

INAUGURATION OF DEMO BAMBOO PLANTATION PROGRAMME AT GOLAGHAT DISTRICT OF ASSAM

Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat (Assam) started Demo Bamboo plantation programme at different villages of Golaghat District of Assam under the project 'Bamboo Plantation in Agro-ecosystem and Urban-ecosystem under BTSG-ICFRE'. Inaugural programme of this Project was held on 13th August, 2020 at Gangajan Tea Estate, Melamora, Golaghat (Assam). Shri Mrinal Saikia, Member of Legislative Assembly, Khumtai, Golaghat; Shri Anup Kumar Baruah, Vice President, Assam Bio-Refinery Pvt. Limited, Numaligarh; Dr. R. S. C. Jayaraj, Director, RFRI, Jorhat and Shri R. K. Kalita, Principal Investigator of the project attended the Meeting along with around fifty farmers and local people.

At the outset, Director, RFRI, Jorhat welcomed the Chief Guest and Hon'ble Member of Legislative Assembly, Khumtai and other dignitaries and also other people present. He spoke about the objectives of plantation of two species of bamboo (*Bambusa tulda* and *Bambusa balcooa*) at different places of Golaghat district under this project. He informed that planting materials which are going to be planted were product of two decades of research of RFRI, Jorhat and these planting materials have 15-20% improvement over common bamboo plantations of Assam. He informed that Bio-Refinery at Numaligarh will provide a very big bamboo market from around 2022 and Golaghat being home district of the Refinery will be benefitted the most. So, he appealed all to cultivate bamboo on those lands which are not in use for Agriculture purpose now.

Shri Anup Kumar Baruah, Vice President, Assam Bio-Refinery Pvt. Limited, Numaligarh, Golaghat (Assam) gave detailed account of the Bio-Refinery. He informed that the Bio-Refinery would require around 5.00 lakh tonnes of raw bamboo per year. So, it is a great opportunity for the farmers of Golaghat district.

While inaugurating the plantation programme, Shri Mrinal Saikia, Member of Legislative Assembly, Khumtai, Golaghat spoke about the wide range of applications of bamboo. He mentioned how bamboo plays important role in economy of rural people of Assam. He told that the Bio-Refinery has brought lots of opportunities to the people and it is the responsibility of the people to accept these by mass plantation of bamboo in their spare lands. Shri Saikia himself had provided his land for plantation activities. He appreciated the role of RFRI for selecting different villages of this district for bamboo plantation.

Shri Priyo Ram Saikia, President, Habisua Gaon Panchayat, Golaghat also spoke on the occasion and appreciated the efforts of RFRI.

Shri R. K. Kalita, Principal Investigator of the project and Head, Extension Division, RFRI, Jorhat conducted the entire programme and offered formal vote of thanks.

Plantation programme was initiated by planting saplings of bamboo by all Dignitaries.

GLIMPSES OF THE INAUGURAL PROGRAMME



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