamboo mat from the mat clusters.

A Buyer-Sellers meet was organized in Kerala for 4 days during 14th to 18th May 2008, several entrepreneur and artisans from the state attended the meet, market

linkages for various handicrafts items was done during the meet. The meet was inaugurated by Mr. V. K. Balkrishnan the District collector and magistrate Allepy. Around 256 items of five major category were taken for the meet valued Rs 5.11 lakhs all the products were sold. The major categories are- basketary items, mat products, bamboo furniture, turning products and find handicraft. The program was aimed to attract the hotel and resorts sector of Kerala and the products focused were bamboo furniture, basketary items, panels, partisans, decorative items and mat products. The marketing partner for the meet was Mr. G D Kothari, a veteran cane trader and member of BCID. Around 15 artisans has been participated in the program from Tripura. The buyers-seller meet has lead to regular order from Kerala on bamboo handicraft items. Now the orders are mostly for bamboo tarnishing products, panels, furniture, mat items etc.

AGARBATTI SECTOR

Stick making: Around 15 members have been trained on making agarbatti stick by manual and by machine at Kowifung for 10 days. Around 12 members have been working in the kwaifung CFC in producing bamboo stick for agarbatti. Similarly one awareness program has been done at Kowifung on value addition by polishing the agarbatti stick to get higher price.

Rolling of Agarbatti stick: Around 140 members have been trained on value addition of bamboo by rolling the agarbatti at Rajnagar, Udaipur. More than 150 members have been organized to tiny producer group for mobilization of agarbatti production in and around Paratia and by which the production has been doubled within one month of training. Total 300 members have been actively involved in rolling the agarbatti in 5 centers around the Udaipur cluster and the cluster has been sending the rolled agarbatti to Tribeni, Gopal Debnath and many other local traders etc. Masala is being provided by TBM by procuring from outside the state till the center able to produce the require volume of masala by its own. One pulverizing machine has been ordered for the cluster and that will be installed in the spaces

provided by Forest dept. The Swami Vivekananda JFMC, the nodal agency for agarbatti sector in Udaipur cluster, has been revived and strengthened to handle the provided working capital of Rs 3,33,000 / for undertaking rolling activity. The working modality and profit sharing pattern has been finalized between different agencies and JFMC.

Organizing stick traders: The stick traders of the South Tripura under the Bagafa forest subdivision has been organized to a cooperative society for a better coordination, quality control, product standardization and better bargain power in terms of price. The society is trying to stop the local competition and focus on getting a competitive advantage in the national market in an organized way. Priority is being given to improve the standard of the polished stick, maximum value addition, capacity building of the producer and generate the required resource. Each of the cooperative members has taken the responsibility of developing the production of quality stick by organizing the producers, providing training and other hand holding support in an planned manner to produce value added polished stick. The polished stick is being sold at 200% higher price compared to the unpolished bamboo stick. Similar cooperative society formation is being under process in Udiapur, Telaimaura and Ambasa.

DHARI MATS SECTOR

Training in collaboration with the Mr. Partha Chakrabati, only supplier from Tripura has been going on for increasing the production of dhari mat in Tripura. The work is being undertaken in four clusters namely Salema, Khedachhera and Damchhera. Cluster study has been under taken in the mat clusters. The price of industrial mat and availability of raw material is the major issue in the clusters. However the local requirement of the dhari mat has been served from the cluster.

In the past one year Rs. 1.0 crores of industrial standard mats has been shipped out of Tripura to various bamboo board factories across the country. The produce is sent to Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Arunachal Pradesh.

Other NBM programs: 15 farmer, community representatives etc have been sent to the international conference on “Improvement of Bamboo Productivity & Marketing for sustainable livelihood” conducted on 15th to 17th April 2008.

Baseline survey has been completed on “ Status of bamboo cultivation, scope for various bamboo species to be introduced for cultivation depending on the present and future demand” covering all the 16 blocks of West Tripura district under the NBM program.

Value addition on bamboo at different level and on different product like preservation & treatment, dyeing and bleaching, converting into polished stick, rolled agarbatti, etc have been conducted in various clusters & blocks.

Resource Generation

TBM focus on addressing the resource requirement of the identified clusters and taking a small step to meet the resource needs of the cluster. A Vegetative Propagation Centre has been set up in the space provided by the Forest Department at the nursery at Hatipara.

- Procurement of 25,000 Tissue Culture plants: Tissue cultured plantlet of Bambusa Balcooa-Barak and stockys has been brought from Growmore bio-tech ltd. The planting material will be ready for plantation for the next planting season.
- 36000 rhizomes had been supplied for plantation of 8 Ha of Kanakaich species in Amarpur and Omphi with support from DRDA South. This is keeping in view the new bamboo furniture cluster being developed at Amarpur and Omphi. The planting material was supported jointly by the both TBM and DRDA South where as the SHGs contributes in the form of land and labour.

- Raising of 3 hector demonstration plot at Anandnagar: The objective of the plantation is to demonstrate a model bamboo plantation covering most of the bamboo species.
- It is for the awareness of the rural people on bamboo tissue culture plantation Dendu Calamas Aspar has been planted at Udaipur especially for harvesting bamboo sooth.
- Raising the nursery for 3 lakh plantlets:50 kg seed of Hemaltonia collected from Mizoram to rise three lakhs of polybeg planting material in the Hatipara central nursery. The plantlets will be ready for the next planting season.

Around 128 persons from the department of forest, horticulture, JFMCs, SHGs, farmers etc has been trained on bamboo cultivation and propagation in all the districts under the NBM program. These field functionaries will be training the farmers, JFMC members, SHG members etc on various approaches of bamboo cultivation, nursery raising, propagation of bamboo, plantation management etc.

Industrial Application of bamboo

Inauguration of the mechanized round stick making centre in St Xaviers Vocational Training centre, Bishramjung: The setup will be used as a training center on bamboo machine utilization. In the first phase the center has trained 20 youth in handling bamboo related machineries like cross cutting machine, radial splitting machine, inner and outer knot removing machine, sliver making machine, stick making machine, stick sizing machine, stick polishing machine etc.

Revival of the community stick making centre in Killa, Kwoifung & Shankhala

The revival of CFC of Killa, Koiwfung and Shankhela has been taken in to action with active collaboration with DRDA and Dept. of Handloom, Handicraft & Sericulture. The Killa & kowifung CFC has started producing bamboo sticks, after tow year of defunct, as per the revival project proposal and more and more members from the community has been coming to the center to get involved in the production and avail the common facility from the centers. St. Xavier training institute has been the local partner for reviving both the centers for the period of six month. Around 12

member from the local community has been trained to operative the various machines for production of the stick and two members from the local community have been trained for one month on maintenance of the machineries at the Killa center. Around 14 members from the local community have been taken for running the Kwaifung CFC. The members were trained to operate the various machines used for making bamboo stick. All the machineries has been repaired and made operational at both the centers. An additional 40 local members from the community have been trained in producing the bamboo stick from the slivers. Now the CFCs are working with 100kg capacity per day. Two member from the local community has been trained for one month for repair & maintenance of the machineries.

Around 20 local tribal youth has been developed in the Shankhela area for running the center in a commercially mode. The repair and extension of the center has been done along with electrification. The basic tools and machineries were placed for production of bamboo furniture, tray, hanger and other home utility items.

Annexure: 1**Training program on Agarbatti rolling**

SL NO	Place	Date	No of days	No of trainee
1	Paratia, Udaipur	12 th – 16 th June 08	5	140

Annexure: 2**Training on Bamboo Related machine operation:**

SL NO	Place	Date	No of days	No of trainee	Resource person
1	St. Xavier vocational Training	2 nd to 9 th April 08	7	20	Mr. Fazal & Mr. Tehar

Annexure:3**Training & exposure visit program outside the state, NBM**

Sl. No.	Date of visit	Purpose of visit	Durati on in days	No. of Partici pants	Venue	Resource Persons/ host
1	1st to 3rd April 2008	Bamboo Preservation techniques	3	8	Indian Plywood Industrial Research & Training Institute (IPIRTI), Bangalore	Dr. S K Nath
2	7 th to 9 th April 2008	Bamboo Preservation techniques	3	10	Indian Plywood Industrial Research & Training Institute (IPIRTI), Bangalore	Dr. S K Nath
3	15 th to 17 th April 2008	International Seminar on Bamboo	3	14	Ashok Hotel, New Delhi	NBM & CBTC
4	14 th to 19 th May 2008	Buyer seller meet on all the handicraft products	5	13	Alleppy, Kerala	Mr Ashok Kumar
5	20 th May 2008	Furniture production	1	12	Industrial Estate, Coimbatore,	Mr. Ravi Chand
		Total		57		

Annexure: 4**Training of Field functionaries: NBM**

Sl No	Place	Date	F Functionaries
1	DFO Ambasa FDA hall	26th-27th April 08	33
2	Panisagar panchayat samiti hall	29th-30th April 08	39
3	Paratia FDA hall	2nd-3rd May 08	33
4	SOFAD Indranagar	23rd-24th June 08	23
	Total		128

Annexure: 5**Training program under the SGSY**

Sl. No.	Date of Training	Training on	Duration in days	No. of Participants	Venue	Resource persons
1	4 th -20 th , Jan 2008	Bamboo Furniture design development	15 days	30	Asha Holycross	Mr. Sandeep Sangaru Designer, Sangaru Studio's Bangalore Ms. Andria Noranho Designer, NID
2	15 th -30 th March 2008	Bamboo Furniture design development	15 days	30	Asha Holycross	Mr. Sandeep Sangaru Designer, Sangaru Studio's Bangalore
2	6 th -12 th May, 2008	Training on sorting, dyeing of bamboo sticks & yarn. And quality mat weaving.	7 days	30	Jogendranagar	Mr. Mahadevan Mr. Raja Industree Crafts Foundation
3	8 th -14 th May, 2008	Training on sorting, dyeing of bamboo sticks & yarn and quality mat weaving.	7days	40	Jirania	Mr. Mahadevan Industree Crafts Foundation
4	22 nd -24 th May, 2008	Training on dyeing of bamboo sticks	3 days	30	Charilum	Mr. Raja Industree Crafts Foundation

5	6 th May-5 th June, 2008	Training on design development from Sheetal pati	30 days	15	Baikhora Common production center	Mr. Mervin Mr.Rathan Industree Crafts Foundation
6	19 th -21 st May, 2008	Training on dyeing of bamboo sticks	3 days	20	Nalchar	Mr. Raja Industree Crafts Foundation
7	16 th -17 th May, 2008	Training on dyeing of mutrak (Sheetal pati)	2 days	20	Baikhora	Mr. Mahadevan Mr. Raja Industree Crafts Foundation
	Total			215		