

Arunachal Front

28.05.2009

Guv's Poma initiative in 'mission mode'



Lokhande (2nd from R) along with the participants at the meeting

ITANAGAR, May 27: State planning secretary PS Lokhande today informed that the state government will set up a bamboo processing unit at Poma, 32 km from here, "in a mission mode" in a move to encourage self employment and entrepreneurship among youths, reports PRO to Governor.

Addressing panchayat leaders, gaon buras and denizens of the area at the State Forest Research Institute (SFRI), Lokhande said the project, an

initiative of Governor Gen (Retd) JJ Singh, will be set up by the SFRI with technical help from the Guwahati-based Cane and Bamboo Technology Center (CBTC), and handed over to the villagers to run.

The project will be an experimental one, and similar projects would be set up in other viable parts of the state, depending on its success in Poma, he said.

Governor Gen (Retd) JJ Singh, the man behind the initiative, seeks to make Poma a model vil-

lage, and to this end a project of every programme of every department will be set up there, Lokhande, who is also secretary to the governor, said.

"It will be a village tourism hub in the future, with horticulture and forest projects."

Earlier in the meeting, SFRI director GN Sinha informed that the state forest corporation and the CBTC would conduct training, workshops and exposure visit as part of the project. The villagers would have to take *Contd. P.3*

Guv's Poma ...

From P.1... up the project in a corporate business mode since with 100% buy back guarantee for the produces by the CBTC, it will definitely be a profitable venture, Sinha added.

He also mooted the possibility of sending local bamboo sector entrepreneurs to the World Bamboo Conference set to be held in Thailand in September.

Assuring all-out cooperation to the project, Poma ASM A Techi, however, highlighted on the problem of road communication,

which she feared might deter the success of the project.

Meanwhile, the villagers of Poma have decided to form a village development committee to take up the project as a group venture. Once a plot is identified and handed over to the society, the department will construct the unit shed and get the machines installed.

Planning director Millo Bida, Papum Pare ADC Tai Kaye and senior forest officials also attended the meeting, the report adds.