

22 bamboo clusters unveiled in 9 states, 6 in Maharashtra

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NEW DELHI: Adopting a cluster-based approach to promote use of bamboo and its export, the Centre on Tuesday inaugurated 22 bamboo clusters in nine states -- Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Assam, Nagaland, Tripura, Uttarakhand and Karnataka -- with identifying each of them for making different bamboo products to cater to both domestic and international markets.

Six of 22 clusters are located in Maharashtra followed by five in Tripura, three in Odisha, two each in Madhya Pradesh and Nagaland, and one each in Assam, Karnataka, Gujarat and Uttarakhand.

Keeping in view the importance of bamboo, the Centre had in 2017 amended the Indian Forest Act 1927 to remove bamboo from the category of trees, making it possible for anyone to undertake its cultivation and do

business in bamboo and its products without any felling and transit permissions outside forests.

“Import policy has also been modified to ensure progress of the bamboo industry in the country. This will help increase income of farmers and at the same time reduce dependency on imports,” said Union agriculture minister Narendra Singh Tomar while virtually inaugurating the clusters.

These clusters will be engaged in raising nurseries and plantations, and development of bamboo products such as furniture, agarbatti, Venetian blinds, chopsticks, toothbrush, lifestyle products, jewellery, bottles, yoga mat and charcoal.

Tomar on the occasion also released a logo for the National Bamboo Mission (NBM) which was selected through a contest on MyGov platform. The winner, Sai Ram Goudi Edigi of Telengana, was selected from 2,033 entries received from across the country.

The Mission's goal is to connect bamboo farmers with markets to increase supply of appropriate raw material to domestic industry.

The bamboo is cultivated in 23 states, including all the eight in the North-East. Ten most important species which are required by industry have been identified under NBM. The Mission also works to make available quality planting material to farmers for plantations.