

## **Significance of Bamboo Cultivation**

### **Why in news?**

\n\n

The theme of World Bamboo Day 2018 is bamboo as a tool for achieving economic and social sustainability.

\n\n

### **What is the status of bamboo cultivation in India?**

\n\n

\n

- Bamboo is grown on 10 million hectares in India and covers almost 13 per cent of the total forest area.

\n

- The total production of bamboo is five million tonnes per year.

\n

- About 8.6 million people depend on bamboo for their livelihood, the value of bamboo in India is estimated at \$4.4 billion.

\n

- Though Madhya Pradesh has the largest area under bamboo forests, bamboo culture thrives in the North Eastern region.

\n

- India is second only to China in terms of bamboo diversity.

\n

- The North-Eastern States are a storehouse of bamboo diversity, home to 58 bamboo varieties.

\n

\n\n

### **What are the significant characteristics of bamboo?**

\n\n

\n

- The advantage of bamboo is manifold compared to monoculture tree plantations.

\n

- After planting, bamboo clumps start yielding after 4-7 years, it can become

part of agro forestry practice in small land holdings.

\n

- New bamboo plantations may curb the pressure from deforestation by serving as wood substitutes.

\n

- It can be planted to reclaim severely degraded sites and wastelands.

\n

- It is good soil binder owing to its peculiar clump formation and fibrous root system and hence also plays an important role in soil and water conservation.

\n

- It is the fastest growing canopy, releasing 35 per cent more oxygen than trees.

\n

- There are studies reporting that bamboo stands sequester 12 tonnes of carbon dioxide from per hectare.

\n

\n\n

### **What is the role of Bamboo in Indian lives?**

\n\n

\n

- From the tender shoots as a delicacy food item to the rice cooked in the hollow of raw bamboo, it is part of everyday life.

\n

- Due to its versatile nature and multiple uses, it is also called 'poor man's timber'.

\n

- From house construction to flooring, agricultural implements, bamboo pervades all aspects of life and culture, artistic skills in bamboo weaving is also found in north-eastern region.

\n

- Apart from this Bamboo is an integral part of North-east India's life and culture, as it is used in religious ceremonies, art and music.

\n

\n\n

### **What are the initiatives taken by India to promote Bamboo?**

\n\n

\n

- India launched the National Bamboo Mission in 2007, it has failed to address the enormity of the issues related to bamboo.

\n

- Realising this lacuna, the Finance Ministry has allocated \$200 million in the 2018 Budget to provide new impetus to the bamboo sector, with huge support to the North-Eastern States.

\n

- In November 2017 the Centre relaxed the restrictions on harvesting, transit and trade of bamboo to boost the bamboo economy across the country.

\n

\n\n

### **What India can learn from China in this regard?**

\n\n

\n

- China has achieved great success in growing and showcasing bamboo forests and products.

\n

- The headquarters of International Bamboo and Rattan Organisation (INBAR) is located in China.

\n

- It is a multilateral development organisation which promotes environmentally sustainable development using bamboo and rattan.

\n

- It has been making a real difference to the lives of millions of people and environments around the world with achievements in areas such as: raising standards; promoting safe, resilient bamboo construction; restoring degraded land; capacity-building; and informing green policy and sustainable development objectives.

\n

- Following the footsteps of China, India needs to support farmers to establish bamboo plantations in barren slopes.

\n

\n\n

\n\n

**Source: Business Line**

\n