

Diversity and uses of different bamboos of Assam

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Bamboos are the tallest and largest member of the grass family and widely distributed in India and abundantly occur in northeast region. A few species are also found scattered in other parts of the country both in the hills and the plains. Bamboos play an important role in the day to day lives of common people of Assam and become an integral part of the cultural, social and economic traditions of the State. Besides, it is an essential component of forest ecosystem and commonly found in the traditional homegardens of Assam. Study was carried out in 62 randomly selected homegardens of Assam. The maintenance of bamboo diversity in homegardens fulfils the household necessity and also contributes to the rural economy. The commonly found bamboos are *Bambusa tulda*, *B. balcoa*, *B. pallida*, *B. nutans*, *B. bambos*, *Dendrocalamus strictus*, *D. hamiltonii*, *Melocanna baccifera* etc. Homegarden based bamboos have also great demand as a construction materials, fencing, fodder and also as a source of fibre for paper industry. Tissue culture technique is also applied in three selected Bamboos for large scale production of plantation stocks for commercial cultivation. Rural employment can be generated by proper cultivation and management of bamboos in traditional homegardens thereby helps in conservation of bamboo diversity without much care and effort.

Biography

P Sharma has completed her Ph.D. at the age of 29 years from Gauhati University, Assam and presently pursuing Post-doctorate studies from Tezpur University, Assam. She has published 8 papers in reputed journals.

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