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NATIONAL BAMBOO MISSION
(Source Deptt. of Agriculture & Cooperation)

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, on 27.10.06, approved the new Centrally Sponsored Scheme on National Bamboo Mission of the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation with an objective to:

- Promote the growth of the bamboo sector through area based regionally differentiated strategies;
- Increase the coverage of area under bamboo in potential areas;
- Promote marketing of bamboo and bamboo based handicrafts;
- Establish convergence and synergy among stake-holders for development of bamboo; and,
- Generate employment opportunities for skilled and unskilled persons, especially unemployed youths.

2. Strategy is aimed at :

- To adopt a specific approach covering production and marketing to assure appropriate returns to growers/producers;
- To promote Research and Development (R&D) of technology for production & productivity and enhance acreage in forest and non-forest areas;
- To adopt a coordinated approach and promote partnership, convergence and synergy among R&D, marketing agencies in public as well as private sectors, at all levels;
- To promote, where appropriate, cooperatives and self-help groups to ensure support and adequate returns to farmers;
- To facilitate capacity-building and Human Resource Development; and,
- To establish state and sub-state level structures for getting adequate returns for the produce of the farmers and eliminating middlemen to the extent possible.

Interventions:

The interventions for addressing the four major areas of bamboo development viz. research, plantation development, handicrafts development and marketing will vary among states and regions. Planting Material will be arranged under the National Bamboo Mission. There will be centralized nurseries (public/private) and decentralized nurseries (mahila and kisan nurseries). In addition to nurseries raised plantlets, quality planting material will also be raised through tissue culture units in the public sector. The plantation activities will be undertaken in compact areas so that the impact of the mission becomes visible. Areas for plantation in forest and non-forest lands will be carefully identified for the purpose.

National Apex Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Union Minister of Agriculture with Ministers of Forests, Textiles, Science and Technology,

Commerce, Rural, Development of North Eastern Region, Small Scale Industries, Ministers of Forest / Agriculture / Horticulture from select States; Member (Environment & Forests) in Planning Commission, and Experts as Members. Mission Director shall be the Member secretary. The committee will meet once every year to provide overall guidance, monitoring and review.

There will be a National Steering Committee, headed by the Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation. Secretaries from each of the line Ministry/Departments namely Environment and Forest, Textiles, Science and Technology, Commerce, Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation, Development of North Eastern Region and Small Scale Industries, Representative from NABARD, Experts in the field of production, processing, marketing and value added products will be members of the Committee. The Mission Director will be the Member Secretary of the Committee. The Committee will meet at least quarterly every year for reviewing the progress and for approving the projects and to ensure that there is no duplication between the activities of the Mission and the National Mission on Bamboo Applications (NMBA), set up in the Ministry of Science & Technology. The National Steering Committee will be empowered to approve state specific proposals and proposals from national level agencies.

National Bamboo Cell (NBC):

A National Bamboo Cell will be established, which will be headed by the Mission Director in the DAC, Govt. of India. Working Groups will be set up to oversee each of the sectors viz. Research, Plantation Development, Handcrafts and Marketing with the Mission Director as Chairman. The Working Group will work as 'think tank' to provide proactive support to the bamboo sector as a whole.

Likewise, at the State Level, Bamboo Steering Committee will be formed under the Chairmanship of the Secretary, Agriculture/ Horticulture/Environment and Forests as may be decided by the State Government concerned. State Mission Director will be the Member Secretary. This Committee shall be responsible for effective monitoring of the implementation of the scheme. In Government forest lands, bamboo plantation programme will be undertaken through the Forest Development Agencies (FDAs) and the Joint Forest Management Committees. However, in case of Non-Forest Areas, the funds will be released by Ministry of Agriculture to the Bamboo Development Agencies (BDAs) concerned for onward disbursement to the beneficiaries.

Bamboo Development Agency (BDA) will also be set up in each State with the Director, Agriculture / Horticulture / Environment and Forests or any other officer considered appropriate by the State Government as the Mission Director. The funds will be released by Ministry of Agriculture to the beneficiaries (such as NGOs or Self-Help Groups) through BDA. BDA shall be responsible for implementation & overall coordination of NBM within the state.

Bamboo Technical Support Group (BTSG):

Bamboo Technical Support Group (BTSG) will be constituted by recruiting experts/ professionals in the field of bamboo including bamboo marketing. The BTSG will provide technical support to the NBM as well as State Bamboo Development Agencies (BDAs) for Project formulation, appraisal and concurrent monitoring. The BDAs will have the freedom to engage consultants for project formulation, appraisal, monitoring and other technical support at the State and District level.

Monitoring:

There shall be continuous in-house Monitoring by the NBC/ BDA / Forest Development Agencies (FDAs) and third Party independent evaluation as approved by the National Steering Committee. A detailed review of the progress achieved under the Mission will be made by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation towards the end of 2007.

Fund Flow:

The fund will be made available to the States (including NE States and Sikkim) by the Ministry of Agriculture for implementation of the Bamboo Mission.

Expenditure Details:

Sl.	Sector	2006-07 Xth Plan	XIth Plan (Cumulative)	Grand Total
1.	Research & Development	290.00	944.00	1234.00
2.	Plantation Development	6338.72	40900.90	47239.62
3.	Handicraft and Bamboo marketing and exports	1173050	2612.00	3785.50
4.	Management, Monitoring and Technical Support Group	1200.00	2524.13	3724.13
5.	SUB TOTAL	9002.22	46981.03	55983.25
6.	Project Report Preparation Consultancy etc.; of the sub Total	135.03	704.72	839.75
	GRAND TOTAL	9137.25	47685.75	56823.00

Proposed Outlay:

The outlay for the mission will be Rs. 568.23 crores for a period of five years beginning 2006-07 including Rs. 91.37 crores for the Xth Plan. The mission activities will be spread over a period of 4 years in the XIth Plan subject to a detailed review of the progress achieved under the NBM towards end of 2007.

Development ‘Outputs’ and ‘Outcomes’ of the Scheme:

Outputs:

Bamboo Plantation activities in 1.76 lakh hectares over 5 years would generate about 50.4 million man days of work. In the nursery sector, total estimated employment to be generated every year will be around 9.7 lakh man days. Besides this, there will be employment generation in both skilled and unskilled segments in the handicraft sector.

The other outputs of the Scheme are:

- Improvement of existing stock in 36000ha.
- Coverage of 1.85 lakh ha under pest and management.
- Coverage of 48783 ha under micro irrigation.
- Setting up of 195 Bamboo Bazaars.

The anticipated outcomes of the scheme will be:

- The area covered under perennial green canopy shall be 2.12 lakh ha. including 1.76 lakh ha. By way of new plantation under NBM and 0.36 lakh ha. By way of improvement of existing senile plantation.
- Production of 3.02 million tonnes of Bamboo per year from 4th year of completion of plantation targets.
- Improvement of productivity of Bamboo to the average level of 18 tonnes/ ha. From the average level of 2-3 tonnes/ha.

PERIODICAL RENEWAL OF WORKS IN NATIONAL HIGHWAYS DIVISIONS IN THE STATE OF ASSAM.

(Source - Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways)

Deptt. of Road Transport and Highways has conducted periodic renewal of the works in the State of Assam and has accorded approval as follows:-

Sr. No.	Name of the work	Amounts sanctioned (in Lakh)	Date of Sanction
1.	Km 433/0 to Km 439/0 of NH-37 under Jorhat, NH Division	Rs.96.40	16.11.2006
2.	Km 359/0 to Km 361/0, Km. 413/0 to 415/0 and Km 463/0 to 465/0 of NH-37 under Jorhat, NH Division	Rs.135.59	16.11.2006
3.	Km 132/0 to Km 134/365 NH-37 under Guwahati, NH Division	Rs.23.45	16.11.2006
4.	Km 518/0 to Km 534/0 of NH 37A under Dibrugarh, NH Division	Rs.293.40	16.11.2006
5.	Km 577/0 to 582/0 and 583/o to 588 of NH 37 under Dibrugarh, NH Division.	Rs. 188.23	16.11.2006

6.	Reconstruction of RCC bridge No.258/1 on NH-61, alongwith approaches in Assam	Rs. 450.23	17.11.2006
7.	Construction of Gurassey Road from Bio-diversity Park(Temi) to Gurassey (8 Kms) in South Sikkim district, Sikkim (as amount of Central Govt. share).	Rs. 1010.92	20.11.2006

The terms and conditions of the approval provide that :-

- (i) If the cost of tender exceeds 5% of the sanctioned estimated cost, the revised estimates be got sanctioned from the Ministry;
- (ii) Guidelines issued by the Ministry regarding invitation of tenders for execution of works of NHs and other centrally financed schemes relating to advertisements should be adhered to, depending on the requirement.
- (iii) The arrangements be made for the submission of quarterly reports in respect of the work by the Executive Engineer to the Director General (Road Development) & Special Secretary, Government of India.

SMALL INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT BANK OF INDIA

(Source-SIDBI.)

Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has been undertaking various promotional activities in North East since inception in 1990 for entrepreneurship development, cluster development involving training and skill upgradation of artisans towards poverty alleviation etc. SIDBI is a stakeholder in North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd. (NEDFI), and a founder member of Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship(IIE), Guwahati.

2. During the current Financial Year, SIDBI has sanctioned 3 (three) Rural Industries Programmes (RIP) in Jorhat district in Assam, Ri-bhoi district in Meghalaya and Kolasib district in Mizoram. Under the RIP, a Professional Organisation is assigned a particular district having potential for Village and Rural Industries for a period of 5 years to implement the programme as the Implementing Agency (IA) for identification of prospective entrepreneurs, information, motivation & training and providing of extension support to the trained entrepreneurs for selection of projects, preparation of project reports, establishing credit linkage for setting up of units in the district, marketing linkage etc. Such RIP has achieved fair degree of success in grounding many new industrial units in the small scale and tiny sector in the North Eastern Region in the past. The particulars of the RIP sanctioned during the current Financial Year are as under:

- i) RIP in Jorhat district in Assam was inaugurated on August 31, 2006 with Society for Professional Management Network, Nagaon as the IA.

- ii) RIP in Ri-bhoi District in Meghalaya was inaugurated on November 06, 2006 with Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE), Guwahati as the IA.
- iii) RIP in Kolasib district in Mizoram is likely to be inaugurated shortly with North Eastern Industrial & Technical Consultancy Organisation Ltd. (NEITCO) Guwahati as the IA.

3. SIDBI has also sanctioned assistance for conducting Entrepreneurship Development Programmes (EDP) in Nagaland, Mizoram and Assam during the current financial year in addition to sanction of assistance for conducting various Skill Upgradation training programmes, Marketing Awareness programmes etc.

4. SIDBI is in the process of launching 6 (six) Cluster Development Programmes in varieties of activities like silk weaving, handloom weaving, cane and bamboo handicraft in Assam (2), Manipur (1), Meghalaya (1) and Tripura (2) during the current Financial Year.

PANCHAYAT YUVA SHAKTI ABHIYAN (HARNESSING YOUTH THROUGH PANCHAYATS IN NORTH EASTREN REGION)

(Source-Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports)

MANIPUR:

The convention of representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions and Yuva Mandals of Manipur was held between 4th and 5th October 2006 in Imphal. The two day convention was attended by Union Minister of Youth Affairs, Sports and Panchayati Raj, Sh. Mani Shankar Aiyar, Chief Minister of Manipur, Sh. I. Iboobi Singh, Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Manipur, Minister of Panchayati Raj, Manipur, Addl. Secretary Panchayati Raj, GOI, Commissioner and Secretary (Panchayati Raj), Manipur, Commissioner and Secretary (Youth affairs and Sports), Manipur, Joint Secretary (Panchayati Raj), GOI, DG, NYKS, Executive Director, NYKS and Advisor (PYSA), NYKS.

Core Groups were formed during the convention and all the groups held discussions and submitted various points to be included in the Charter of Declaration which was adopted on the last day of the convention. Stress was given for the review of the PYSA in the division and district level.

SIKKIM:

The convention of representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions and Yuva Mandals of Sikkim and the first meeting of the core committee will be held in Gangtok. The meeting will be attended by representatives of the youth Clubs, NGO's and the representatives of Panchayati Raj institutions of Sikkim. Joint Secretary (YA), MYAS and DG, NYKS will be attending the meeting.

PANCHAYAT YUVA SHAKTI ABHIYAN, MANIPUR CHARTER

Manipur is situated in the easternmost corner of India occupying an area of 22,327 Sq. Km. It is described by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru as a “Jewel of India”. Manipur is adjacent to the states of Nagaland, Assam, Mizoram and shares 352 Km. of common international boundary with Myanmar. The state is endowed with abundant natural resources and rich cultural heritage. There is no industry in the state but there is ample scope for development of the traditional handloom and handicrafts.

2. The principle goal of Panchayat Yuva Shakti Abhiyan, Manipur is to ensure development at the grassroot level with the cooperation between the Panchayat and the youth power by making youth a participant in the local level democracy. The 73rd Constitutional Amendment is a revolutionary step towards ensuring participation of the commonman in the development process at the grass root for realization of the dream of “Gram Swaraj” of Mahatma Gandhi so as to develop Panchayats as unit of local self Government and to initiate democratic process at the local level.

3. Economically, Manipur is lagging behind other states but from the cultural, sports and social angle, Manipur is leading in all fronts. It is a matter of deep concern to all that Manipur is passing through a critical phase as a result of insurgency and related activities. One cause of this insurgency may be attributed to unemployment among the youth. It is, therefore, imperative that opportunities for growth and self-employment should be provided to the youth of the state. By taking up a number of programmes under the aegis of Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, the State Government is confident of weaning away the youth of the state from the path of violence & militancy. Another besetting problem is the rampant drug abuse and HIV/AIDS among the people of the state, particularly the youth. If opportunities are available for growth and personal development through a number of youth related development programmes, the youth of the state will be constructively involved in healthy pursuits economically and socially.

4. In the backdrop of the above scenario, new opportunities have also emerged following the enunciation of the “Look East policy” by the Government of India. Manipur borders Myanmar and since the 2nd World War, Manipur has been connected with metalled road up to Myanmar border. The road could be extended further into other South East Asian countries like Thailand, Laos and Vietnam. Entrepreneurship should be promoted among the youth of Manipur for taking up activities related to trade and commerce, following the expanded cooperation among the South East Asian countries. There is a huge potential for tourism which can be taken advantage of by the youth of the state. The need of the day is to make the youth aware, sensitive and organized for planned use of their energy and strength for the development of the state. With this end in view, the Panchayat Yuva Shakti Abhiyan is being launched in the state of Manipur. Rural communities contribute significantly to the economic development of present Manipur and as such, social issues figure prominently in rural areas. The total strength of the Panchayat representatives in this state is 1933. In the state there are 3279 affiliated/registered/ unregistered youth clubs of Nehru Yuva Kendra and Directorate of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of Manipur. It is heartening to note that 50% of elected PRIs representatives are youth and below 35 years of age. Therefore, in order to channelise the youth power from organized sector and to make them

active and galvanized for complete and balanced development of Manipur state, this most ambitious plan called Panchayat Yuva Shakti Abhiyan has been conceived and formulated.

NEWS NOTES

India Flower Industry opens job avenues in Asom

(Source – ANI)

1. With a quantum rise in the development of business and infrastructure in Asom, the flower processing industry in the state has now opened employment opportunities for youths.
2. There are about 200 flower nurseries in and around Guwahati. However, bulk of the local flowers in Guwahati comes from Hajo, a small hamlet in Asom's Kamrup District. Farmers associated with the flower business say that they see tremendous business opportunity in it. However, with a bit of help in terms of loans and facilities for marketing, the farmers can take their business to the next level.
3. Analysts say the market for flowers is growing at 15 percent per annum. According to them, flower exports from the region holds tremendous prospects, for its close proximity to the Southeast Asian countries. The flower cultivation has witnessed a steady rise in the past few years. Demand for flowers both conventional and ornamental has gone up, especially from institutional buyers like hotels, corporate houses as also owing to a change in the lifestyle of locals.

DHD ceasefire extended

The Centre has extended the Ceasefire Agreement with the Dima Haola Daoga (DHD) outfit by one year from December 31. The agreement to this effect was signed by DHD chairman Dilip Nunisa. The process for political dialogue will start from early March when the DHD is expected to submit its political demand to the center.

Rs. 567 cr fund for tea industry

(Source- The Assam Tribune, 30.12.06)

The UPA Government approved a bailout package for the tea industry paving the setting up of Special Purpose Tea Fund (SPTF) with an outlay of Rs.567.10 crore under the Tea Board for funding re-plantation and rejuvenation aimed at improving the age profile of tea plantations.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) gave its clearance for the special package, which envisages long-term benefits to the ailing industry that has been facing stiff competition from countries like Sri Lanka, Kenya among others.

The comprehensive package clears the way for implementation of the SPTF programme till the end of the remaining part of 2006-07 and its continuance in the 11th Five Year Plan. The subsidy of Rs. 333.27 crore, has provisions for spill over the Rs. 142.83

crore to the first three years of the 12th Plan. The Government has earmarked Rs. 91 crore towards capital contribution.

The continuation of the scheme in the 12th Plan would be considered after an in-depth evaluation of the experience in the 11th Plan. The Package also provides for pegging the subsidy at 25 per cent and adoption of a funding pattern of 25 percent by the promoters, 25 percent subsidy from Government, and 50 percent loan from SPTF.

It also proposes capping the capital contribution from Government to the SPTF for raising the funds required for long term lending to the tea industry at Rs. 91 crore. Further, utilizing the balance funds of Rs.30 crore available in the Special Fund, created with collection of additional Excise Duty on tea for partly financing the scheme.

The scheme is expected to result in increasing the yield, lowering the cost of production and in improvement in quality of tea leading to higher price realization. This would in turn help to boost global competitiveness of Indian tea. It would lead to increase in collections of tea cess, Sales Tax and VAT, Income Tax.

The scheme is also expected to generate additional employment at the rate of 22 million person day per year, yielding gainful employment for dependents of permanent workers residing in the tea plantations.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Knowledge of activities and funds rendered by NE Newsletter is turning the local natives self-conscious it means to bring it in hands at village/grass-root level.

(B.K. Sharma)
Secy, Since Science Club
Govt. of Hr. Sec. School Dambuk via Roing,
Arunachal Pradesh

Respectfully I beg to state that I have known that you are publishing a monthly magazine "NE Newsletter". Therefore, I request to send me the magazine. I congratulate you on your well deserved success.

(Sri Utpal Bor Gohain)
P.O. Chatianaguri.
Distt. Sivsagar,
Assam.

I have the honour to request you for grant of subscription of NE Newsletters in favour of our associations and kindly send the newsletter.

(Livingstone C.)
Chairman,
Peaceland youth Association,

Dist. Churachandpur,
Manipur.