



# Beema Bamboo

## Why in News

The **Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU)** has designed an **'oxygen park'** within its premises at Coimbatore with **Beema Bamboo**.

## Key Points

### ▪ About Beema Bamboo:

- **Beema or Bheema Bamboo** is a superior clone, selected from **Bambusa balcooa**, a higher biomass yielding bamboo species. This bamboo clone has been developed by the conventional breeding method.
- This species is **considered to be one of the fastest-growing plants**. It **grows one-and-a-half feet per day** under tropical conditions.
- It is said to be the **best 'carbon sink'** to mitigate carbon dioxide emissions.

### Bambusa balcooa

- Bambusa balcooa is a very large, thick-walled, clumping bamboo, growing up to a height of 25 metres, and a thickness of 150 millimetres.
- The **length and strength** of Bambusa balcooa make it **a useful material for the construction industry**.
- It is a **drought-resistant species** with low rainfall requirements and can reach yields upwards of 100 metric tons per hectare.

### ▪ Importance:

#### ◦ Permanent Green Cover:

- As it is **sterile**, this bamboo does not produce any seed and does not die also for several hundred years and keeps growing without death. As a result, this particular bamboo species is **able to establish permanent green cover**.

#### ◦ Does Not Require Replanting for Decades:

- Since the plants are produced **through tissue culture**, the **culms grow almost solid and adapt** to different soil and climatic conditions. After every harvest cycle, it re-grows and does not require replanting for decades.

- A culm is the hollow stem of a grass or cereal plant, especially that bearing the flower.

#### ◦ Can Mitigate Global Warming and Climate Change:

- As its rhizome and root formation provide a strong foundation, the plant becomes robust against natural forces and plays a major role in mitigating global warming and climate change.

- **Diverse Uses:**

- **The bamboo's calorific value is equal to that of coal.** Cement industries are buying this bamboo species for their boilers. Bamboo fibre is used by the textile industry for making fabric and garments.
- Experts from the Visvesvaraya National Institute of Technology (VNIT), Nagpur, are working on the [design of crash barriers](#) made of beema bamboo and coir.

## Government Initiatives Related to 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.

- [National Bamboo Mission \(NBM\):](#)

- **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 aims at **connecting farmers** to markets so as to enable farmer producers to get a ready market for the bamboo grown and to increase the **supply of appropriate raw material** to the domestic industry.

- **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.

## Way Forward

- There are about **3 trillion trees** on earth and there is enough space on the planet for planting an additional **1.2 trillion trees** that would have huge benefits in terms of absorbing atmospheric carbon dioxide.
- The **Beema Bamboo** can be an excellent choice for making the earth greener and mitigating climate change.

[Source: DTE](#)

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