



IMPACTS OF INBAR INTERVENTIONS IN GHANA

Ghana is the present leader in the West Africa region in terms of bamboo and rattan sector development, and second only to Ethiopia in Africa as a whole.

This brief shares the experiences and lessons gained through INBAR's work in Ghana to foster coordinated, multi-stakeholder-led development of a bamboo and rattan sector that contributes to the achievement of broader national and global sustainable development goals.



BACKGROUND

Ghana has an estimated 300,000 hectares of bamboo. In recent years the country has made significant progress in adding value to her bamboo and rattan resources and in developing a bamboo and rattan sector.

These include:

- establishing a national bamboo and rattan programme
- building capacity for bamboo and rattan artisans
- building bamboo processing factories
- incorporating bamboo and rattan into national policies and strategies

With these achievements made, the sector is now rapidly expanding, with increasing private sector participation and investments, diversification and improvements in product quality. The sector now employs an estimated 15,000 people; given the national average household size of four, this means the sector supports the livelihoods of about 60,000 people in Ghana.



300

hectares of bamboo
has estimated



15000

people employed in
bamboo sector



60000

people
supported



INBAR'S WORK IN GHANA

INBAR'S WORK IN GHANA CAN BE CATEGORISED INTO THREE MAIN AREAS:



01

POLICY
DEVELOPMENT
SUPPORT



02

TECHNOLOGY
TRANSFER



03

CAPACITY
BUILDING





POLICY DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT

A conducive policy framework is crucial for the development of a nation's bamboo and rattan sector. Accordingly, policy development support constitutes a major aspect of INBAR's work in Ghana.

WHAT WE'VE DONE

- **Establishment of a bamboo and rattan development programme (BARADEP)** with the Government of Ghana and other sector stakeholders. BARADEP has been pivotal in the development of Ghana's bamboo and rattan sector, as the coordinating body for all sector activities and a legitimate national structure for sourcing external support for its development.
- **Inclusion of bamboo in Ghana's 2012 Forest and Wildlife Policy:** As a result of advocacy work by INBAR and BARADEP, this Policy mentions bamboo and rattan as strategic resources that Ghana shall develop to help reduce the exploitation pressure on the nation's forests.
- **Inclusion of bamboo in Ghana's bioenergy policy:** Ghana is presently developing a national plantation strategy. INBAR and BARADEP have advocated for the recognition of bamboo in Ghana's national bioenergy policy. The present draft mentions bamboo as a suitable and more sustainable alternative material for charcoal production.
- **Inclusion of bamboo in Ghana's plantation strategy:** INBAR, BARADEP and other sector stakeholders have advocated for the inclusion of bamboo and rattan in Ghana's Plantation Strategy. It is expected that the finalised Ghana Plantation Strategy shall include bamboo and rattan.



TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

Asian countries are leaders in bamboo and rattan technologies and utilisation. From its headquarters in Beijing, INBAR facilitates the transfer of bamboo and rattan technologies from these countries, particularly from China, into Ghana.

WHAT WE'VE DONE

- **Transfer of bamboo charcoal technology into Ghana:**
INBAR's introduction of bamboo charcoal and briquette technology into Ghana is one of its most important achievements. Bamboo charcoal can ameliorate the environmental impacts of charcoal production and use, which are currently cited as one of the major causes of forest loss and degradation. Following the successful introduction of the technology, several private sector actors in Ghana have adopted it and commercially produce bamboo charcoal and briquettes. Further take-up and upscaling of the technology in Ghana is expected.
- **Transfer of bamboo agroforestry and fodder technology into Ghana:**
INBAR is in the process of introducing and testing a bamboo agroforestry model in Ghana as part of the German-funded project 'BiomassWeb'. The work package is testing the possibility of growing Ghanaian food crops and bamboo together in an agroforestry system. It is also testing the possibility of using bamboo leaves for animal fodder. This study aims to propose workable models of bamboo agroforestry and bamboo animal fodder for Ghana in a way which explicitly does not impact food security.

* Bamboo pieces being carbonised into bamboo charcoal



CAPACITY BUILDING

Training is necessary to build competency in new technologies, as well as improve upon existing or traditional bamboo and rattan utilisation and for the proper management and development of bamboo and rattan resources. Capacity building through training workshops therefore constitutes a major part of INBAR's work in Ghana.

WHAT WE'VE DONE

- **Built capacity in Ghana in bamboo and rattan resource management, development and processing** through several training workshops in China, in partnership with the China Ministry of Commerce, the International Center for Bamboo and Rattan and other partners in China. The training workshops have given Ghanaian scientists, resource managers, government officials, entrepreneurs and artisans exposure in best practices for the management and development of bamboo and rattan resources, and ways in which bamboo and rattan utilisation can be diversified and improved. In 2016, 20 Ghanaian bamboo and rattan artisans took part in three months' training on bamboo and rattan resource processing.
- **Organised training workshops in Ghana** with trainers from China, India and from within Ghana.
- **Undertaken baseline studies of the country's bamboo and rattan sector**, including 'production to consumption' studies, market analysis studies and value chain studies.
- * INBAR Director General meets Victor Sikonina, Madagascar Ambassador to China, at an African summit for bamboo and rattan

THE NEXT PHASE OF THE INBAR-GHANA PARTNERSHIP

Ghana has a number of sustainable development and natural resource sector commitments, in which bamboo and rattan have vital roles to play.

THESE COMMITMENTS INCLUDE:

- Government support for the establishment of 1,000 hectares of bamboo and rattan plantations annually (Party manifesto).
- Agenda to plant 50,000 hectares of bamboo and rattan plantations over the next 25 years (2016–2040) (National plantation strategy).
- Development of Ghana's bioenergy sector, including bamboo biomass, to ensure sustainability of biomass energy in Ghana (Bioenergy policy).
- Reduction of Ghana's greenhouse gas emissions, including reduced emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (Intended Nationally Determined Contribution to UNFCCC).
- Development of Ghana's bamboo and rattan sector for job creation, income generation and environmental protection, under the framework of a national bamboo and rattan development programme (BARADEP).



• INBAR's member countries

■ Secretariat offices



The International Bamboo and Rattan Organisation (INBAR) is an intergovernmental organisation established in 1997 with the aim of enhancing the socioeconomic and environmental benefits of bamboo and rattan. It has 42 Member states across the world.

INBAR has 42 member countries, including 18 in Africa. INBAR plays a unique role in finding and demonstrating innovative ways of using bamboo and rattan to protect the environment and support livelihoods.

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