

See discussions, stats, and author profiles for this publication at: <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/344562067>

Boosting income of tribal artisans by utilizing waste wood for novel handicrafts

Article · October 2020

CITATIONS

0

READS

61

4 authors:



Mahantappa Sangappa Sankanur
Navsari Agricultural University

32 PUBLICATIONS 33 CITATIONS

SEE PROFILE



Rajesh Gunaga
Navsari Agricultural University

164 PUBLICATIONS 636 CITATIONS

SEE PROFILE



Satish Kumar Sinha
College of Forestry @ Navsari Agricultural University

54 PUBLICATIONS 88 CITATIONS

SEE PROFILE



Timur Ahlawat
Navsari Agricultural University

85 PUBLICATIONS 126 CITATIONS

SEE PROFILE

Some of the authors of this publication are also working on these related projects:



ICAR Sponsored Short Course on Recent Trends in Sustainable Utilization, Value Addition and Conservation of Non-Timber Forest Genetic Resources (NTFGRs) from 19-01-2022 to 28-01-2022 as Course Director [View project](#)



Eucalyptus [View project](#)

BOOSTING INCOME OF TRIBAL ARTISANS BY UTILIZING WASTE WOOD FOR NOVEL HANDICRAFTS

M.S. Sankanur^{1*}, R.P. Gunaga¹, S.K. Sinha¹ and T.R. Ahlawat²

College of Forestry¹, ASPEE College of Horticulture², Navsari Agricultural University, Navsari-396450, Gujarat
*Email id: sankanurms@nau.in

ABSTRACT

In the era of skill development, utilization and value addition, waste forest resources play a significant role in augmentation of tribal artisan income with increase of employability and social standards. Hence, preparation of eye catching and appealing handicrafts from forest waste or other available resources is one of the innovative ideas for livelihood of tribal artisans and sustainability of forest resources both. These handicrafts are prepared by hand and/or machine works on wood, wood wastes or bamboo, inflorescences, branches, flowers, twisted stems, roots and it requires an art, skill and/or hands on training. In the rural areas, these handicrafts are prepared and many household articles are carved out of wood in different shapes and styles to earn additional income. Therefore, development of skill in the woodworking sector is one of the vital opportunities for the income generation to unemployed tribal artisans nearby forest. Keeping in view of these, an attempt has been made under NAHEP-CAAST sub-project in preparation of novel wooden handicrafts through forest waste or other available resources with an idea to sell them at premium prices rather than selling traditional articles at lower prices.

Keywords: Handicrafts, skill development, tribal artisans, value addition, waste utilization

INTRODUCTION

Secondary agriculture is often regarded as a sunrise sector of Indian economy owing to its immense untapped potential. This sector has a major role to play in employment generation, poverty alleviation and product diversification including waste wood utilization. Preparation of appealing handicrafts by waste woody biomass is one of the ways to improve the earnings and standard of living of farmers, forest dwellers and tribal people. The livelihood of many tribal communities depends on collection of NTFPs. Since the NTFPs are seasonal and the remaining gap period may be utilized for preparation of handicraft to provide additional income. As currently, there is a great demand for wooden articles to decorate houses, corporate and government offices/institutions for serenity of expression. Further, the Government of India and Indian Council of Agricultural Research have also emphasized on the skill development of the students of agriculture and

allied fields through hands-on trainings for expansion of entrepreneurship in the country.

Moreover, in the era of expertise development, utilization and value addition of wastes forest resources play a very important role in enhancement of farm income as well as increase of employability and livelihood safety. Hence, wooden decorates was chosen as a venture for research and development at NAU, Navsari under “National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP)-Centre for Advanced Agricultural Science and Technology (CAAST)” sub-projects implemented by Indian Council of Agricultural Research and funded by Government of India as well as World Bank on 50:50 basis.

Preparation of wooden handicrafts requires minimum skill as these handicrafts are made through hand or machine works on wood as well as waste wooden samples. Woodworking is the activity as well as skill of making decorative items from wooden materials. Woodwork industry is one of the fastest growing industries in India. There are 1, 00,000 registered wood ware units and more than 2, 00,000 artisans along with countless other woodworking related units in India (Anon., 2019). Wood has always been a major part of Indian handicrafts and various beautiful things are crafted out of it. India takes pride in manufacturing beautiful and handsome wooden handicrafts in diverse designs. In the rural areas of India, furniture and other household utensils are carved out of wood in different shapes and styles (Anon., 1972).

Moreover, tools play an important role in making unique and gorgeous wood based articles. Different kinds of tools are used to impart various shapes and sizes of raw materials. Tools such as hammer, carving tools, drill machines; sand papers, nails and dowels, glues, powdered raw-senna soil for writing name on name plate, surface planer, J type hook, fire flame burner, etc. are usually used for preparing handicrafts. On an average, Kotawali tribes of Waghai, Gujarat earn about Rs. 1,500 to Rs. 2,000 per day depending upon the season and demand for handicrafts.

Since, there is ample scope for entrepreneurship in this field; it was felt necessary to through light on “Wooden Handicrafts”. These simple objects are so uniquely blend that they in no way look like daily use stuffs. Animal figures are also an excellent example of India's ethnic woodwork. Wooden handicrafts also include toys, wall hangers, tree sculptures, mantap,

key hangers, stump decorates, pen stands, wooden corner handicrafts, tree machanas etc. In fact, such kind of work is being done across the country. Further, wooden toy industries at Channapattana, Karnataka have secured G.I. tag. Such unique process of handicrafts made using wood or bamboo waste resources are needs to be popularized. Wooden handicrafts are generally made using solid stock from hardwoods due to its strength and resistance to warping. Apart from wood, bamboo is also widely used for preparation of articles and handicrafts.

General methodology for preparation of wooden handicraft from waste materials

Waste branch wood, stem, roots and bamboo which are available nearby forest areas could be collected and used. Such wooden wastes are also available in saw mills or carpentry shops and they may be used. Further finishing operations needs to be carried out after collection of waste woody materials. Firstly the bark of the collected woody material should be removed and dried. After that, sanding operation should be done on the wooden sample along with a wooden frame or block which will serve as a stand for the wooden article. Sanding should be carried out with different grades of sand papers depending upon the roughness of the surface. After sanding, paste of China clay or chalk powder be prepared by mixing it with water and can be applied on the wooden articles and left for drying in sunlight. The purpose of applying China clay paste is to choke the pores and work as filler in the wooden article. Again sanding should be done after drying of China clay. A hole of suitable diameter should be made in the wooden block to hold the sample properly. A coat of Pilot wood preservative can be applied on the samples to prevent from decay and insect attacks. Then varnishing of the wooden sample and wooden block should be done separately and left for drying. Finally second varnish should be carried out on the wooden sample and wooden block together and dried for 6-8 hours.

Products prepared from waste woody materials at NAU, Navsari

Some of handmade wooden and bamboo handicrafts developed under NAHEP-CAAST sub-project include unique tree sculptures, key hangers, exclusive wooden stump handicrafts, distinctive wooden corner handicrafts, unique table handicrafts, inimitable bamboo lamps, wooden tea coaster, matchless bamboo waterfall, novel tree machanas, farm houses, unique mantaps, rakhis made from leaf, seed, coconut holding cap, bamboo, wooden small cross cuts, other common multi-stage flowering pot plants, frames, wall hangings, wooden desk organizers, pen stands, tea trays, boats, plains

etc. The cost of wooden and bamboo articles varied from Rs. 500/- to 2000/- depending upon the size and availability of raw materials and time required for the preparation of the specific article. Some of the products developed in the project are given in Plate 1.

In the project, we trained PG students to provide an idea and skill for preparation of wooden and bamboo handicrafts using waste materials as a scope for future entrepreneurship and marketing. Students prepared decorative articles using waste wooden and bamboo materials with innovative ideas in the training and few of the articles prepared by students during competition which were appreciated by the forum are given at Plate 2.

CONCLUSION

Product diversification is very important and crucial; hence, preparation of eye-catching wooden handicrafts and articles is one of the ways to improve the income and living standard of forest fringe villagers. Therefore, locally forest tribes/villagers may start preparing novel/unique wooden handicrafts (*viz.*, lamps, stump decorates, garden tree sculpture, tree sculpture) and sell those at premium prices rather than traditional articles at low prices. Further, it is recommended to sell those handicrafts at tourist places, towns and Metropolitan cities so, that these handicrafts fetch premium price against traditional handicrafts and earn more than the existing (Rs. 1,500 to Rs. 2,000 per day) earnings per days depending upon the season. Moreover, local market and gift galleries may be identified besides direct marketing channel so that the product can fetch desirable profits and demand.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are grateful to funding agency the ICAR, New Delhi and World Bank for financial support under the National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP) sub-project Centre for Advanced Agricultural Science and technology (CAAST) for sanctioning of the project entitled "Establishment of Secondary Agriculture Unit for Skill Development in Students and Farmers at NAU, Navsari".

REFERENCES

Anonymous (1972) **Indian Forest Utilization, Volume-II**, published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi and printed by Forest Research Institute and colleges, Dehradun, pp.1-941.

Anonymous (2019)
<http://www.handicrafts.nic.in/ThemeCrafts/NaturalFiberEFC.aspx> assessed on 19th July, 2019.

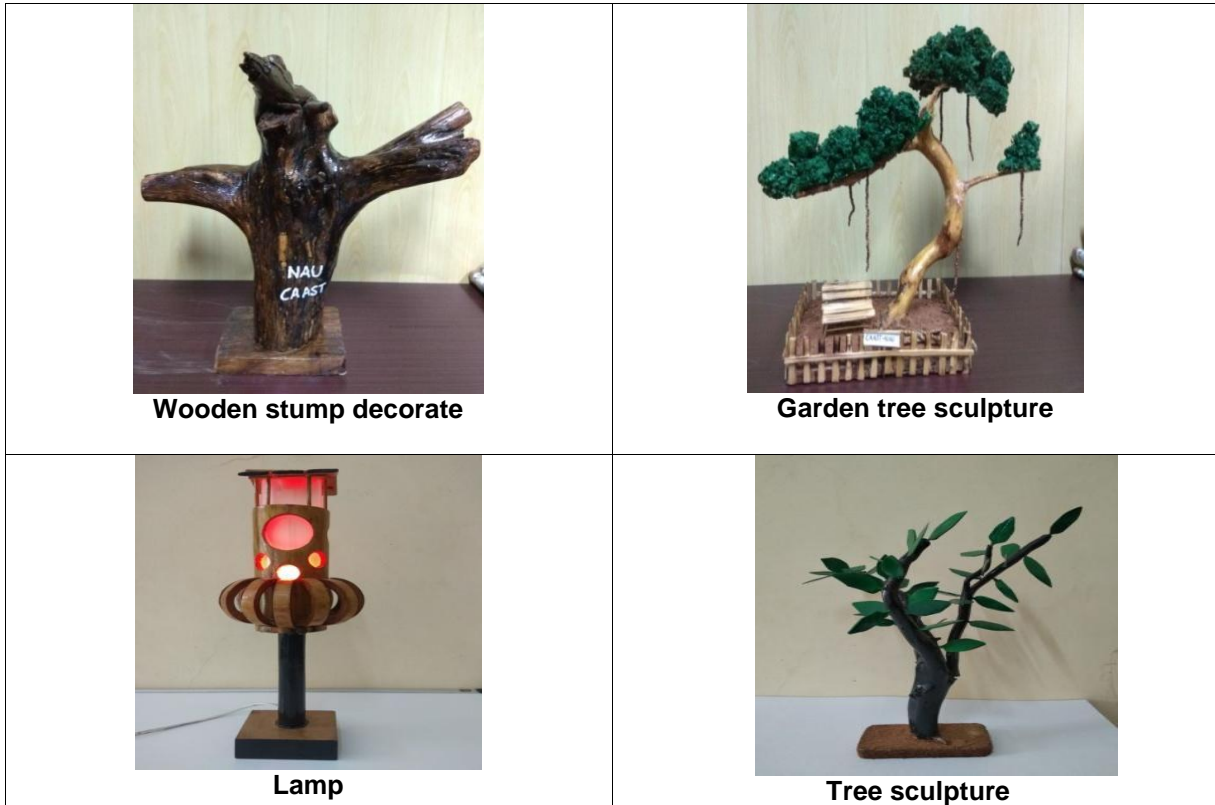


Plate 1: Wooden handicrafts prepared at NAU, Navsari under NAHEP-CAAST sub-project

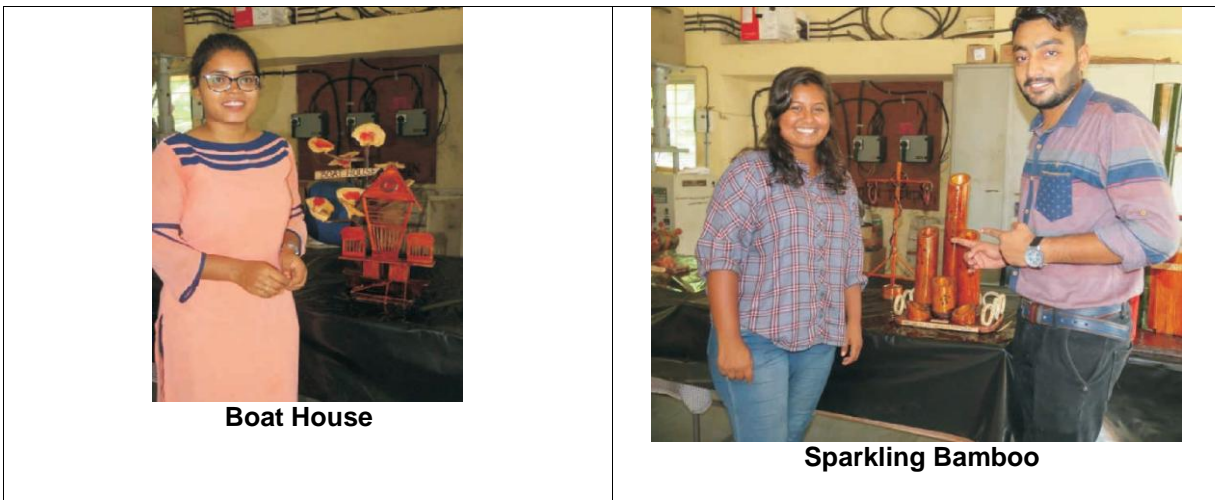


Plate 2: Prized wooden-bamboo handicrafts prepared by PG students during Hands on Training