



Bamboo Processing Machine Mr. Liagi Baht



Innovation Brief: The innovator is an energetic motor vehicle mechanic who came up with his innovation for splitting and dressing bamboo to meet a local need. The machine is easy to operate, efficient and economical in nature as its output is almost three times as compared to manual labour.

Innovation Details: In hilly regions like Arunachal Pradesh, people use bamboo for construction purposes. Construction of bamboo sheets is a strenuous long process which has to be done manually. At least 4 persons are required to prepare one sheet. In the manual process 25 to 30 bamboo logs can be prepared in a single day. These are then used to make a bamboo sheets. These sheets are used to make roofs and walls of houses in these regions. Such bamboo constructions are seen at several tribal regions throughout India too.

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Mr Liagi Baht, 52, has innovated a machine which makes process of preparing a bamboo sheet easier

and solves all the problems related to it. When the traditional method is used, its possible to construct only 25 to 30 sheets in one day. However by using this innovative machine one can construct 130-150 sheets in a single day.

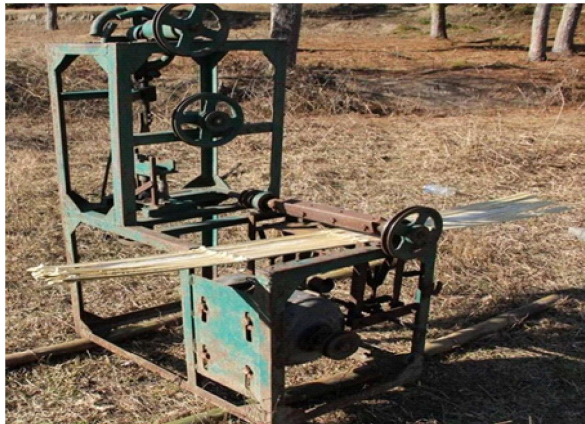
This machine helps to split bamboo lengthwise and also into small pieces. This machine has an additional feature to manoeuvre and shave them into finer strips as well. It can be a useful substitute of dao and other such manual tools used by people for splitting and dressing bamboo.

The machine works at two levels and is made using an HP electric motor.

- * The first process is rotating the bamboo logs for cutting them. The blades of the machine rotate thereby cutting the bamboo log lengthwise to prepare flat bamboo strips. The blades help cut down the bamboo thereby reducing the manual labour required for this process to a great extent.
- * The second process is to dress the bamboo strips i.e straightening and smoothening them. After that the roller moves again. This time the unwanted wood and the knots in the bamboo are straightened. The bamboo strips are smoothened by pressing with the help of a jack.
- * The machine is easy to operate and needs single phase electric supply only.

- * There is scope of improvement in this machine to make it lighter and look better. The present machine is really heavy.

Mr Liagi Baht first made this machine in 1998. The prototype of this machine was invited at IIT Guwahati at GIAN. However after that there is not much progress in this machine. The innovator is wary that copies of this machine will be made. Hence he has protected it and kept it away from public view till today. Until now not much work has been done with this machine.



A family at Pamluk said that if they get such a machine half of their work for constructing a house will be done. They further remarked that if a machine helped them make 150 such sheets, they will surely buy it. On talking to a worker, he said the price of Rs 50,000 for this machine may not be affordable by him. However he suggested that the whole village

can contribute and buy one machine for the whole village. Mr Rubu Buker (Chairman of Nature Care and Disaster Management Society, Ziro, Arunachal Pradesh) said if this machine is available in the market, its demand is strong even today. People prefer to stay in bamboo houses in the North east part of India. The bamboo here is single and this machine uses it effectively.

Compiled by :

National Innovation
Foundation