

Beema Bamboo

Beema or Bheema Bamboo is a superior clone, selected from Bambusa Balcooa, a higher biomass yielding bamboo species. This species is considered to be one of the fastest-growing plants.

In the most recent of events, the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) has designed an 'oxygen park' within its premises at Coimbatore with Beema Bamboo.

Beema Bamboo - Key Features



(Image Source: <http://www.growmorebiotech.com/>)

- It is a superior clone, selected from Bambusa Balcooa, a higher Biomass yielding Bamboo species
- This clone is thornless, sterile, superior bamboo
- It grows fast and grows one-and-a-half feet per day under tropical conditions
- It is said to be the best 'carbon sink' to mitigate carbon dioxide emissions
- Unlike most bamboos, tissue-cultured Beema Bamboo culms grow nearly solid and adapt to various soil and climate conditions. After every harvest cycle, it regrows and does not require replanting for decades
- Beema Bamboo can be used for multiple applications:
 - Biomass for power generation projects
 - Paper Industries
 - Construction and Furniture
 - Handicrafts & cottage industries

About Bambusa Balcooa

- Bambusa Balcooa is a very large, thick-walled, clumping or sympodial bamboo
- It can grow up to a height of 25 metres (80 feet), and a thickness of 150 millimetres (6 inches)
- The length and strength of Bambusa Balcooa make it a useful material for the construction industry

- Young Bambusa Balcooa shoots are blackish-green with yellow colour
- Stems of this bamboo species are used as a building material for houses, bridges, fishing floats, frames of rickshaw hoods, baskets, woven mats and agricultural and fishing implements
- It also serves as a raw material for the wood chip industry, paper pulp, shoots are consumed as a vegetable and leaves are used as fodder

Importance of Beema Bamboo

- Beema Bamboo does not produce seeds and can continue to survive without dying for hundreds of years. Thus, planting this bamboo species can create a larger green cover in the world
- As its rhizome and root formation provide a strong foundation, the plant becomes robust against natural forces and plays a major role in mitigating global warming and climate change
- Beema Bamboo species is recommended for:
 - Large scale plantation
 - Energy plantation for power generation
 - Homestead garden planting
 - Large reforestation programs
 - Land reclamation in mines, sodic soils, waterlogged areas etc.

Bamboo Cultivation in India

Bamboo is one of the commercially cultivated crops in India and the country is the second-largest producer of Bamboo in the world.

A National Bamboo Mission (NBM) was implemented in the country envisaging the holistic growth of the bamboo sector by adopting an area-based, regionally differentiated strategy and increasing the area under bamboo cultivation and marketing.

Apart from this, in 2020, the Ministry for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare inaugurated 22 bamboo clusters in 9 states. In 2017, Indian Forest Act 1927 was also amended, wherein bamboo was removed from the category of Trees.