



# Muli Bamboo

## Why in News?

Recently, a research study observed and **listed a large variety of animal visitors/predators** attracted by the fruit and flowers of **Muli Bamboo (Melocanna baccifera)**.

- The study found that **predation is mainly due to the high content of sugars**.
- The **highest-ever fruit production** in a bamboo clump of this species was also reported.

## What is Muli Bamboo?

### ▪ About:

- Muli is the **tropical evergreen species of bamboo**.
- It is the **largest fruit-producing bamboo** and is native to the northeast India-Myanmar region.
- It accounts for **90% of the bamboo forests found in the north-eastern state**.
- It can be recognised easily by **diffused clump habit**.
- The plant is also grown as an **ornamental**.
- **'Mautam'** is a strange ecological phenomenon associated with Muli Bamboo that **occurs once every 48 years**.

### ▪ Mautam:

- 'Mautam' means **'Bamboo death'** in Mizo (mau means bamboo and tam means death).
- During 'Mautam', **the cyclical, mass bamboo flowering and large fruit production occurs**.
- This **attracts animal visitors/predators** including pollen predators (honey bees), fruit predators (millipedes, slugs and snails, fruit borers, monkeys, rats, porcupines, wild boars and palm civets), seedling predators (rabbits, deer), and insect/pest predators (ants, mantis).
- **Black rats greatly relish the fleshy, berry-like fruit** of the Muli Bamboo and during this period, the black rats also **multiply rapidly**, a phenomenon dubbed as **'Rat Flood.'**
  - **Once the fruits are gone**, they start quickly **eating-up standing crops**.
  - **This leads to famines** claiming thousands of human lives.
- Due to the occurrence of 'Mautam', Muli bamboo is **locally known as 'Mautak'**.

## What are the Initiatives Related to Bamboo?

### ▪ Global Initiatives:

- **World Bamboo Day:**
  - It is celebrated every year on 18<sup>th</sup> September.
- **The International Bamboo and Rattan Organisation (INBAR):**
  - It is a multilateral development organisation which **promotes environmentally sustainable development using bamboo and rattan**.
  - In addition to its **Secretariat headquarters in China**, INBAR has **regional offices in India, Ghana, Ethiopia, and Ecuador**.

### ▪ Indian Initiatives:

- **Bamboo Clusters**
- **National Bamboo Mission (NBM)**

◦ **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.

## UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

### Q. Consider the following statements: (2019)

1. As per recent amendment to the Indian Forest Act, 1927, forest dwellers have the right to fell the bamboos grown on forest areas.
2. As per the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, bamboo is a minor forest produce.
3. The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 allows ownership of minor forest produce to forest dwellers.

### Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only  
(b) 2 and 3 only  
(c) 3 only  
(d) 1, 2 and 3

**Ans: (b)**

**Exp:**

- The Indian Forest (Amendment) Bill 2017 permits felling and transit of bamboo grown in non-forest areas. However, bamboo grown on forest lands would continue to be classified as a tree and would be guided by the existing legal restrictions. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, recognises bamboo as a Minor Forest Produce and vests the “right of ownership, access to collect, use and dispose of minor forest produce” with Scheduled Tribes and Traditional Forest Dwellers. **Hence, statements 2 and 3 are correct.**
- **Therefore, option B is the correct answer.**

**Source: TH**

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