

Resource Estimation of Natural Bamboos in Bangalore Rural District of Karnataka

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Abstract

An investigation is carried out to study the demand and supply, cost incurred by the farmers, and source of bamboo production in Bangalore Rural districts of Karnataka. In Bangalore rural district demand for bamboo products is large because of sericulture industry. The demand for the bamboo products from sericulture sector depended upon the number of DFSL which farmers lays per season per year and like span of the bamboo items. The supply of bamboo items was almost same as demand but there was scarcity in the supply of bamboo items. People are trying to find alternate products for large demand for its for sericulture.

Key words : Natural bamboo, Resource estimation, Bangalore rural district.

In Karnataka due to recent innovations and invention in the field of sericulture there has been an increasing trend in the number of farmers engaged in sericulture. Sericulture comprises four distinct activities viz growing of mulberry plants, rearing of silk-worms, production of cocoons and reeling of raw silk. The first two sectors are agriculture in nature and the other two sectors are industrial in character. This is carried on either in cottage establishments or in large scale factories called filature. Silk is a protein fiber produced by the silk worm from spinning a cocoon. As an auxiliary material, sericulturists were using chandrike, thatte, stand, baskets made out of bamboo. The demand for these items is increasing drastically over the last two decades. There is no systematic study taken up so far to estimate the demand and supply for these products. Therefore to have an estimate of demand and supply of bamboo products, which were being used for sericulture industry and the present status of the bamboo and sericulture industry in Karnataka, we took up this study and selected southern Karnataka consisting of Bangalore rural district. The main aims of the study are to assess the demand and supply of bamboo products in that district, the costs incurred by farmers for bamboo products per year, and the source of bamboo products.

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Methods

For this study we have selected the Bangalore rural district where the sericulture industry is in flourishing stage.

We have taken up taluk wise random survey in Bangalore rural district. In each taluks, we selected two hoblies as representative of the particular taluk and personal interview with the artisan. This data were collected through participatory one to one questioners. Apart from this, data were collected from the Karnataka Sericulture Board and from the Department of sericulture, Government of Karnataka, Bangalore rural district.

Results and Discussion

The Bangalore rural district is situated at south-east part of the Karnataka state even though all the taluks of Bangalore urban districts are urbanizing as they are adjacent to the main city. Sericulture is one of the main occupations of the most of the farmers.

The district consists of 8 taluks, with 2,355 villages with a total area of 24,091.73 ha. The population of the district is 1673,194 with 312,092 house holds including both rural and urban population; it includes 56,700 sericulture families. In this district 31 technical service centers, 180 regional offices, 252 Chawlki rising centers exist out of this 32 government and 220 private, 12 government sericulture fields, 255 chawlki centers, out of this 27 government and 228 private and 7 sericulture markets are present (1—6).

Table 1. Bamboo plantations in Bangalore rural district.

Year	Taluk	area	No
1996	Doddaballapur	30	20,000
1998-99	Doddaballapur	20	5,000
	Hosakote	15	5,200

Demand and Supply of Bamboo Products

In Bangalore district demand for bamboo products is large because of the sericulture industry. The demand for the bamboo product from sericulture sector depends upon the number of DFLS which farmers lays per season per year and the life span of the bamboo items.

The supply of bamboo items is almost the same as demand because of the necessity of such products but because of the scarcity in the supply of bamboo items people are trying to find alternative products. For example instead of bamboo items people are using other wooden poles, areca sticks and they are trying slab system instead of tray method. This is one of the major threats that this traditional community is facing.

Socio-Economic Perspective

With increasing sericulture industry along with increase in sericulture families in the district, the demand for its accessories is also increasing. The major accessories for this industry are chandrike, thattee and baskets; these items mostly made out of bamboo poles. Apart from sericulture families, there are some artesian who are producing these items commercially and entirely depending on this industry indirectly in this districts. As their production activity entirely depends on bamboo, from raw material aspect and sericulture industry from the marketing aspects, we made an attempt of estimate their bamboo requirements and their earnings out of it.

During this study, it is learnt that there are few centers in Bangalore rural districts where these accessories are being made. The artesians of these items belonging to a particular community generally called 'medas'. They are the ancestral workers who entirely depends upon the production and marketing of bamboo items and in turn on the availability of raw bamboo.

In Bangalore rural district, the places of Vijayapura, Devanahalli and Kanakapura medas are producing chandrike, thattee, and baskets. Ramanagaram which is famous for sericulture people who are producing only thattee along with their usual other products.

Irrespective of the place, the only complaint of this community people is not availability of bamboo, insufficient quantity from the government department as they have banned private cuttings. For continuous supply they are forced to depend on some private and illegal sources for bamboo; medas community thus requires more risk and double expenditure. Thus major portion of their profit goes to various middlemen involved both in the supply of bamboo and finished products.

The Karnataka forest department has taken up the task of bamboo plantations in and around the districts to meet their increasing demand.

Conclusion

A large amount of demand for bamboo products is from sericulture section. Those who are producing these products are trying hard to meet this demand and following some illegal methods to procure the raw material. As Karnataka is one of the major producers of silk and silk products in the country it is necessary that we have to protect and improve its auxiliary sectors. Sericulture accessories could be substituted with modern invention or innovated items but as producing bamboo items is one of the major livelihoods for medas, its is necessary to preserve their ancestral job and make them live with better standards.

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