Bamboo processing centre to generate job avenues

Establishment of Bamboo Processing Centre at Pona is a unique initiative of the Raj Bhavan, Itanagar and the Arunachal Pradesh Forest Corporation Limited in providing necessary infrastructural support to the Pona Village to develop expertise in production and marketing of bamboo-based industrial intermediates, which are in much demand by the bamboo-based industries in the north-eastern region. It would be a step forward to bring the project in line with the developmental needs.

Johan Gildemeister, a member of the North Bengal Development Corporation, had indicated jobless growth. During the Tenth Plan, declining trend in creation of job and continued while the economy showed 8.9% growth in GSDP Domestic Products. Core, bamboo- and medicinal plants were identified as new sectors of development having the potential to create jobs in rural and urban sectors, while having the capacity to bring about economic transformation of the entire north-eastern region. In a forest resources rich State like Arunachal, bamboo could be the driver of the rural economy.

The Sikkim Consulting Engineers and the Arunachal Pradesh for development of the north-eastern region. But this is a priority where a significant gap exists in the bamboo, the potential for bamboo’s role in the development and modernization of the Pradesh, where the National Bamboo Mission and the National Mission on Bamboo Agroforestry (NMB) in the Department of Science and Technology, provide funds and technical expertise in developing bamboo-based industries and enterprises.

Bamboo Processing Centre at Pona Village: The idea to develop a bamboo processing centre in Pona was mooted by Govt. J. Singh, Governor, which was further endorsed and elaborated by the Chief Minister, the Government of Arunachal Pradesh. The project envisaged establishment of a bamboo processing unit for production of bamboo-based industrial intermediates in collaboration with the National Bamboo Mission. The project was launched on August 17, 2009. The project comprises of installation of bamboo processing machinery, training of unemployed youths, distribution of tool kits and 100% subsidy to the bamboo-based industries. Main thrust of the Pona project is that Pona should act in the role of an economic engine and develop entrepreneurship to carry out any developmental ventures on its own.

Bamboo is also a sustainable economic development. Because it is a reproductive resource with strong fertility different from non-reproductive fossil fuels such as coal, petroleum and natural gas. Bamboo grows much faster than other plants. Therefore, massive extraction of bamboo will not cause environmental disruption like loss of forests. We can also easily dispose bamboo products without heavy burden on the environment. When trees are cut for various purposes, the function to absorb carbon dioxide emission by forests falls down. As a result enormous volumes of CO2 emissions will be discharged into the atmosphere causing global warming. Petroleum and plastic products require large quantity of energy for their disposal.

Bamboo and climate change mitigation: India is planning to emerge as a regional player in promoting climate change mitigation strategies. With the UN Environment Ministry in the hands of a charismatic leader like Alok Ranjan, India can be hopeful to lead the Copenhagen summit slated this month. Global efforts are under way to reduce our planetary carbon emissions below 1990 levels. That will leave a lot of CO2 being put into the atmosphere each year by human activities. Bamboo offers perhaps the quickest way to remove vast amounts of that carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Building houses with bamboo means sequestering the carbon for hundreds of years. At the same time, bamboo usage will also mean creating lots of jobs in rural and farm sectors.