

Echo of Arunachal

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Bamboo power for rural empowerment

ITANAGAR, July 8: This is financial empowerment of the common people commented Governor Gen J J Singh while attending a programme of the capacity building project on production of bamboo based industrial intermediates at Poma Village near here today.

Under the project, facilitated by Departments of Planning and Environment & Forest and being implemented by Arunachal Pradesh Forest Corporation Limited (APFCL), a bamboo processing unit will be set up with technical help from Cane and Bamboo Technology Center (CBTC), Guwahati. Local villagers will be trained on handling of the machines and tools of the unit.

Gen Singh, who is keen on development of bamboo based industrial enterprises in the state, is of the view that Arunachal Pradesh can also develop its bamboo sector on similar lines.

Demonstrating some products from the CBTC, Guwahati,



Singh pointed that it is a pilot project and if successful, more projects will be set up in different parts of the state wherever commercially viable.

Under the project villagers will produce bamboo based industrial intermediates in bulk which will be sold on 100% buy back guarantee basis to the Industries in Arunachal and Assam. The buy back guarantee will be

arranged by APFCL through CBTC. All profits due to sale of bamboo based industrial intermediates will go to the villagers and the society in 90:10 ratio.

For achieving the above objectives, funds allotted to APFCL is being used to procure machinery through CBTC and necessary infrastructure of building for installing the machinery is also being put in place by APFCL through

the Poma Village Development Society. All the assets of the project will be handed over to the Poma Village Development Society which will own and maintain them through a core Committee called the Executive Committee.

The role of the Forest Corporation will be that of a facilitator only and not as a permanent implementing agency of the project. The Forest Corporation will slowly remove itself from the scene after the Society takes over the project. However, the Corporation will be responsible for holding the training programmes. The Forest Corporation will formally enter into a MoU with the Poma Village Development Society before handing over the assets to it. The MoU will be signed by MD, APFCL and the Poma Village Development Society. The Secretary to Governor and Planning will sign the MOU as witness. The project is expected to be made operational by August 15 next. (DIPR)