



ECONOMIC POTENTIAL OF “KONKAN BAMBOO” FOR RURAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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ABSTRACT: The *Cadaba fruticosa* (L.) Druce is a wild plant belonging to the Family of Capparaceae. The plant from the past has many plants have medicinally important properties. Some of them are Antimicrobial, anti-cancer, Antidiabetic, Antioxidant Activity Ant Inflammatory Activity. The present study focused on the preliminary phytochemical analysis of legumes or fruits. The result reveals the presence of bioactive constituents comprising alkaloids, flavonoids, phenolic, tannins, glycosides, steroids, and saponin in different solvents. The phytoconstituent which are observed have a medicinal value that helps mankind.

Key words: - *Cadaba fruticosa*, Medicinal properties, phytochemistry, Wardha, Maharashtra.

INTRODUCTION :

Bamboo is a very important renewable non timber forest resources found in the forest as well as the non-forest areas in the region. Bamboo is a durable, versatile, strong and renewable material. People and communities in India have known and utilizing bamboo for thousands of years. Millions of people still depend bamboo for their livelihood, and for household and functional uses. Bamboo has made a significant contribution in sustaining a rural economy in the region. Bamboo has been put to use in various applications from construction to house hold utility items and has more than 1,500 documented uses. Due to natural availability of bamboo in abundance and its multiple uses its being aptly described as “Friend of People”, “Cradle to Coffin Timber”, “Green Gold.

Diminishing resources and availability of forest wood conservation concerns have highlighted the need to identify substitutes for traditional

timbers. It is in this context that bamboo assumes special significance.

Bamboo is a member of the grass family, the fastest growing woody plant on the planet. Most bamboo species produce mature fiber in 2-3 years, sooner than any tree species. Bamboo grows fast and matures early. Once planted the bamboo plant forms clumps, keeps on rhizoming, shooting and maturing every year. Bamboo can be grown quickly and easily, and sustainably harvested in 3 to 5 years cycles. It grows on marginal and degraded land, elevated ground, along field bunds and river banks. It adopts to most climatic conditions and soil types, acting as a stabilizer, and effective carbon sink and helping to counter the greenhouse effect.

The role of bamboo in community agroforestry as a means of generating income for the rural poor is very important. Production of bamboo is only the starting point of a value chain. The real benefits accrue from value-added products. Handicrafts (mats, lamps, baskets, gift items,

toys and utility items) and furniture are established possibilities, produced in finished form or supplied as components to small enterprises for further processing.

Bamboos have often been viewed as inferior material, labeled as the “poor man's timber.” But Konkan Bamboo and Cane Development Centre (KONBAC) group have proved bamboo value addition as an opportunity for sustainable livelihood option for the lower income groups and farmers of the region. Bamboo is used for the variety of purpose ranging from Handicrafts, Fodder, Pulp, Substituting Wood Timber, Construction Material, Charcoal, Food and Nutrition, etc. Bamboos have huge potential for, structural applications, Agarbatti Industries, Furniture and household material, alternative energy. Bamboos have socio-economic and ecological value and their management can provide benefits on a local, national, and global level through livelihood, economic and environmental security for many millions of people.

Distribution Range of Bamboo in India:

Among all of the commonly occurring genera of bamboos, the genus *Bambusa* is widely distributed in India. **B. bamboos** occur either in natural forests (wild) or cultivated throughout the plains and low hilly areas of India. The second widely distributed genus is *Dendrocalamus*. This bamboo occurs in the plains of South and Central India and dry hilly areas of North India. It occurs from East to West, Punjab to Assam and also occurs in other North Eastern states. *Bambusa*, *Oxytenanthera*, *Schizostachyum* and *Melocanna* are mainly available in the Western Ghats and in the North Eastern region. The genera *Schizostachyum*, *phyllostachys* and *Gigantochloa* are widely distributed in North Eastern state of India. The different species recorded under different forests in the country is as under.

Bamboo in Konkan Region:

According to the “Bamboo Resources of the Country” prepared by the Forest Survey of India, the bamboo- availability area in Maharashtra is 11,465 sq. km, distributed across 10 districts. Vidarbha region produces over 90% of the total yield. The varieties grown here since long are Manvel (*Dendrocalamus strictus*), Katang (*Bambusa bambos*) or thorny bamboo and Chivari (*Munrochloa ritchiei*).

The Konkan region, which includes Sindhudurg district, is home to Manga (*Dendrocalamus stocksii*).

The planning commission of India has identified 18 commercially important bamboo species for plantation in farmers' fields across the country in the First phase of the National Bamboo Mission. Manga bamboo (*Dendrocalamus stocksii*) is one amongst those prioritized bamboo species.

Manga has been the preferred choice among farmers for its multipurpose uses. It is solid without thorns and grows straight, achieving a height of 18 to 20 feet. It is used as stakes in horticulture, for making implements, for scaffolding and for making furniture and handicrafts. It starts yielding after 3 to 5 years, yielding average 10 to 12 sticks every year.

The varieties introduced in recent years include Bhima (*Bambusa balcooa*), Burma (*Dendrocalamus brandisii*), Muli (*Melocanna baccifera*), Jati, Bengal Bamboo (*Bambusa tulda*) Giant Burma (*Dendrocalamus giganteus*) and Yellow or common (*Bambusa vulgaris*) bamboo.

Economic development of rural community in Konkan region (Dist. Sindhudurg):

Bamboo is a natural indigenous raw material that can play a key role in the rejuvenation of the rural economy impacting, both, the agricultural sector and industrial sector.

Traditional agricultural and Horticulture crops like Paddy, Mango and Cashew have always been grown in the region considering the high rainfall in the region. This is being replaced by

growing bamboo. It is undisputed that bamboo species have the potential to enhance the economic stature of farmers in the region.

Sindhudurg district presently produces around 5,000 truckloads of bamboo every year. Each truckload bears 1,200 to 1,400 poles, with each pole fetching between Rs 50 and Rs 80, meaning the bamboo farmers/ growers have a minimum annual turnover of Rs 40 crore. The total bamboo economy of the district could be around Rs 50 crore.

In Kudal, Sindhudurg district, Maharashtra, KONBAC, an INBAR-established community-based NGO. In Konkan, there is a long tradition of bamboo artisanship, which provides an ideal entry point for sustainable livelihood development. KONBAC focuses on developing bamboo products and business models for community enterprise.

KONBAC Group in partnership with International Bamboo and Rattan Organisation-INBAR focused on the development of Bamboo as a key resource for catalysing an inclusive green economy. One of the key strategies pursued by KONBAC was to work towards positioning bamboo as a pro-poor credible alternative to timber providing the rural poor and small land holders an opportunity to participate in and benefit from the US\$100+ billion wood products market. The second important strategy was to leverage Bamboo's off-farm economic value and opportunity to realize the considerable environmental benefits that its growing offers. KONBAC manufactures not only Handicrafts, Furniture and interior accessories, but also constructs entire building structures made entirely from Bamboo, both in India and abroad. Over the last eighteen years, it has succeeded in changing the perception of Bamboo from being a 'poor man's timber' to a 'rich man's choice' as a credible alternative material of high quality wood that is currently being used for furniture and construction. This has helped

move bamboo up the value ladder as a material of choice for the environmentally conscious community and for those consumers who seek novelty. It has also put in place mechanisms to link poor Bamboo producers to larger lucrative markets and has emerged as a model that is being emulated elsewhere in India and abroad. These interventions have provided an income to thousands of people over the last sixteen years. It has also led to the greening of the environment through the plantation of Bamboo. The KONBAC experience demonstrates that the Bamboo sector has the potential to offer exponential entrepreneurship and employment opportunities to rural populations like farmers, youth and women in farm based and non-farm enterprises.

CONCLUSION:

The alleviation of poverty cannot be effective through anti-poverty programs alone but will require democratic participation on the one hand and changes in economic structures on the other to ensure access to all the resources, opportunities and basic services. The poverty, thus can only be effectively attacked if an integrated approach highlighting on:

Access to Resources: The access to existing productive resources like land forest and water resources are needed to increase productivity, employment and income of the rural poor.

Access to Basic Services and Healthy Environment: Poverty is not merely a problem of food security, rather it is multi-dimensional problem that includes low access to basic opportunities to education, health, water supply and sanitation.

Motivation and Training: Poor people need to be motivated and imparted training for their capacity building.

Building capacities of common people and their organizations to participate in the development process. Full participation of women in rural local organizations may assured definite success

in alleviating poverty as women constitute one-half of the agricultural labour force.

The ultimate goal should be to achieve rural prosperity through the participatory development process. This will be possible only if the individual and the community become the focal point of development. No such development is possible without bestowing the real decision making power on the community.

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