



**TRIPURA BAMBOO MISSION**

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# Quarterly Progress Report

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**July - September, 2014**

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*Submitted to:*

**Department of Industries & Commerce  
Government of Tripura**

Shilpodyog Bhawan, Khejur Bagan, Agartala

Submitted by:



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*Annexure-I: Summary of Progress Achieved*

*Annexure-II: Fund received under different schemes*

## 1. ABOUT TRIPURA BAMBOO MISSION

### 1.1. Introduction

Tripura Bamboo Mission (TBM) is an initiative of the Government of Tripura to focus on enhancement of turnover of Bamboo sector coupled with promotion of livelihood opportunities. The Mission's objectives of scaling up turnover of Bamboo sector and to simultaneously increase the livelihood opportunities are sought to be achieved through cluster development approach involving institution building, industrial linkages, better market and credit facilities coupled with resource upgradation, working on a project mode.

Tripura Bamboo Mission, launched by the Government of Tripura during 2007, had an initial objective of enhancing turnover of bamboo sector from Rs. 27.9 crores to Rs. 75.85 crores. By the mid-term review in 2009 through various initiatives and activities, the mission had scaled up its turnover to Rs.56.65 crores by 2009-10 and Rs. 115.56 crore by 2012-13. Basing on the pace of reforms and taking advantage of the extension of the project, the TBM has revised its target of turnover achievement to Rs. 200 crores at the end of FY 2016-17. The TBM has so far exceeded in not only consolidating the bamboo sector in Tripura but has also initiated a number of activities for value addition and scaling up of the production to realize the market potential of the sector. The initiatives in scaling up production of polished sticks, rolled sticks and perfumed sticks with corresponding capacity building, institution development and market linkage are noteworthy. The initiative of promoting clusters and supplementing infrastructure facilities with an eye on efficient marketing through the concept of common facility centers and producers, growers and marketers society is praise worthy.

TBM is the nodal agency of the Government of Tripura for implementation of all bamboo value addition development projects in the State. The institutional structure of TBM has been strengthened to the level of a society. Tripura Bamboo Mission is registered under the Societies Registration Act 1860, headed by the Chief Secretary, Government of Tripura and the General Body comprises of Secretaries and Head of Departments of Forests, Industry, Handicrafts, Rural Development, Social Welfare, Tribal Welfare and Finance, Financing institutions etc. The TBM is being implemented in a PPP mode. The Government of Tripura has engaged IL&FS Cluster Development Initiative to implement the Tripura Bamboo Mission in April 2007, in view of proven expertise and experience in designing, executing and implementing of projects in cluster development and livelihood promotion in various parts of the country. The Company has deployed a multi-skilled team in Tripura and has built a network of partners and domain experts to undertake the implementation of the Tripura Bamboo Mission.

### 1.2. Vision

To make Tripura as the hub of bamboo based sustainable micro, small and medium industries in the country by mobilizing the local natural and human resources and

enable structured growth in the sector by strong institution building and market linkage.

### 1.3. Objective

- To sustain the growth achieved in the bamboo sector and increase the current turnover from Rs. 95 crores to 200 crores over a 5 year duration.
- Build the bamboo sector as a major livelihood provider and provide employment opportunities to 20,000 poor producers in the sector.
- Provide critical production and commercial infrastructure, technology, marketing support, capacity building and product diversification, to build competitiveness and ensure sustainable development of the clusters.

### 1.4. TBM Interventions & Sub-sectors

- Build sustainable bamboo based livelihoods based on a cluster based approach.
- Develop an institutional structure owned and managed by grassroots producers & their federations.
- Build their enterprises based on commercially sustainable business models.
- Provide infrastructure, skill training, design support and direct market linkages.
- Mobilize private investment in the bamboo sector in areas like bamboo composites, mechanized sticks and other industrial products.
- Promote plantation in non-forest areas, private land holdings and homestead plantations

### 1.5. Growth of bamboo sector

The growth trend of bamboo sector in the state is satisfactory, as observed during the last 7 years. The turnover of commercial bamboo sector was estimated at Rs. 212.32 crore for the financial year 2013-14. Major contribution was from the incense sector especially bamboo sticks; however, steady growth in handicrafts sector was also observed. A provisional estimate of turnover has been made by the Tripura Bamboo Mission as presented below.

Estimated Year wise Turnover of Bamboo Sector in Tripura (in Rs. Crores)								
Year	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Turnover	28.00	35.50	56.56	76.00	93.05	107.22	115.56	121.32

## 2. PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN INCENSE SECTOR:

### 2.1. Progress achieved under different project head

**Project Name: Integrated Development of Incense Clusters in Tripura supported by North East Council (NEC), Govt. of India**

#### About the Project:

The project “Integrated Development of Incense Clusters in Tripura” has been approved by the North Eastern Council, Government of India. The total project cost is Rs. 779.90 lakh (NEC: 90%, GoT: 10%). Implementation of the project started in the 3rd quarter of FY 2013-14.

The project aims to develop integrated incense clusters at 30 locations in the state of Tripura. It entails establishment of incense stick production centres, introduction of community friendly technology, skill development of artisans, capacity building of the producers to run their own grass root organization and establishing linkage with mainstream markets.

The Key activities/interventions under this project are- Mobilizing & identifying beneficiaries, organizing beneficiaries into group & institutionalizing them as incense stick producer groups, Technological intervention including skill development and capacity development, Marketing interventions- exploring different marketing channels and penetrating into mainstream & upscale markets.

#### **Project Implementation & Progress**

- i. Handholding of incense cluster of **Mechanised Agarbatti rolling at Rupacharra, Khowai district:** One mechanized rolled agarbatti producer group was formed by taking total 20 women at the Rupacherra, Khowai district. The panchayat building has been for the regular agarbatti production taken with permission from Gram Pradhan as the women of the group were interested to work in the panchayat building for proximity from their houses. Total 10 agarbatti padel type machines are installed in the CPC. The duration of the Training was 17th April-16<sup>th</sup> May, 2014. The market linkage has been set up with Omkar Agarbatti producers and other local enterprenuers group at Teliamura. Regular production of sticks and production monitoring is going on.



Pictures: Training programme on Mechanised agarbatti rolling

- ii. Handholding of Incense cluster at Palpara, Bishalgarh, Sipahijala district:
- Installation and smooth run of total 15 nos. paddle type agarbatti rolling machine for Palpara CFC completed.
  - Installation of another 20 machines in the month of April, 2014 for this centre.
  - After mobilization process and capacity building programme presently 15 nos. women are producing rolled agarbattis for full time.
  - Storing and packaging are done at the centre and packets are made ready to sell.
  - Regular group meeting by the producers group is organized and regular savings are continued by the group in the group's bank account.



Pictures: Women working with mechanized agarbatti rolling machine

- iii. Handholding of Incense cluster at Jagannathpur, Unakoti district: Regular production and production monitoring on regular basis is done. In the agarbatti producer group total 20 women are presently working and market linkage has been set up with North East Incense. The training on mechanized agarbatti rolling for one month was conducted during last quarter.



Pictures: Women working with mechanized agarbatti rolling machine



- iv. Handholding of incense cluster at Chandrapur, Gomati district: Training programme on semi mechanized incense stick making was organized with 39 nos in the last quarter. The market linkage has been set up with Palpara Agarbatti producers group at Bishalgarh. Regular production of sticks and production monitoring is going on.



Pictures: Women working with Semi Mechanized stick making machine

**v. Training of Trainer (ToT) on Mechanised Agarbatti rolling :**

Capacity building programme for the trainers on agarbatti rolling was organized in the month during 6th and 7th August, 2014 at Palpara Community Production Centre, Bishalgarh, Sipahijala district with 28 nos. of participants from different producer group



Pictures: Training programme on Mechanised agarbatti rolling

**v. Mobilization and Institution building:**

Sl no	Activity	District	Venue	No of artisans mobilized
1	One day mobilization campaign on Mechanized rolling activity	Sipahijala	Ghaniamara	20
2	One day mobilization campaign on Mechanized rolling activity	Sipahijala	Murabari	12
3	One day mobilization campaign on Mechanized rolling activity	Gomati	Chandrapur	40
4	One day mobilization campaign on Mechanized	Gomati	Bhajanagar	20

	rolling activity			
5	One day mobilization campaign on Mechanized rolling activity	Gomati	Khilpara	20
6	One day mobilization campaign on Mechanized rolling activity	Gomati	Kakraban	20
7	One day mobilization campaign on Mechanized rolling activity	Gomati	Jamjuri	20
8	One day mobilization campaign on semi mechanized incense stick making	Dhlalai	Salema	20
9	One day mobilization campaign on Mechanized rolling activity	Unakoti	Embrabasa	20
10	One day mobilization campaign on semi mechanized incense stick making	Unakoti	Rajnagar	30
11	One day mobilization campaign on Mechanized rolling activity	Unakoti	Sonaimuri	20
12	One day mobilization campaign on Mechanized rolling activity	North Tripura	Dharmanagar	20
13	One day mobilization campaign on Mechanized rolling activity	Unakoti	Krishnanagar	40
14	One day mobilization campaign on Mechanized rolling activity	West	Amtali	30
	Total			332

***Project Name: Proposal for establishment of community based semi mechanized bamboo stick unit in Tripura supported by Tripura JICA Project***

➤ Hand holding of Incense cluster at

- Uttarmaharani, Khowai district: Community Production Centre (CPC) on bamboo stick making at Hamchajak JFMC, Uttar Maharani, Khowai district is constructed and group of 40 nos. women producers was also was formed. The CPC was inaugurated on 4th Feb, 2014.
- Karbongpara, Khowai district: One rolled agarbatti producer group was formed by taking total 40 women at the Karbong para, and Rupacherra , Khowai district. The CPC has been formed and renovated (in pre existed building). Total 10 nos. agarbatti padel type machines are installed in the CPC. The duration of the Training was 17th April-16<sup>th</sup> May, 2014. Marketing tie up with different enterprenuers is done.
- Other Semi mechanized cluster at: Patacharra JFMC and Aliajgar JFMC





Pictures: Training on Agarbatti Rolling

- Handing over the following production centre with assets to Foresters, Department of Forest, Govt. of Tripura
  - Chompreng agarbatti producer group of Chompreng JFMC
  - Rangitilla incense stick producer group of Rangitilla JFMC

***Project Name: Proposal for establishment of community based semi mechanized bamboo stick unit in Tripura supported by Indo-German Development Co-operation Project (IGDC) project:***

**A. Mobilization and Community Production Centre formation:**

**i. Mechanised agarbatti rolling activity:**

- a. South Kachuchara: A group of 20 women has been formed at South Kachuchara, Dhalai Tripura where several meetings were organised with the group and Chairman of Village Committee. Capacity building programme was started with 20 people on 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2014 for 30 days and gradually the nos. of participants will be increased with the interested participants in need of work.



- B. Mendi: A group of 20 women has been formed at Mendi, Dhalai Tripura where several meetings were organised with the group and Chairman of Village Committee. Capacity building programme will be started with 20 people soon after SHG registration by IGDC with group bank account and gradually the nos. of participants will be increased with the interested participants in need of work.



- ii. **Semi mechanised incense stick making activity:** A group of 20 women is formed at Kathalbari, Dhalai Tripura where several meetings were organised with the group. Demonstration of semi mechanised incense stick making machines/tools before the artisans was organised at Kathalbari. Now the bank account of the group has to be opened for all transaction with the group. Initial training programme will be organised with 20 people and gradually the nos. of participants will be increased with the interested participants with need of work. One day orientation programme on incense stick making for 20 nos. women was organized on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2014.



### C. Technological intervention:

- i. **Mechanised agarbatti rolling activity:** Padel type agarbatti rolling machines, masala mixing machine, weighing machine, chairs are purchased and installed by TBM for installing in the identified place for Agarbatti rolling activity at South Kachuchara, Dhalai Tripura. Also the aforesaid machines are purchased for Mendi whrer the machines will be installed soon.
- ii. **Semi mechanised incense stick making activity:** Cross cutting, agarbatti stick and slicing machines are purchased for installing in the identified place for incense stick making activity at Kathalbari, Dhalai Tripura.

***Project name: Stitch-Skill up gradation Programme (STitch) in Handicraft (incense sector) in Tripura under Integrated Skill Development Scheme (ISDS) supported by Ministry of Textile, Govt. of India:***

Under this programme total 194 nos. women trainee were trained in Mechanized Agarbatti Rolling in 45 days. The trainees were given training kit, Mechanised Agarbatti Rolling-manual, soft skill training, Id cards, bags etc. The training programmes were organized in collaboration with identified partners as mentioned in the table. Mobilization is ongoing with other women group

<b>Sl No</b>	<b>Partner</b>	<b>location</b>	<b>Training location</b>	<b>No of trainee</b>	<b>Training status</b>
1	Banshi Agarbatti	Hapania, Agartala	Ghaniamara	12	completed
2	Omkar Agarbatti	Vivek Nagar, Amtali, Agartala	Khasiamangal	20	completed
3	Banshi Agarbatti	Hapania, Agartala	Murabari	11	Completed
	Total			43	

### 3. PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN HANDICRAFTS SECTOR

#### 3.1. Progress achieved under different project head

##### **Project Name: Integrated Development of Bamboo Handicraft Clusters in Tripura supported by NE Council**

###### About the Project:

The project “Integrated Development of Bamboo Handicraft Clusters in Tripura” has been approved by the North Eastern Council vide their letter no.NEC/IND/TR/13/2011 dated 23/03/2012. The total project cost is Rs. 441.25 lakh (NEC: 90%, GoT: 10%). Implementation of the project started in the 3rd quarter of FY2012-13.

The project aims to develop integrated bamboo handicraft clusters at 6 locations in the state of Tripura. It entails establishment of bamboo craft production centres, development of new designs, skill development of artisans, capacity building of the producers to run their own grassroot organization and establishing linkage with mainstream markets. The major craft category includes basketry, mat, mat based utility, carving, pasting, furnishing crafts.

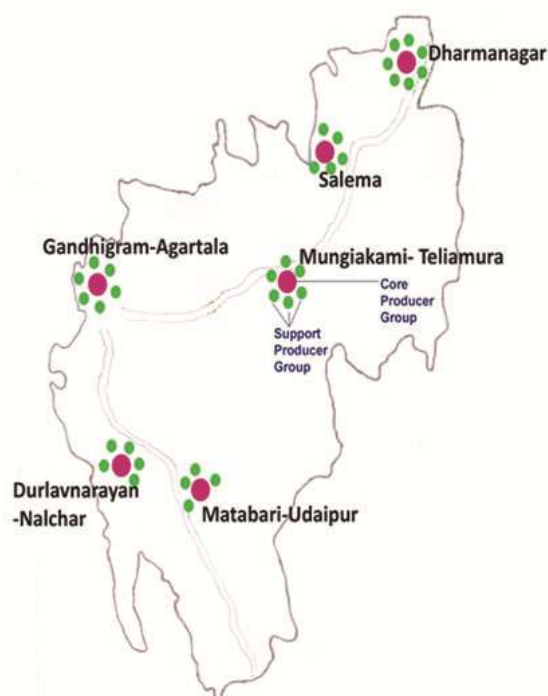
The project locations are- 1) Dharmanagar, 2) Salema, 3) Teliamura-Mungiakami, 4) Gandhigram- Agartala, 5) Durlavnarayan-Nalchar & 6) Matabari-Udaipur.

The Key activities/interventions under this project are- Mobilizing & identifying beneficiaries, organizing beneficiaries & institutionalizing them as craft producer groups, Technological intervention including design & skill development and capacity development to industry standards, Marketing interventions- exploring different marketing channels and penetrating into mainstream & upscale markets, Financial support to build producers’ working capital.

###### Project Implementation & Progress

The project implementation started in the FY 2013-14 with baseline survey at the selected project locations. The project is a challenging one as the project locations does not have any traditional bamboo commercial activity in large scale. However, TBM’s strategy to expand the production base is portrayed from acceptance of this project.

Tripura Bamboo Mission has deputed a dedicated team of professionals including livelihood experts, designers, marketing expert etc. to provide holistic support for





inclusive growth of the clusters; a full time cluster manager has been deputed at each location. Craft producer groups have been formed at the clusters as the core producer of finished goods and several bamboo intermediate product support groups formed in the catchment areas to support the core producer groups. The core producer Groups formed are- Juri Craft Producer Group (Dharmanagar), Dhalai Craft Producer Group (Salema), Chakmaghat Craft Producer Group (Mungiakami-Teliamura), Malancha Craft Producer Group (Gandhigram- Agartala), Neermahal Craft Producer Group, (Durlavnarayan-Nalchar) & Matabari Craft Producer Group (Udaipur- Matabari).

#### Activities during the July- September, 2014

- All the producer Groups have started commercial production of bamboo handicraft.
- The groups have set their monthly production targets.
- TBM trade facilitation cell is supporting the groups in marketing of their products.
- In the clusters, gradually, more such producer groups are being readied.
- Identification of potential craft pockets and the interested artisans are being undertaken by Tripura Bamboo Mission.
- The producer groups, which are essentially artisan community owned institutions, regularly making group savings, meetings & other group related activities.
- The groups & the cluster managers of Tripura Bamboo Mission are being trained in various aspects of group management, record book keeping etc. apart from technical input for improvement quality & productivity and managing the overall production activity.

#### Project Implementation & Progress till date:-

- The project is being implemented as per the prescribed guidelines of NE Council.
- Rs. 100 lakh has been released as first installment in 2013; Utilization Certificate for the same amount has been submitted to NE Council in July, 2014.
- The second installment for the project is yet to be released by NE Council
- So far the interventions done by TBM under the project include the following-
  - o Mobilization & Identification potential craft pockets & beneficiaries- mobilization camps organized at each project locations
  - o Institution Building- formation of artisan community producer organizations has been undertaken. Initially 6 producer groups have been formed as core groups. Other new groups are being readied. The group members have been trained in different aspects of group formation & management. As the core strategy of TBM, all these producer groups in future will be federated as a Producer Company for sustainable operation in the long run.
  - o Technological Intervention: The group members have been trained under the programmes a) design & technical development workshop, b) skill development workshop c) integrated design & technical development workshop. Apart from this, exposure visit to various clusters, markets & institutes like BCDI, Agartala have also been arranged.
  - o Marketing Intervention: As per the project guideline, various initiatives has been undertaken to market the handicraft produced by the groups. While TBM Trade Facilitation cell supports them exclusively for getting orders, promotion & publicity has been undertaken using catalogues,

posters, internet/ online marketing, video documentary etc. The handicraft products has been exhibited in various national & international fairs & exhibitions like IITF, Kerala Bamboo fest etc. to name a few.

- Financial Intervention: Full time cluster managers to support the producer groups have been deputed. The margin money for the artisan members are being gradually released based on the production requirement & performance of the group.
- Cluster specific infrastructure related intervention: six common facility centers are to be built in each cluster under the project. It has been planned that, the construction may start in due time after release of fund under this project component. Some improvised tools & implements required by the existing groups have been provided to them.

#### Project Implementation & Progress till date:-

A review of the project was held at the NE Council Secretariat on 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2014 under the Chairmanship the Secretary, NEC. The project was reviewed in terms of financial & physical progress by the panel. Senior team members from TBM team were present at the said meeting.



#### **Project Name: Design & Technology Upgradation Scheme of O/o the DC(Handicrafts)-**

##### About the Project:

The O/o the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Ministry of Textiles has approved 5(five) Design & Technical development workshops to be implemented by TBM. The revalidated sanction letter was received in 2013-14. The project locations are- a)Charilam, b) Jogendranagar, c)Kalibazar, d) Rajdharnagar & e) Agartala

#### Project Implementation & Progress till date:-

- One workshop at Charilam CFC has been organized
- The first instalment for organizing the workshop is yet to be released
- The remaining programmes will be organized after receiving the first instalment as mentioned in the guidelines of Design & Technology Upgradation Scheme



**Project Name: Institution & Industry Linked Training on Bamboo Packaging, Bags & Accessories for Rural Artisans in Tripura supported by Ministry of DoNER**

About the Project:

The project aims to provide specialized trainings in identified sectors with established market potential through linkage with well established institutional and industry partners. The program will focus on two key areas of skill training namely (i) Skill Training for Bags and Accessories and (ii) Skill Training in bamboo packaging (three identified sub-sectors: Vegetable and Fruit exporters; confectionary products, spa and wellness products). The skill training project aims at training 1500 artisans of Tripura to build the capacities and thereby generating livelihoods for artisans. The project also has components of Training of Trainers (ToTs) and training of enterprises in production management & merchandising. The project was sanctioned by Ministry DoNER vide their letter No. 10/21/2010-CB&TA, Dated: 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2010 and No.10/21/2010-CB&TA, Dated: 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2013.

Project Implementation & Progress:

- Physical target for training 1500 persons has been achieved- Bags & Accessories (300) & Bamboo Packaging (1200) across different clusters in the state.
- Utilization details for the fund received have been submitted; however the third installment is yet to be released by the Ministry.

**Project Name: Skill Training on Textiles, Clothing & Handicraft (STITCH) under Integrated Skill Development Scheme (ISDS) supported by Ministry of Textiles, Government of India**

About the Project

Integrated Skill Development Scheme (ISDS) was launched by the Ministry of Textiles to fulfill the shortage of skilled manpower in the sector under the ambit of Textiles & Apparel, Handicrafts, Handlooms, Jute, Sericulture, Technical Textiles. The ISD scheme has two components. The Component-II is to undertake skill development in partnership with private sector through PPP model.

IL&FS Cluster Development Initiative Ltd. is one of the implementing agencies (IAs) appointed by the Ministry of Textiles. The courses offered by IL&FS Clusters are under textiles, apparel & handicrafts commonly termed as “STITCH” (Skill Training on Textiles, Clothing & Handicraft).

Project Implementation & Progress:

One skill training programme has been started at Natural Weaves & Craft, Baikhora from 21<sup>st</sup> August, 2014. Duration of each programme is 45 days. 25 (twenty five) persons, mostly women, have been trained under the programme. The training has been organized through the Tripura Bamboo Mission (TBM) for strengthening of bamboo based handicraft clusters in Tripura. The detail is given below.



### 3.2. Status of Producer Groups

#### Dharmanagar Cluster

The artisan of the group has undertaken the production of Cane Sofa Set & Chairs during the quarter. The group is functional with regular saving & meeting. At present there are 12 members in the group. A total of 105 persons have been trained under integrated design & technical development workshop held at 3 locations in the cluster.



*Production of Cane & Bamboo products by Juri Craft Producer group*

#### Salema Cluster

The artisans of 'Dhalai Craft Producer Group' have undertaken production of Bamboo Basket during the quarter and the group has been linked to a leading buyer of bamboo basket in the state. The group has 32 working members engaged in production of bamboo basket. Dhalai Craft Producer group is the core producer group of the cluster; ancillary supporting groups are also being trained & developed. A total of 486 persons have been trained under integrated design & technical development workshop held at 12 locations in the cluster.





*Production of Bamboo Utility Basket by Dhalai Craft Producer Group*

### **Mungiakami- Teliamura Cluster**

The artisans of 'Chakmaghat Craft Producer Group' have undertaken production of Bamboo Decorative products during the quarter. TBM supported in marketing of the products that attracted buyers from within and outside the state. 16 persons are presently engaged in the group. The group is the core producer group of the cluster; ancillary supporting groups are also being trained & developed. A total of 135 persons have been trained under integrated design & technical development workshop held at 3 locations in the cluster.



*Production of Bamboo Turning Products at Mungiakami cluster*

### **Gandhigram- Agartala Cluster**

The artisans of Malancha Craft Producer Group have undertaken the production of Bamboo Mat based Utility products like ladies purse, folder, bag etc during the quarter. A total of 123 persons have been trained under integrated design & technical development workshop held at 5 locations in the cluster. TBM supported in marketing the products from within and outside the state. At present 15 artisans are working in Narshingarh and 12 persons are working in Paschim Gandhigram.







*Production of Bamboo Bags & Accessories by Malancha Craft Producer Group*

### **Durlavnarayan- Nalchar Cluster**

The artisans of the cluster have undertaken the production of Bamboo Utility Basket during the quarter. The group is functional with regular saving & meeting. At present there are 18 members in the group. Neer mahal Craft Producer group is the core producer group of the cluster, ancillary supporting groups are also being trained & developed. A total of 105 persons have been trained under integrated design & technical development workshop held at 3 locations in the cluster.



*Production of Bamboo Utility Baskets at Khash Chowmuhan- Durlavnarayan Cluster*

### **Matabari-Udaipur**

The artisans of the group have produced bamboo tray, bamboo laptop stand during the quarter. Presently there are 16 members in the group. The group is functional with regular saving & meeting. The group is the core producer group of the cluster, ancillary supporting groups are also being trained & developed.



*Production of Bamboo Handicraft by Matabari Craft Producer Group*

### **Baikhora**

The Natural Weaves & Craft is the major producer group in the cluster. There are 12 active member artisans who are engaged in production of bamboo mat & sheetal pati based utility products. The products are marketed mostly outside the state. While the main value addition is done by the producer society's CFC at East Charakbai village, there are at least 200 artisans linked to the cluster who supply bamboo mat & sheetal pati. The producer has established themselves as a recognized supplier of products in different parts of the country. TBM is supporting them to mainly by facilitating market linkages, getting orders as well as streamlining their production for enhanced quality & quality. The group is planning to expand its production base by engaging more artisans and facilitating credit linkages for working capital.



*Production of Bamboo Handicraft by Natural Weaves & Crafts*

### **Kaladhapa**

Kaladhapa is an emerging cluster of bamboo mat based utility handicraft production in the state. The main producer group is the Gairing Society, formed by the local craft persons of Kaldhepa village under Manubazar R. D. Block. The CFc at Kaladhapa is the main centre for value addition in the cluster and is managed by the Gairing Society. After initial hurdles, the society has started commercial production of bamboo handicraft. At present, 18 artisan members are working at the cluster. The main product categories are, bamboo mat (woven on handlooms), Bags, accessories & home utilities made using mat by stitching, pasting, cutting techniques. TBM is supporting the society in getting bulk orders throughout the year.



*Production of Bamboo Handicraft by Gairing Society*

### **Revival of CFCs**

Revival plan for Charilam, Nalchar & Jogendranagar CFCs is in process. Detailed Business plans for Jogendranagar & Charilam CFCs have been prepared. Meeting with the local artisans have been organized; producer groups in the form of SHG or Society will be formed to run the production activity in the CFCs.

Revival plan for Nalchar CFC has been prepared. The proposal will be submitted to NTFP Centre of Excellence for approval of fund.

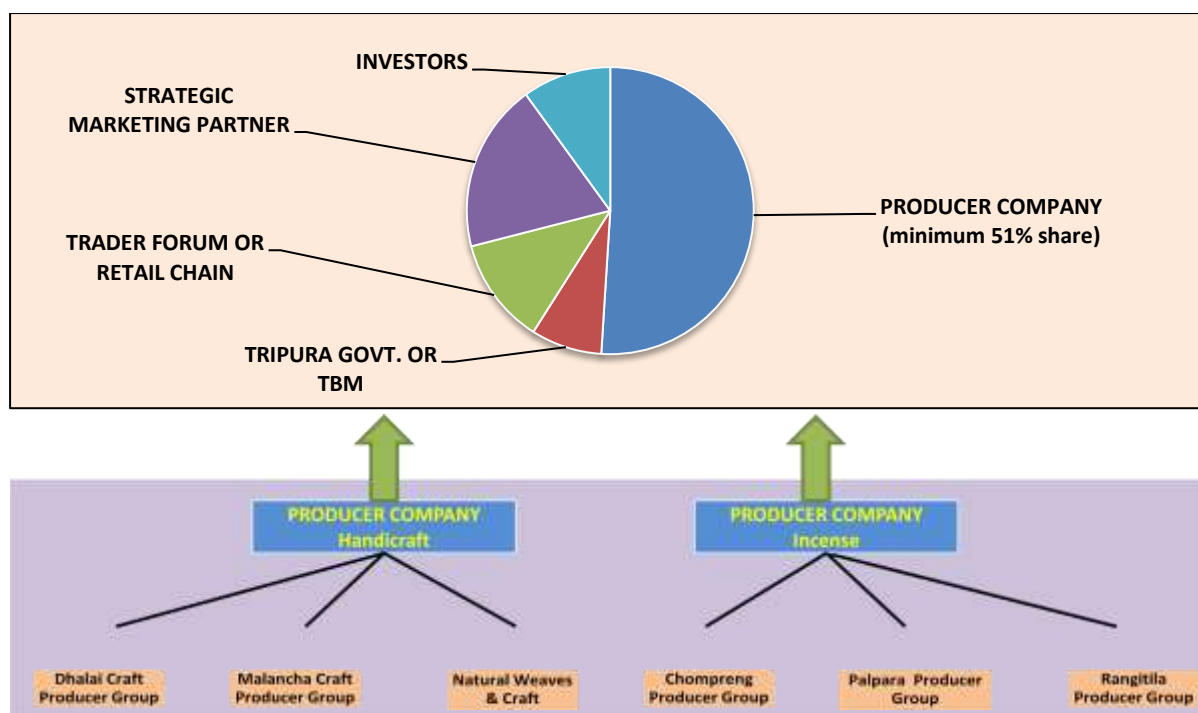
### **Major Challenges for the Producers**

- Insufficient working capital leading to less production volume
- Product stock piling up due to non-availability of bulk orders
- Non-availability of critical raw materials & consumables in local markets & at cheaper rates
- Increased cost of bamboo leading to high production cost

### **Sustainability of Producer Groups**

In the long run, it has been planned that, the small producer groups will be federated to form a Producer Company. It will have representatives from each producer group. The total production orders will be executed directly by the proposed Producer Company. An SPV/ Private Limited Company will be formed with the proposed Producer Company being the major shareholder and other shareholders like Tripura Bamboo Mission, Marketing Agencies, Trader Forum, Retail Chain & other investors. Presently, the bulk orders are channelized through TBM Trade Facilitation Cell to different producer groups. Institutional structure of the proposed SPV is given below.

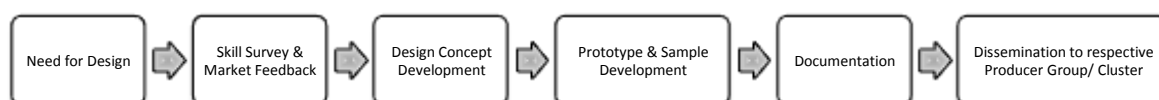




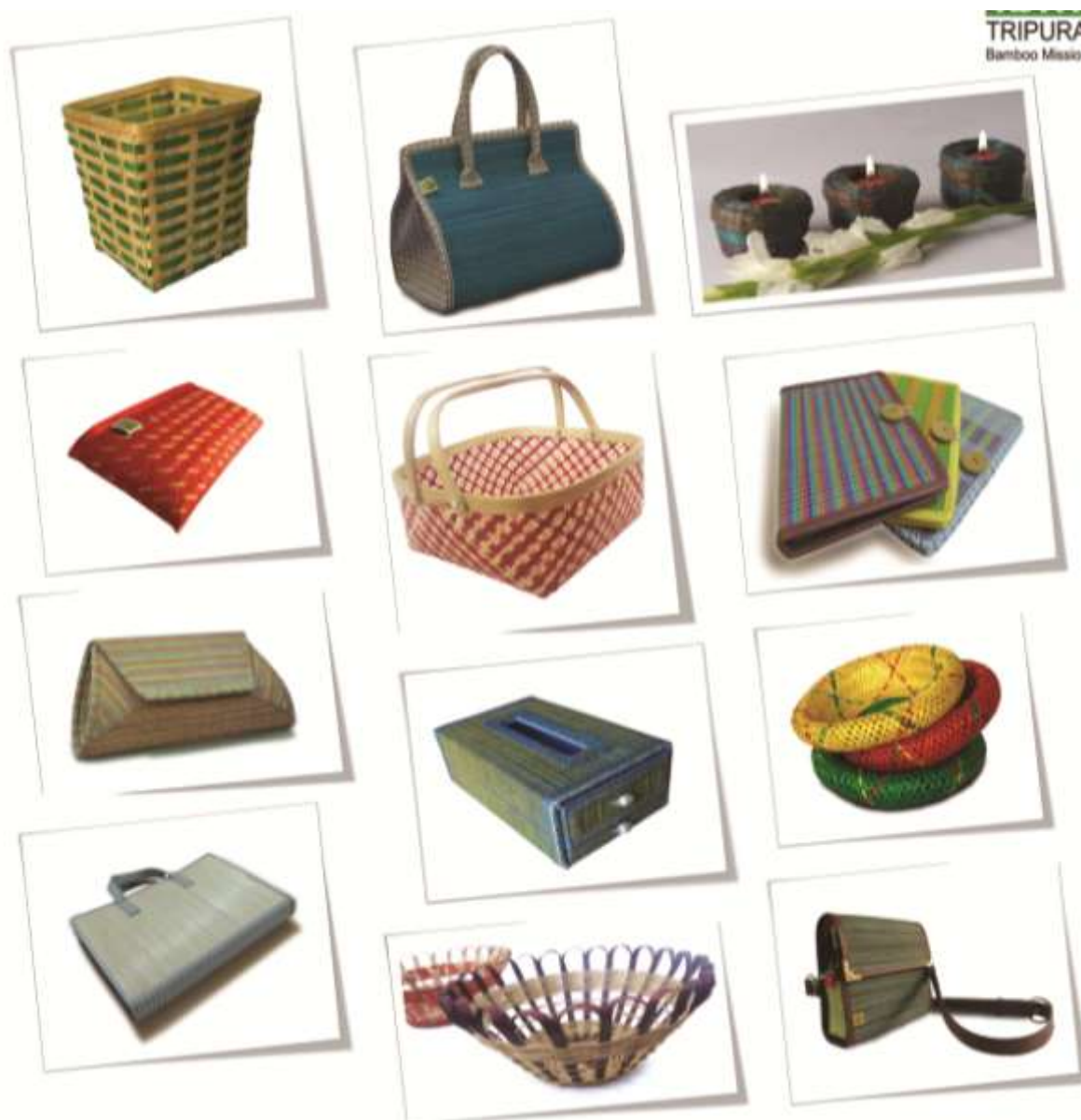
### 3.3. Design Intervention

Design development is an important activity of TBM to keep the clusters updated about the latest trends in handicraft. An exclusive 'Design Cell' (TBM-DC) has been set up at the TBM Project office where dedicated designer and master artisans have been deployed to develop very trendy yet user friendly craft ideas and prototyping of the same. The reasons behind setting up the Design Cell are to provide design prototype support to the clusters as well as improve marketing intervention. The designs are tested in the market and transferred to potential producers/entrepreneurs after prototyping.

The activities of design Cell are as follows:-



A glimpse of new products developed by TBM Design Cell, which have been produced during the quarter in the clusters, is given below:-



*Few products developed by TBM's Design Cell, those are under production by producer groups*

### 3.4. Marketing & Trade Facilitation

From April to June, 2014 major marketing interventions by Tripura Bamboo Mission are as follows.

#### **Key products marketed –**

- Mat based Utility Bags
- Baskets with handle
- Hand fan
- Table Mat
- Jewelry Box

- Gift box & pouches
- Bamboo briefcase
- Jhola bags (multi-utility low cost bag)
- Traveling Pouch
- Low cost Conference bags
- Sheetal pati File Folder
- File Cover
- Various types of hand bags & purses

### **Major Buyers**

- North East Handloom, Handicrafts Development Corporation Ltd. (NEHHDC Ltd.)
- Institution of Engineers (India), Tripura branch
- Chaphekar Engineering, Mumbai
- Elegance, Pune

### **Major Steps taken for improvement of trade facilitation**

- B2C marketing through eBay.in
- B2B marketing through Indiamart.com
- A meeting has been held between Tripura Bamboo Mission and Tripura Handloom, Handicrafts Development Corporation Ltd. (Purbasha) for providing market support for producer groups. The meeting was held at the chamber of the Managing Director, THHDCL on 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 2014. Initially, 100 pieces of each product from the producers will be given for test marketing.
- Revamping of TBM portal is in progress; the new portal will have payment gateway facility facilitating direct online selling of products.
- A craft outlet was inaugurated at the 'Srijoni' inside Heritage Park, Agartala on 29<sup>th</sup> July.



*Inauguration of Craft Outlet 'Srijoni' at Heritage Park, Agartala*

## 4. PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN RESOURCE GENERATION

### 4.1. Progress achieved under different project head

#### **Project Name: Tripura JICA plantation project**

The JICA review mission has visited the bamboo plantation site of Kambukchhara covering the plantation area of two JFMC areas namely –Belfung and Harebkatar. This plantation was done during the planting season April –July 2013 with support from Tripura JICA project. Mr Anurag sinha and Mrs Nikki from JICA central team along with PD , Tripura JICA visited the site along with other officials.

#### **National Bamboo Mission project**

**District level work shop:** Two district level workshops were organized on “Bamboo Cultivation –The Commercial Aspect” at Kumarghat and Julaibari during 5<sup>th</sup> September and 19<sup>th</sup> September 2014. Mr Prashanjeet Sinha, Sahakari Sabhadhipati, Unakoti district chaired the inauguration program along with Mr Samiran Malakar MLA at Kumarghat. Total 110 farmers including public representatives, govt. officials participated in the workshop. Mr Sabhadhipati South Tripura district, District Forest Officials and community representatives participated in the workshop and highlighted the requirement of commercial bamboo plantation in the private land to meet the growing need of bamboo in the state.

#### **Project Name: MGNREGA 2014-15**

During planting season 2014, total bamboo plantation done under MGNREGA is 356.37 ha covering 506 beneficiaries. The plantation in the Khowai was started late because of delay in sanctioned releasing of fund to TBM, However the plantation could completed in time. The proposals submitted to Unakoti district could not materialized for this year’s plantation.

All the plantation work could be done because of the scheme prepared by TBM taking into consideration of the MGNREGA guidelines. The plantation was done in the High Density Format – 4000 plants /ha for Kankaich bamboo and 1250 plants/ha for non-kankaich bamboo. All payment was done through bank account/cheque only during this planting season. TBM has engaged IL& FS Clusters for undertaking the HDBP in the field as the IO for this MGNREGA project.

Table: MGNREGA 2013-14-15

District	Block	Village	No of Beneficiaries	Plantation done Area(ha)	
				Kankaich	Non-Kankaich
West	Hezamara	Saratchowdhury	69	42.49	
		Ramsankar	32	16.9	15.1
		Kambukcharra	39		39

<i>District</i>	<i>Block</i>	<i>Village</i>	<i>No of Beneficiaries</i>	<i>Plantation done Area(ha)</i>	
		Sankhola	46	22.28	
		Bharatchowdhury	30	6.00	20.48
		<b>Total, 162.25</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>87.67</b>	<b>74.58</b>
	Mohanpur	Mantola	21	10.48	
		Ishanpur	24	12	
		Vidhyasagar	31	15.20	
		Brahmmakunda	18	10.44	
		Kalacherra	10	7.56	
		<b>Total, 55.68</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>55.68</b>	
	Mandwai	Patni	35		24.48
		Wakhinagar	26		20.16
		Ashigarh	10		8.00
		Thaiplongphang	11		10.00
		<b>Total, 62.64</b>	<b>82</b>		<b>62.64</b>
	Belbari	Santinagar	22		22
		<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>		<b>22</b>
Khowai	<b>Mungia ami</b>	Ramkrishna Pur	21		20.40
		South Maharani	18		17.20
		Purba Laxmipur	17		17
		<b>Total</b>	<b>56</b>		<b>54.6</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>506</b>		<b>356.37</b>

### **Innovative Bamboo Nurseries involving Existing Bamboo Growers**

IL&FS-TBM has organized several meetings at block level at Hezamara and Mohanpur regarding the selection of the SHGs for nursery raising under MGNREGA program. 13 SHGs / NGOs list finalized (List Tabulated below).

<i>S.No.</i>	<i>Name of SHG/NGO</i>	<i>Village</i>
1	Khumber SHG	Sarat Chowdhury Para
2	Lamkaham SHG	Sarat Chowdhury Para
3	Bamboo Artisans Group	Sarat Chowdhury Para
4	Kusang SHG	Ram Sankar Para
5	Matia Jumia SHG	Ram Sankar Para
6	Khumpui SHG	Sonkhola
7	Uttaran SHG	Vidyasagar
8	Khabaksa SHG	Bharat Chowdhury Para
9	Asha SHG	Ishanpur
10	Satchari Mahila SHG	Brahmakunda
11	Ramthakur SHG	Montala
12	Bamboo Enterprises united	Brahmakunda
13	Nuagoan SHG	Nuagoan,

These above SHGs/bamboo producer groups have supplied the required planting material for the planting season.

TBM-IL&FS Clusters has also undertook innovative bamboo nursery with funding support from BDO-Belbari under MGNREGA. Tissue Cultured bamboo plantlets collected from Growmore through a national bid process and empanelling the agencies. Community based institutions of Belbari block are to take the nurturing of



the bamboo plantations in a enterprise mode and will be able to supply the TC bamboo plantlets for the next year bamboo plantation. They have to split the bamboo plantlets and grow and sell the additional created TC plantlets next year.

**Other highlights of the TBM program:**

- The respective BODs and DMs have also visited the plantation work of TBM-IL& FS during the quarter in the field.
- Provided fencing material to the beneficiaries for plant protection
- Post plantation follow up meeting with all the beneficiaries, panchayat representatives and block representatives done in the month of August and September 2014.
- Gap filling/ re-plantation done in the most of the field after the feedback from the beneficiaries.



Suriya Kr. Debbarma, S.C.Para,  
Hezamara R.D.Block



Karuna Debbarma, S.C.Para,  
Hezamara R.D. Block



Rathindra Acharjee, Ishanpur,  
Mohanpur R.D. Block



During the plot visit BDO-Mohanpur



## 5. IMPORTANT NEWS & EVENTS

- World Bamboo Day was celebrated across the world on 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2014. WBD was also celebrated by Tripura Bamboo Mission at its project office, where the Dy. Mission Manager chaired a seminar on “Importance of bamboo & how TBM can contribute more in this sector”. The seminar was attended by the TBM members & cluster development executives.
- Shri Subhrendu Bikash Roy, master craft person from Tripura was awarded with “Shilpa Guru” by the honourable President of India in New Delhi on 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2014. Shri Roy is the second person from the state who achieved the feat.
- Review meeting of projects was held at the NE Council Secretariat at Shillong on 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2014 under the Chairmanship of the Secretary, NE Council. The projects approved to TBM by NEC were also reviewed in the said meeting.
- Tripura JICA Review team visited the work done by TBM with support of JICA fund.

### Annexure-I: Summary of Progress Achieved

Sl. No.	Proposed Activity (Target)	Achievement during this Quarter	Total Achievement	Remarks
<b>1.</b>	<b>Incense</b>			
1.1	<i>Bamboo Stick for Incense</i>			
a.	Skill development/ capacity building Training- 1000 artisans	00	93	Mobilization going on
b.	Establishing Stick Producer Groups- 20	1	3	
1.2	<i>Raw &amp; Perfumed Agarbatti</i>			
a.	Skill development/ capacity building Training- 1000 artisans	93	306	Under IGDC & NEC Project
b.	Establishing Agarbatti Producer Groups- 15	3	9	
1.3	<i>Institution Development &amp; Marketing</i>	Orientation program for 10 PG leaders		
a.	Formation of Producer Group Federation- 1	Pricing done, packets and other raw material procured		DS to be obtained in the next quarter
b.	Branding & Marketing of Finished Agarbatti	2 brands - Twipra & Tripureswari		Marketing testing will be done in the next quarter
	<b>Handicraft (incl. Furniture)</b>			
2.1	Skill development/ capacity building Training on Contemporary bamboo & cane products- 1000 artisans	25	69	Under NEC project
2.2	Thematic Design & Product Development	Lifestyle Products	Office Accessories, Lifestyle Products	By TBM Design Cell
2.3	Formation of Producer Group Federation- 1	Meeting with the representatives held at individual locations. A common awareness camp to be launched in next quarter.	Producer Company under formation by federating small producer groups	Expected to be formed by 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter of FY
2.4	Set up Resource Bank for critical raw materials, spares & consumables	Detail budget & procurement list finalized	Under Process	To be set up in 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter
2.5	Initiate Export of newly developed Bamboo & Cane craft	Sampling under process	Under Process	Expected to ship in 4 <sup>th</sup>

Sl. No.	Proposed Activity (Target)	Achievement during this Quarter	Total Achievement	Remarks
	by TBM			Quarter
<b>5.</b>	<b>Resource Generation</b>			
5.1	Establishment of Nursery- 10 lakh planting material	1.5 lakh TC plantlets under MGNREGA and 1.5 lakh seedlings	3.00 lakh seedlings and 1 lakh TC poly-bags under process	
5.2	Mobilization of RoFR beneficiaries & submission of proposal- MGNREGA	Will start from December ,14		
5.3	New Plantation- 416 ha			
5.4	Maintenance of previous years plantation- 91 ha	Going on		
5.5	New Scheme in line with Rubber Board with different funding sources	Proposal submitted to NEC, Forest-NBM, MKSP	Under process by NBM, MKSP	Proposal could not sent to NEC from planning Dept
5.6	Training of Farmers & Field functionaries- 500	00	270	
<b>6.</b>	<b>Other Activities</b>			
6.1	District & State Level Seminar- 2	2	3	
6.2	Celebration of World Bamboo Day	One day	Organized	
6.3	Participation in Fairs & Exhibitions (Local & national/international)- 12 fairs/exhibitions	0	1	Major fairs to be attended in Quarter 3

**Annexure-II: Fund received under different schemes**

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Total Project Cost Rs. Lakh	Ministry/ Agency	Fund Received, Rs. Lakh			Remarks
				till last quarter	during the quarter	Total	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Institution & Industry Linked Training on Bamboo Packaging Materials, Bags & Accessories for Rural Artisans of Tripura	107.00	Ministry of Development of North East Region	91.77	0.00	91.77	To receive Rs. 9.72 from Ministry
2	Integrated Development of Bamboo Handicraft Clusters in Tripura	441.25	North Eastern Council, MDoNER	100.00	0.00	100.00	Project implementation become very slow
3	Design & Technology Upgradation Scheme	9.00	O/o the DC(Handicrafts), MoTextiles	0.00	0.00	0.00	Follow up done and remind letter sent
4	Special SGSY project-Increasing Livelihood Opportunities and Socio-Economic Development using Bamboo in Tripura	750.00	SGSY, RD Department, Govt. of Tripura	626	10.00	636	For establishment of incense training centre at AD nagar
5	Incense- JICA	47.76	Tripura JICA Project, GoT	47.76	00	47.76	Centres completed will be handed over to JICA
6	Incense- NEC	779.90	North East Council, GoI	25.00	55.00	80.00	Against the Amt Rs. 280 Lakhs from NEC by TBM
7	Incense –IGDC	24.675	Indogerman Development Cooperation Project	24.675	00	24.675	Work ongoing

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8	Training of Farmers, Workshop (Resource)	13.516	CSS National Bamboo Mission	13.516	00	13.516	Work ongoing
9	National workshop on Bamboo cultivation - other fund	3.5	TRLM 2 Lakh, JICA-1 Lakh, IGDC .5 lakh	3.5	00	3.5	UC submitted
10	Bamboo Plantation in RoFR and Private land	406.52	MGNREG A, Dept. of RD, GoT	220.78	47.51	268.29	Work ongoing
12	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2621.121</b>		<b>1153.00</b>	<b>112.51</b>	<b>1265.51</b>	