



Project title: INTEGRATED PROGRAMME FOR ETHIOPIA (Phase II)
Eastern Africa Bamboo Project

PROJECT EXECUTED BY
UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

PROJECT FUNDED BY: Common Fund for Commodity (CFC)

Employment and Income Generation for Poverty Alleviation-*Market-Based* **Development of the Bamboo in East Africa (Ethiopia & Kenya)**

Bamboo is one of the non-timber forest products, which support the livelihood of millions of local people in small-scale cottage industries in Ethiopia since time immemorial. It is very important to Ethiopia, because of the fact that, the country high forest coverage estimated is only 3.56% which is still alarmingly decreasing, while bamboo can be a substitute for almost all wood products. It is a commodity, indigenous to various countries in Africa; Ethiopia for example hosts a total area of 1.3 million hectares of bamboo representing the largest bamboo source in Africa accounting 67% of the African bamboo resources, and about 7% of the world total. The development of industrial Utilization of bamboo would help to solve problems of housing, furniture shortage and provide more job opportunities.

Apart from providing the above-mentioned wide range of uses, bamboo plays a crucial role in environmental protection. It is one the fastest growing and highest yielding renewable resource. In spite of the lack of skills and technology beyond some traditional uses and applications, the economic and development potentials of bamboo as an alternate “cash” crop can be enhanced through use of its comparatively rich endowments in natural resources as a platform to stimulate growth and development. Naturally, only two bamboo species, namely *Yushania alpina* and *Oxytenanthera abyssinica* are growing in Ethiopia.

In this regard, actionable measures to develop bamboo resources have been taken by developing this regional bamboo project in East Africa particularly in Ethiopia and Kenya with a total cost of US\$ 2.5 million, out of it a grant of US\$ 1.6 million has been contributed by CFC along with UNIDO co-financing of US\$ 166,000, US\$ 351,000 from the Government of Ethiopia, and US\$ 368,000 from Kenyan side. The project has officially launched its implementation starting from January 2006. UNIDO is the Executing Agency for this project, International Network for Bamboo & Rattan (INBAR) is a supervisory body and the major line ministries involved in the project implementations are Ministry of Trade and Industry, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (Kenya).

The long term objective of the Eastern Africa Bamboo Project is to promote the development of the sustainable production and use of bamboo products in Eastern Africa countries, with a focus on markets as driving force behind such sectoral development. The project will contribute to the reduction of poverty in rural, degraded and marginalized areas by turning bamboo “the poor man’s timber” into a cash crop and creating rural and urban employments. The prime beneficiaries of this project are poverty stricken rural communities and urban micro entrepreneurs. The project will meet its objective by addressing technical input requirements of the bamboo production systems to increase quality and value, through the development of new products with large sustainable market and by providing increased access to markets for producers. This project is partly implemented in Ethiopia and partly in Kenya. The project from the Ethiopian side has identified about 150 direct beneficiaries of the rural communities and about 101 bamboo entrepreneurs that would benefit from the transfer of appropriate and low cost technology as well as the technical training to improve the quality and design of their products. The project has already harvested and collected bamboo culms from three major bamboos

growing areas namely: Assosa, Injibara and Hagera Selam for testing and verifying their new uses. The test results will be useful in selecting appropriate machinery and also in designing new products.

As the first Regional Project Steering Committee (RPSC) meeting in Nairobi (April 2006) had laid down the first milestones, the second RPSC Meeting held in Ethiopia in January 2007 has concluded the first year of the project implementation which consists of the main project set-up and study activities such as:

- ✚ Setting up of project offices, establishing communication facilities, purchasing of project vehicles, hiring the relevant project staffs, introduce project staff to the UN-administration,
- ✚ Select the project priority areas based on suitable selection criteria and conduct baseline survey on each target villages
- ✚ Conduct various studies as a basis for project planning and implementation
- ✚ Start procurement of bamboo processing tools, equipments, seedlings, etc
- ✚ Start training of staffs, participate in international trainings and workshops
- ✚ Start trainings of beneficiaries(farmers & micro entrepreneurs) on bamboo cultivation and processing
- ✚ Organize stakeholders' awareness creation workshops at middle and higher level.

The Project in Ethiopia Side has attained the following Milestones as of October 2006:

Comp 1: Technology transfer and skills development for increased productivity

- (i). In order to start up implementation and various trainings at the grassroots level (to beneficiaries) village focused activities have been accomplished particularly at the three selected target villages. As the same time, three focal persons were selected from three Agricultural and Rural Development district offices to closely supervise the project activities, accordingly to equip them, the procurement of three motor cycles is under process.
- (ii). In order to upgrade skills and capacities of project relevant staffs, and to expose them to international environment, 3 FeMSEDA's technical personnel trained at China and India on Bamboo Industrial & Processing Technologies and Machines as well as on Bamboo Industrial Processing and Handicrafts.
- (iii). The Civil Works required to install different machineries which will be imported to Ethiopia has been substantially completed by IC. The investigation of existing machineries such as the wood drier and cleaning machines has also been accomplished. Meanwhile, the IC has also conducted Training of trainers (TOT) to ten FeMSEDA technicians and staffs on preservation methods (Use of Different Chemicals) and operations of the different hand tools (Application of Drill Saw).
- (iv). To enhance the Productivity of rural and urban micro-bamboo producers for culm-based products like bamboo furniture and weaving products, some hand tools have been purchased from Indonesia and Ethiopia by the IC and some has been set up at FeMSEDA Work Shop currently.
- (v). All preconditions have been completed to start the Bamboo Weaving and Furniture making trainings at the grass root level. The following are the diversified courses prepared to capacitate the project beneficiaries via Lecture, Group discussions, and Practical works:
 - ✚ Weaving training on: Bread baskets, Lamp shades, & Flower baskets

- ✚ Furniture making on: Bamboo stools, Bamboo tables, & Bamboo house utensils
- ✚ Start Your Business is an important area on: Costing, Record Keeping, & Customers handling to be given to the beneficiaries during the training

- (vi). All preconditions have been also completed for Entrepreneurship Training for Micro & Small Enterprises who are engaged in Bamboo Crafts making. The training will be given to 103 rural and urban entrepreneurs for 7 days in Entrepreneurial Competency, Marketing, Record Keeping, and Business plan preparation starting from early April 2007.
- (vii). Cross-visits from Kenya NPSC to relevant bamboo stakeholder institutions and private sector companies in Ethiopia for experience exchange has been undertaken during the Regional Project Steering Committee meeting in Ethiopia. In this meeting project progress report of 2006, Work Plan for 2007 and corrective measures required to improve implementation were evaluated, revised, and identified, respectively. Besides,
- ☑ The 2nd RPSC meeting brought peoples from wide variety of fields and careers, in so doing created awareness to higher government officials, policy makers, government institutions, private investors, resources persons, and to other stakeholders as well as collaborators; consequently the event helped them to get-together at hand in the vicinity and to discuss bamboo development and its industrial utilization in the respective countries.
 - ☑ Private Sector investors from Ethiopia and Kenya have got a chance to exchange their working experiences and develop capacity for their future development and endeavors.
 - ☑ Different national consultants from both countries presented their studies and findings in which they have collected comments, recommendations and corrections for further enrichment of their studies.
 - ☑ The 2nd RPSC meeting has got a wide media (Radio, TV, and News papers) coverage in Ethiopia that was broadcasted in three local languages and international languages (i.e. English); accordingly, it is believed that, the Eastern Africa Bamboo project interventions has been extended throughout the country and East Africa Regions.

The first draft Minutes of the Second RPSC meeting has been finalized and disseminated to all RPSC members.

Comp 2: Developing capacity for the sustainable supply of raw materials

- (i). To increase the quantity and quality of legally obtained raw materials, consequently to enhance Technical capacity for bamboo propagation on various levels according to the absorption capacity of the respective beneficiary groups, the draft guideline on Bamboo Propagation prepared by Kenya-KEFRI for bamboo propagation and management including trial plantations to the Ministry of Agriculture (MoARD) in Ethiopia has been collected and disseminated to the respective government and non-governmental offices for comments, clarification, and further enrichment of the documents. In the meantime, it is in process of translating into the local language to be used as a training manual for the beneficiaries at the grassroots level.
- (ii). In order to provide different varieties of bamboo seedlings to farmers and producers from indigenous and non-indigenous bamboo species, 500 cuttings and rhizomes of 8 species of bamboo from KEFRI, are underway to be dispatched to the project for introduction of new species as well as production security purposes. Correspondingly, one of bamboo flowering areas in SNNPR (Masha area) has been visited by the team from Forest Research Center, SNNPR and the project and it has confirmed that seeds can be collected with low cost for bamboo propagation as well as the team has given possible recommendations for the management and sustainable utilization of the bamboo forest.

- (iii). Three Development Agents from each target areas have been trained by INBAR experts in Bamboo Cultivation to assist the farmers in the project target areas. Meanwhile, to train the target beneficiaries (farmers) and Extension Agents on bamboo propagation for 7 days, the trainees have been identified and confirmed.
- (iv). The Draft Aid memoir for Stakeholders awareness raising workshop on bamboo development at Middle/Meso level has been prepared, and the potential bodies to be participated in the Work Shop has been identified.
- (v). To initiate a Policy dialogue on the potential of bamboo to contribute to sustainable development in the country, the study on Legal Environment Assessment and Policy and Strategy Suggestions has been undertaken by hiring a National consultant and appraised in the midst of Policy Makers and other experts from different academic and research institutions. Besides, the Policy Makers Study tour to China has been undertaken successfully by visiting different Bamboo products manufacturing companies, ornamental bamboo plantations, Bamboo Botanical Garden and Museum, Micro bamboo enterprises, and the product laboratory. Furthermore, the team has undertaken workshop with local politicians and potential investors. Accordingly, the policy makers' along with the NPC shared excellent and enormous experiences from different bamboo based industries and from the constructive discussions and dialogues with local politicians and decision makers on bamboo policy and strategic considerations and its sustainable utilization for our country's development .

Comp. 3: Increasing market access

- (i). To improve technical, functional and aesthetic aspects of products and to diversify into new markets, the IC and NC jointly have undertaken the domestic market analysis for various traditional and non-traditional bamboo product lines (furniture, bio-mass for energy, mat board, handicraft, shoots, construction etc.), accordingly they have identified and set forth market segments and niches for high value-added products in their first draft findings submitted to the project.
- (ii). The IC, hired by the project has successfully scrutinized the Potential Organizations, Institutions, and Private Sectors and made comprehensive assessments of the international market environment for bamboo products in Ethiopia to formulate the marketing strategy, Export Advisory Manual, and explore the potential of design oriented bamboo craft products on international markets.
- (iii). Letters of cooperation from MoARD State Minister for testing of the bamboo has been sent to Malaysia Forest Research Institute and also to the Embassy of Ethiopia in China responsible for the Region. Currently, the Institute has formed a team lead by the Director of Wood Chemistry and Protection Program to come up with program, manpower and cost of the testing.
- (iv). To conduct the BAMTECH workshop, the IC has thoroughly discussed about the event to operationalise it and drafted an agenda for upcoming implementation with the NPC, thereby defined the operational targets for Ethiopia.
- (v). TOR has been prepared to assign an influential media center in Ethiopia to televise a documentary film showing the bamboo potential of Ethiopia and bamboo entrepreneurs' activities, institutions like FeMSEDA & ReMSEDA, Industries like Adal and Land and Sea

Development in one of the best/attractive program broadcasted in Ethiopian Television (ETV).

- (vi). UNIDO's General Director, Dr. Kandeh Yumkelle visited the CFC funded Eastern Africa Bamboo Project activities and Adal private sector bamboo product exhibitions displayed at Ethiopian Leather and Leather Products training Institute .