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Milestone achievement in the promotion and valorization of Bamboo and Rattan in the Republic of Cote D'Ivoire

The rainy grey day of Beijing on Wednesday 20 July 2016 turned brighter with the visit of a strong delegation from the Republic of Cote D'Ivoire (CIV) at INBAR's HQ in Beijing. The delegation included government officials, private sector investors, and farmers' association representatives were led by the Minister of Agriculture of CIV Mr. Mamadou Sangafowa Coulibaly and H.E the Ambassador of CIV to China.

This visit was the opportunity for INBAR's staff, led by DG Dr. Hans Friederich to raise the profile of bamboo and rattan by highlighting the potential of these very versatile resources for environmental (contribution to SDG,s, landscape restoration, carbon sinks etc.), and socio-economic development. It was also the chance for Dr. Hans to introduce INBAR, its mission and its achievements to date.

The visit also included a guided tour by Dr. Hans of the Bamboo and Rattan products showroom in ICBR followed by a constructive discussion between the two parties on the benefits that bamboo and rattan could bring to CIV including job creation, alternative sources of revenue and even dietary intake for both humans and animals. The Minister and the delegation were positively surprised to discover all these benefits that bamboo and rattan could bring to CIV if it was adequately exploited.

Satisfied beyond doubts, Minister Mamadou quoted, "This visit to INBAR HQ has been real discovery, a source of inspiration and opportunities for Republic of CIV. My congratulations and encouragement to INBAR, it is our hope that CIV will join INBAR's network in the close future" before exchanging courtesy gifts with Dr. Hans and taking a group picture.

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NOTES International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR)

INBAR is a multilateral development organisation of 41 Member States for the promotion of Bamboo and Rattan. INBAR plays a unique role in supporting its members to find and demonstrate innovative ways of using bamboo and rattan to protect environments and biodiversity, and alleviate poverty. INBAR connects a global network of partners from the government, private, and not-for-profit sectors to define and implement a global agenda for sustainable development with bamboo and rattan.
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