



World Bamboo Day

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Why in News

World Bamboo Day is celebrated every year on 18th September.

Theme of 2020: **Bamboo Now**

Key Points

- **World Bamboo Day** : It was officially established by the **World Bamboo organization** at the **8th World Bamboo Congress** held in Bangkok in 2009.
- **World Bamboo Organization** : It was set up at the **1992 International Bamboo Congress in Japan**.

It is an international coordinating body for bamboo practitioners dedicated to promoting the use of bamboo and bamboo products for the sake of the environment and economy.

- **Properties of Bamboo**

- **Versatile Uses:** Bamboo can be used in 1,500 different ways including as food, a substitute for wood, building and construction material, for handicrafts and paper. Due to its versatile nature and multiple uses, it is also called ‘**poor man’s timber**’.
- **Environmental Benefits:** It can be planted to **reclaim severely degraded sites and wastelands**. It is a good **soil binder** owing to its peculiar clump formation and fibrous root system and hence also plays an important role in soil and water conservation.

It is the fastest growing canopy, **releasing 35% more oxygen than trees** and can sequester 12 tonnes of carbon dioxide from per hectare.

- **Use in Covid-19 :** Bamboo has been a key ingredient in new antimicrobial soaps and hand mists developed by scientists from the Philippines to fight the novel **coronavirus**.
- **Nutraceutical Bamboo Shoot:** Bamboo shoots have nutraceutical

properties, according to experts.



- The term ‘nutraceutical’ is used to describe **medicinally or nutritionally functional foods**.
- Bamboo shoots or bamboo sprouts are the edible newly sprouted canes of bamboo that form just under the soil and have a firm, crisp texture.
- Bamboo shoots are emerging as **high-value and safe edibles** and are also among the **cheapest immunity boosters** for increasing the human body’s resistance to viral attacks.
- The **protein** content in fresh bamboo shoots can range between 1.49-4.04%. They also contain **17 amino acids**, eight of which are essential for the human body.

- **Global Market:**
 - The present global market of bamboo shoots is around **1,700 million USD**.
 - More than **3 million tonnes** of bamboo shoots are consumed across the earth annually.
 - According to the **International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR)**, China exports 68% of the world's bamboo and rattan (a type of Palm Fibre) products valued at 1,112 million USD.
 - INBAR is a multilateral development organisation, founded in 1997 which promotes environmentally sustainable development using bamboo and rattan.
- **Indian Scenario:**
 - According to the **National Bamboo Mission**, India has the highest area (13.96 million hectares) under bamboo.
 - It is the **second richest country after China** in terms of bamboo diversity with 136 species.
 - The annual production of bamboo in India is **14.6 million tonnes** and the bamboo-rattan industry in the country was worth Rs. 28,005 crore in 2017.
 - Bamboo shoot production and consumption in India are **confined mostly to the north-eastern States**.

Initiatives to Promote Bamboo

- **Bamboo Clusters:** Recently, the Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare has virtually inaugurated 22 **bamboo clusters** in 9 states viz. Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Assam, Nagaland, Tripura, Uttarakhand and Karnataka.
- **MSP Hike:** Recently, the Central government has revised the **Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Minor Forest Produce (MFP)**.
 - MFP includes all non-timber forest produce of plant origin and includes bamboo, canes, fodder, leaves, waxes, resins and many forms of food including nuts, wild fruits, lac, tussar etc.
- **National Bamboo Mission:** The restructured NBM was **launched in 2018-19** for the holistic development of the complete value chain of the bamboo sector and is being implemented in a **hub (industry) and spoke model**.
 - It supports local artisans through locally grown bamboo species, which will actualise the goal of **Vocal for Local** and help increase the income of farmers, reducing dependency on imports of raw material.
- **Removal of Bamboo from 'Tree' Category:** The **Indian Forest Act 1927** was **amended in 2017 to remove bamboo for the category of trees**.
 - As a result, anyone can undertake cultivation and business in bamboo and its products without the need of a felling and transit permission.

- **Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs): 10,000 new FPOs will be formed in 5 years.**

FPOs engage in providing a range of assistance to farmers like **imparting better farm practices, collectivisation of input purchases, transportation, linkage with markets, and better price realisation** as they do away with the intermediaries.

Way Forward

- India needs to promote Bamboo Shoots as a **super-food**. It will help in alleviation of **malnutrition** and hunger.
- **Value-addition in Bamboo shoots** which enhances storage and diversification in new-age food products like vegetable protein concentrates can enhance its market potential and consumer acceptability.
- States need to take forward the objectives of the National Bamboo Mission which would contribute to the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan** through Aatmanirbhar Krishi (self-reliant farming).

Source: TH