



FAO and UNOSSC support bamboo for climate action

South-South cooperation is a complement to traditional North-South cooperation and plays an increasingly important role in international development cooperation - United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation Director, Jorge Chediek

14 November, 2017 - Bamboo is a crucial part of the international collaboration on climate change mitigation, according to a new report released at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change conference. Opening the event, Mr. Wang Chunfeng, Deputy Director-General, Department for International Cooperation, State Forestry Administration of China, stated the integral role of bamboo for climate action and South-South cooperation.

[The report](#), called 'South-South in Action: Inspiring Sustainable Development with Bamboo', was coordinated by the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) and the International Bamboo and Rattan Organisation (INBAR). It was released on Tuesday at the UN's ongoing [international climate change conference](#) in Bonn, Germany.

UNOSSC Director Jorge Chediek said: **"Partnership between INBAR and UNOSSC is yet another testimony of enhanced collaboration to address climate change through climate cooperation."** He further stated **"The United Nations is committed to working with countries, regions and other stakeholders to improve access to sustainable and renewable energy, support disaster risk reduction, strengthen food security, and address the many other and varied development challenges and opportunities through SSC. We are now accelerating and coordinating system-wide efforts to promote and facilitate SSC on climate change under the leadership of Secretary-General António Guterres."**

This view is shared by the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO). According to Eduardo Mansur, Director Land and Water Division, Department of Climate, Biodiversity, Land and Water, FAO, **"Bamboo has rapidly gained prominence as a remarkable production material – in construction, furniture making, flooring, energy, pulp and paper, fibre, crafts, utensils and food to name a few of the many applications. It has won a reputation for its remarkable environmental properties, namely its ability to rapidly help restore land and water, improve soil quality, control erosion, and assist in landscape level adaptation to climatic changes."**

Representing Xie Zhenhua (Special Representative for Climate Change, China), Mr. Sun Zhen, Deputy-Director-General from NDRC addressed the need for greater South-South collaboration specifically in

the bamboo sector. He also reminded the attendees of China's deep commitment to climate change action and its willingness to support countries around the globe address the pressing issues caused by climate impact. For enhanced capacity to mitigate the climate change challenges, there is a great need for increased policy communication, knowledge and technology transfer and cooperation between the various bamboo industries.

Netherlands Ambassador for Sustainable Development Hon. Carola van Rijnsoever pointed out that, **"Bamboo is a remarkable product as it helps communities mitigate and adapt to climate change using bamboo's capacity as a great carbon-sink, reduce deforestation elsewhere and promote the restoration of degraded soils."** She also recognised the imperative role it plays in helping reduce poverty and the positive impact it has on the economy through increased trade. Netherlands, China, and Africa can each benefit from strong value chains and production in line with international standards. **"The new Dutch government will continue to integrate aid, trade and investment and trilateral cooperation projects as we believe that this provides a valuable path forward for sustained partnerships and prosperity of people,"** said Ambassador Rijnsoever. At the launch of the report, Ambassador Rijnsoever agreed that this highlights exemplary trilateral cooperation and brings together the knowledge and expertise gained in the years worked together for the promotion of sustainable bamboo supply chains.

INBAR has over the past two decades continually worked for South-South collaboration. Approximately 40 member states of INBAR fall in the Global South. This report encapsulates INBAR's role for South-South cooperation, project impacts on livelihoods, support for climate change action; while bringing to the table knowledge and output gained as a result of this. The report was commissioned as part of the UNOSSC's new series on 'South-South in Action' designed to promote action using South-South Cooperation. It focuses on bamboo's usefulness to a range of international sustainable development and environmental goals, and highlights how countries can learn from each other about various uses and technologies.

Bamboo is a famously fast-growing grass plant, with over 30 million hectares distributed across the world's tropical belt. Recent research has shown that bamboo can play an important role in climate change mitigation. Several countries are already using bamboo as part of their national plans to mitigate climate change. In China, the State Forestry Administration has accepted a national methodology for bamboo carbon accounting. Internationally, bamboo is also recognised by the Gold Standard, one of the world's most innovative and well-recognised global voluntary carbon standards.

Bamboo charcoal and, increasingly, gas are also being used as a renewable, low-carbon energy alternative to traditional wood fuels in parts of countries including India, Ghana, Madagascar, and Ethiopia.

As the INBAR and UNOSSC report shows, bamboo solutions to climate change are being swapped between developing countries in the Global South. An innovative Indian bamboo charcoal technology – which uses converted oil drums to produce bamboo charcoal – is now being used across countries in East Africa. Madagascar is currently building its first bamboo-powered gasifier, based on technology from India. And Nepal is drawing on Latin America's expertise to build [earthquake-resistant bamboo schools](#), to help its 2015 earthquake reconstruction efforts. It is also being used by entrepreneurs like Mr. Ye Ling to create infrastructure from pipelines to pre-fabricated bamboo housing that can be habited one hour after assembly!

INBAR & United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

According to INBAR Director-General Dr. Hans Friederich: **“Bamboo is an under-used but very strategic resource for climate change mitigation and adaptation, which grows across the tropical and subtropical world. As countries look to put into action their Nationally Determined Contributions, Aichi targets and goals under the Paris Climate Agreement, bamboo can be a vital part of the solution.”**

Contact

International Bamboo & Rattan Organisation (INBAR)

Acting Director for International
Communications

Saurabh Upadhyay
supadhyay@inbar.int

Acting Director for Host Country
(China) Communications

Wu Junqi
jqwu@inbar.int

Global Policy Officer

Daniel Mejia
dmejia@inbar.int

www.inbar.int

United Nations Office of South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC)

Specialist, Climate & Sustainability Programme

Liangchung Deng
liangchun.deng@undp.org

Analyst, Climate & Sustainability Programme

Ajita Singh
ajita.singh@undp.org

www.un.org/scpi/