

**Tripura Bamboo Mission (TBM)** is an initiative of the Government of Tripura for integrated development of bamboo sector in the state. The Mission's objectives of scaling up turnover of Bamboo sector and simultaneously increasing livelihood opportunities for poor are sought to be achieved through cluster development approach involving institution building, technological linkage, better market and credit facilities coupled with resource upgradation, working on a project mode. Majority of the beneficiaries are women and minorities who comprise of the poorest sections of the population in the state.

### **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.

### **Objectives**

- 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

### **Strategy**

- 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

With the assistance from Forest Research Center for Livelihood Extension (FRCL), Bamboo and Cane Development Institute (BCDI) based in Tripura, has designed and developed water bottles made of bamboo. These are organic, plastic-free, eco-friendly, handcrafted bamboo-made bottles produced by bamboo artisans from locally sourced raw materials.

It is promoted under the Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana (PMVDY) and National Bamboo Mission (NBM) schemes of the Government of India, and shot to limelight after Bollywood actress Raveena Tandon placed an order from the Tripura Rehabilitation and Plantation Corporation (TRPC). This not only catapulted the product into its moment of much-deserved instant fame, but also created huge visibility on social media.

In contrast to the widely available bamboo bottles from China which use cheap and light bamboo columns, these bottles from Tripura are layered with a barrier of glass, steel or copper, as per the consumer's preference so as to prevent the water from coming in contact with the bamboo. This is also aimed at preventing fungal growth, bad odour and leakage, which are a few common problems with the China-made bamboo water-bottles. FRCLE and BCDI have also designed a large number of other household and handicraft items made of a particular species of bamboo available only in Tripura and other non-timber forest produces.

Besides these bottles meet all standards for export, bamboo cultivation has today become a sustainable livelihood option for more than 5,000 tribal families in different parts of Tripura. Tripura houses around 28% of the country's bamboo stock and currently grows 21 species of bamboo on 3,246 sq. km area of forests and planned forestry. In 2019, the state government undertook an ambitious plan to bring 15,000 hectares of land under bamboo cultivation by involving forest, rural development departments and local communities through incentivized methods.