

BAMBOO IN THE TRADE Hub & RATTAN



The bamboo & rattan sector is estimated to be worth 60 billion dollars globally and 39 billion dollars domestically in China as of 2018¹. China is the main producer of bamboo products, mainly by the hands of smallholder farmers. This commodity has the potential to reduce single use plastic as it can be used as a substitute. Moreover, bamboo plantations can be considered for carbon sequestration.

Rattan is a type of climbing palm growing in Indonesia and Africa. This commodity is crucial for the success of bamboo products as it is used to bind the bamboo when building furniture. Within the TRADE Hub, we are investigating the adoption of bamboo and rattan as commodities that can support circular economies² across the world.



Endnotes

1) INBAR. n.d. Why Bamboo and Rattan?. [online] Available at: <<https://www.inbar.int/why-bamboo-rattan/>>

2) "A circular economy entails markets that give incentives to reusing products, rather than scrapping them and then extracting new resources." - UNCTAD. n.d. Circular Economy. [online] Available at: <<https://unctad.org/topic/trade-and-environment/circular-economy>>

FARMERS/PRACTICES

We are studying production systems and mechanisms - filling gaps in knowledge about current farming practices, impacts on ecosystems and people, and direct impacts of high-level policy decisions.

- Conducting a study on bamboo plantation and management practices through field surveys, interviews and focus group discussions, in order to have a better understanding of how bamboo plantation can impact socio-economic drivers, biodiversity and the environment

- Sharing information regarding diverse and innovative bamboo products and how these can be environmentally friendly - aiming at increasing the popularity of bamboo products as an alternative to high carbon footprint products
- Working on online publication and brochures, and participating in webinars, international events, exhibitions and trade fairs in order to raise awareness on bamboo and rattan products

CONSUMERS

We are studying drivers of consumer behaviour, and mechanisms of influence.



PRIVATE SECTOR

We are working towards further integrating environmental and social considerations into global/ corporate trade governance.

- Studying the sustainability of bamboo value chains and identifying bamboo products that could substitute high carbon footprint products
 - » Conducting field observation, semi-structured interviews and questionnaires
- Influencing the application of environmentally friendly technologies resulting in more environmentally friendly products being produced

TRADE RULES

- Successfully delivered a set of recommendations to relevant stakeholders on international trade regulations for enabling the trade of environmentally friendly bamboo products
- Studying the challenges and opportunities for the trade of bamboo products - what are the main barriers
 - » Conducting interviews and reviews related to trade regulations



NATIONAL GOVERNMENT



We are engaging public sector decision-makers with the Hub's findings, enabling pathways to critical shifts in planning and implementation.



- Advising government to incorporate the use of bamboo products in public procurement and enabling policies for bamboo product development, use and trade
 - » Advocating through policy briefs, consultancy meetings, workshops, and national events
- Working towards the recognition of bamboo products as green materials for achieving a circular economy through the substitution of single use plastics – leading to sustainable development and low carbon economies

MEAs



We will feed into processes of Multilateral Environmental Agreements, providing the most up-to-date insights for decisions on trade and environment.

- Promoting the use of bamboo for nature-based solutions for achieving SDGs, Aichi targets (CBD), and the Bonn Challenge
- Influencing perceptions on bamboo products as green materials, the use of which can contribute towards the achievement of low carbon economies, reduction of single use plastics and minimizing timber and forest loss
 - » Advocating through policy briefs, workshops, and international events

METRICS & TOOLS

We are developing powerful models that envision future pathways for trade, as well as metrics and indicators that help plan and monitor for more sustainable trade systems.

- Using primary research methods, data management systems, analysis, information sharing platforms, and reporting and dissemination systems to ensure the information reaches targeted audiences



Did you know?

Bamboo is the fastest growing plant in the world - it is able to grow 91cm in just a day!

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