

Draft Bamboo Policy for Orissa

1. Preamble

Bamboo is an important natural, renewable livelihood resource of the State of Orissa, which grows in about one third of natural forests as pure and mixed strata and is cultivated on homestead and private lands. Productivity of bamboo in the State is quite low and there is a need to enhance it through scientific cultivation of suitable species and improved management of bamboo forests.

The Bamboo Policy aims at integrated development of Bamboo Sector for generating livelihood options for communities as well as revenue for the State. It promotes both industrial and traditional use of Bamboo through private-public-people partnerships. It facilitates evolving strategies for augmenting production, application of relevant technologies and adaptation to markets.

2. The Vision

The bamboo sector will be developed in a comprehensive manner, through a multi-disciplinary and integrated approach to provide economic benefits to the people of the State pursuant to the National Forest Policy and guidelines of National Bamboo Mission and National Mission on Bamboo Applications.

3. Objectives

- 3.1. To increase quality and mass growth of bamboo in and outside the forests
- 3.2. To introduce technologies for up scaling production and value addition.
- 3.3. To provide market linkages for better income.
- 3.4. To generate employment and entrepreneurship in Bamboo sector.

4. Strategies

4.1. Bamboo Resource Assessment

A detailed mapping and investigation of Bamboo in forests and in homesteads will be conducted, also of the artisans, crafts people, entrepreneurs and growers.

4.2. Production of Bamboo

- 4.2.1 The policy will facilitate production of Bamboo in forests, homesteads and private lands.
- 4.2.2 It will encourage the use of relevant technologies for growing high-yielding suitable bamboo species.

4.3. Development of Bamboo Products

- 4.3.1. The policy will encourage extensive and multiple use of Bamboo. It will facilitate imparting skills training and use of appropriate technologies for improving scale, quality and marketing in the traditional sector.

- 4.3.2. It will encourage setting up of Bamboo based industries in cottage, small and medium sectors. It will link up with National Mission on Bamboo Application and any such bodies for building enterprises, and encourage sourcing of necessary high technologies for the purpose.

5. Market Development

- 5.1 Studies will be conducted, from time to time, in collaboration with national agencies inside and outside the state to assess the demand and supply of various bamboo products to draw up an appropriate strategy of linkages between producers and consumers.
- 5.2 Bamboo Depot and Bazar will be established with necessary infrastructure facilities for storage, treatment and preservation and web-based market information facility.
- 5.3 Participation in trade fairs will be promoted and encouraged to provide better market access for the artisans, craft persons, growers and entrepreneurs and opportunity for product publicity

6. Research and Development

- 6.1 The policy will provide for research support to Bamboo sector for sustainable management of Bamboo--plantation and application. It will strengthen the research wing of the forest sector by linking it up with the R & D organizations, for problems and site specific research.
- 6.2 A Bamboo Technology Park will be set up as a demonstration center to facilitate lab-to-land transfer of knowledge.

7. Human Resource Development

Adequate human resource will be developed from within and outside the forest department for effective management of Bamboo sector-- in plantation and harvesting techniques, traditional use, industrial production, marketing and exports.

8. Regulation

The Government of Orissa shall continue its liberalized policy of exempting all bamboo species other than growing naturally in forests and bamboo products from the purview of Orissa Timber & Other Forest Produce Transit Rules, 1980 to facilitate smooth movement and transportation across the state.

9. Taxation and Licensing

The policy will facilitate creation of an enabling environment to encourage cultivation and use of bamboo for strengthening the livelihoods of the dependent communities. Taxation regime concerning bamboo and its products will be reviewed to make provision for concession to cultivators, growers and entrepreneurs so as to compete with other products in the market. Similarly the licensing regime will also be reviewed to remove any bottlenecks in establishment bamboo based industries and enterprises in the state.

10. Institution building for Implementation

The Government of Orissa has constituted an Orissa Bamboo Development Agency (OBDA) headed by a State Mission Director, as an autonomous organization under the administrative facilitation of the Forest & Environment Department. The OBDA will be a society registered under Societies Registration Act 1860.

A State Bamboo Steering Committee (SBSC) has been formed, consisting of different allied departments of the Government and other stake holders. SBSC will approve the action plan of development of the bamboo sector and review progress from time to time.

The OBDA will be responsible for integrated development of bamboo sector in the State and execute the programmes of National Bamboo Mission (NMB), National Mission on Bamboo Application (NMBA) and other relevant agencies. It will network with various international and national organizations like INBAR, UNIDO, IPIRTI, CIBART, and CBTC. It will also coordinate with different departments of the Government, Stakeholders, farmers, communities, entrepreneurs, industries, NGOs, Self Help Groups.

11. Financial Support

The State Government will provide necessary funding by way of grants to meet the establishment expenditure of OBDA as well as for development of bamboo sector.

The OBDA may receive funds from State Government, Government of India and public sector undertakings/agencies for carrying out activities for bamboo sector development

12. Monitoring & Evaluation:

The implementation of state bamboo policy will be monitored and evaluated by consultants appointed by the Government/Mission from time to time to identify policy glitches and recommend necessary corrections or shifts in the policy.