

## Outreach and sensitization program on bamboo bio-silica as an additional source of income for bamboo shoot collectors in Mizoram

Biosilica recovered from bamboo shoot commonly called as “Vanshlochan” is one of the important ingredients of Ayurvedic immune booster recipe “Chyawanprash”. Indian Vanshlochan is on high demand in the international market. Under the Phytopharmaceutical Mission program, Institute of Bioresources and Sustainable Development (IBSD), Imphal, is studying the bamboo biosilica and developing chemical markers for regulating the quality of Indian Vanshlochan. As Mizoram occupies 43.7% of total Northeast India bamboo area coverage, biosilica collection from bamboo resources of Mizoram for Chyawanprash industries will give additional income to the local people who collect edible bamboo shoot from the forest. Based on the above background, IBSD Mizoram node in collaboration with Mizoram Science, Technology & Innovation Council (MISTIC), Govt. of Mizoram conducted an “*Outreach and Sensitization program on Bamboo Biosilica as an additional source of income for bamboo shoot collectors in Mizoram*” on 21 October 2020 at Directorate of S&T Conference Hall, Aizawl under the chairmanship of Dr. C. Vanlalramsanga, Commissioner & Secretary, Planning Program Implementation Department (S&T), Govt. of Mizoram.



The director of IBSD Prof. Pulok K. Mukerjee has joined the meeting through video conferencing and gave a keynote address on “Ethno-entrepreneurship with Bamboo biosilica (Vanslochan)”. Prof. F. Lalnunmawia (MLA), Vice-chairman, Horticulture Development Board Dr K. Pachunga (MLA), Vice Chairman, Bamboo Development Board graced the function and delivered a special address. A total of 27 participants including state MSME director, representatives from local bamboo-based industries, experts from Academia, and ten traditional bamboo shoot collectors of Mizoram have attended the program.

A practical demonstration on biosilica collection from the bamboo shoot was also given to the local bamboo shoot collectors during the program. Establishment of society on bamboo biosilica collectors and linking with Chavanprash industries will improve the socio-economic status of the people in the region. IBSD and MISTIC agreed to take up a follow-up action plan to promote the bamboo biosilica program with the support of state agencies. This awareness program was reported on the front page of the leading local newspaper VANGLANINI and leading local TV channels LPS and ZONET.

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