

Green Gold- Bamboo

Mr. Balasubramanian, Agricultural teacher, Vandayar Higher Secondary School, explains the benefits of bamboo. Bamboo is the fastest growing plant and it gives more income. It can grow upto 1 – 4 feet in a day. Mr. Balasubramanian is cultivating bamboo (thorn less) in 4 acres in Kotturgandhavanam, Thorn less bamboo has many benefits. It is used in :

- building construction as it is very strong
- handicrafts
- furniture's, toys, bags, mat, musical instrument

Another interesting item made of bamboo is clothes. It absorbs sweat more than cotton. Houses are also constructed using bamboo in Kerala and North east India. In Kerala the growing tips are used for food also. He is growing 4 types of thorn less bamboo.

The dried foliage is its only manure. There are no special practices for its growth, bamboo gives yield from the 5th year. It can be harvested for 150 years. From 1 acre of bamboo, we can get 12 tones of foliage which can be used to prepare vermicompost worth Rs. 60,000/-. In an acre, if 2000 trees are cut back the income is Rs.1 lakh (Rs.50 per tree).

Mr. Balasubramanian, has established bamboo gardens for many industrialists. He has also received a certificate of Merit for Bamboo cultivation from Union Minister Mr. Rasa.

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