PRESENTATION ON HANDICRAFTS AND HANDELLOOMS OF NORTH EAST INDIA

BY

NORTH EASTERN HANDICRAFTS & HANDLOOMS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.
(A GOVT. OF INDIA UNDERTAKING)
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The North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation Ltd (NEHHDC) is under the Administrative Control of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, Govt. of India

**NEHHDC’s Objectives:**
* Development and promotion of handicrafts and handlooms of the N.E. Region of India i.e., states of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura.
* Training and Capacity Building of artisans, weavers and entrepreneurs.
* Design & Product Development.
* Improvement in tools and implements.
* Production & Procurement of handicrafts and handlooms.
* R&D Activities
* Providing marketing support to artisans and weavers by organizing Crafts Fairs and Exhibitions in various cities and towns in the country and also abroad.

- Marketing support through Emporia/Regional Sales Promotion Offices in the Country.
- Marketing support by way of participation in various events organized by other agencies.
SUPPORT SERVICES

• Operation of Design Bank
• Operation of Common Facility Centres
• Operation of Handloom production Units
• Operation of Cane furniture Unit.
Activities

- Commercial Emporia/RSPO
- Developmental Capacity Building
- Developmental Marketing Support
- Developmental Training
- Developmental Support Services
- Developmental Research and Development
- Developmental Handicrafts Museum
- Developmental Production
The North Eastern Region has the highest number of weavers population of the country totaling 15.10 Lakh households which contributes to 66.50 % of the total weaver households of the country (Third handloom Census 2010)

This sector provides significant role for the women’s employment in NER. 98.53 % of the adult handloom work force is women.

Practice of handlooms and handicrafts is next to agriculture in the NER.
HANDICRAFTS AND HANDLOOMS OF THE NER

- NER is home of more than 200 ethnic tribes and each tribe has its unique culture which is reflected in their traditional crafts depicting colors, motifs and geometric patterns.
- Historically the handicrafts and handlooms craft sector was characterized by local demands of the community and craft products were mainly produced by locally available materials.
- Govt. interventions and skill development programmes encouraged the craftsperson's to diversify their products as per market demands in India and abroad.
• The raw materials used by the handicrafts artisans are bamboo, cane/rattan, kauna, sitalpati, wood, clay, stone and metals like silver, gold, iron brass and bell metal etc.

• The raw materials used by the weavers include cotton, silk, wool, jute, pineapple fibers, banana fibers and acrylic etc.
* The most important crafts in the North Eastern Region are cane and bamboo based handicrafts items, basketry, wood carving, brass and bell metal crafts, artistic textiles, hand block printing, tribal jewellery, terracota, jute handicrafts, sitalpati and water hyacinth crafts.

* The entire range of handicrafts produced in the region are utilitarian in nature and user friendly.
ARUNACHAL PRADESH:
* The State is the habitat of around 26 numbers of major tribes (census 2001) having large number of sub tribes which play a significant role in the craft sector.
* Handicrafts products include cane and bamboo basketry, ornamental hats, jewellery and head gears, furniture, carpets utility and decorative items.
* Handlooms products include cotton furnishings, mats, shoulder bags, traditional jackets etc.
ASSAM

* Has large variety of cane and bamboo based handicrafts products viz., basketry, decorative and utility products, furniture and household products.

* Handlooms products include the Muga Silk fabrics and dress materials, Mulberry silk fabrics and dress material, Eri and Tassar Silk fabrics and dress materials.

  • The Golden Muga Silk of Assam is native to the state and is a special variety of silk which is available only in Assam. It has GI.
  
  • Assam produces about 180 MT of Muga Silk Yarn per annum worth around INR 100.00 crore. Major quantity of Muga silk is consumed in the state itself.
* The three major tribes of Meghalaya are Khasi, Garo and Jaintia who are involved in the craft sector of the state.
* The handicrafts of Meghalaya include green bamboo woven basketry with decorative and utilitarian values, wood carvings, stone crafts, head gears, rain shields etc.
* The handlooms of Meghalaya include bed sheets, table cloth, mats, shoulder bags, shawls, napkins, which are very rich in traditional motifs and colours.
Handicrafts include Kauna (water reed) crafts, Bamboo and Cane handicrafts, terracoata, blackware pottery, musical instruments and wood carvings etc.

Handlooms include cotton and silk saris, furnishing, laishangphee, dress material, salwar, bed sheet and bed covers.
The handicrafts of Mizoram include woven Mizo Caps, wood carvings, basketries and trays, pen stands, furniture, beer mug, bamboo coiled bowls and a range of decorative and utility products.

The handlooms of Mizoram include furnishings, wrappers, Puan (wrap around), artistic textiles, jackets and shawls etc.
* The major tribes in Nagaland i.e., Angami, Ao, Sumi, Lotha, Rengma, Konyak, Sengtam, Phom, Chang, Yimchunger, Chakesang, Khiannungan, Zealing and Pochury have their own distinctive designs and motifs.
* Handicrafts products include cane sofas, divans, house hold accessories, basketry, bags, wood carving, black smithy and bamboo basketry etc.
* Handlooms products include shawls, wrappers, jackets, dress material, garments and furnishings etc.
TRIPURA:

* The tribes and communities of Tripura have their own ethnic crafts.
* The handicraft products include basketry, room divider/partition hand fans, mats, bamboo root carving, jewellery, bamboo furniture including engineered bamboo(bamboo wood) and range of utility and decorative products.
* Handlooms products include furnishings, dress materials, bed sheets, bed covers, saris, bags, Risa (to cover upper part of body) and Rignai (wrap around for the lower part of the body) table mats etc.
Sikkim has three communities viz., Bhutia, Lepcha and Nepali and these three communities have immensely contributed to the State’s crafts and textiles sector.

Handicrafts include the Choktses (a wooden table intricately carved, polished and painted). These are foldable, portable and are made in various sizes and shapes to meet specific requirements.

Other craft products include bamboo decorative and utility products, thanka paintings, artistic textiles, carpets and wood carvings.

Handlooms include jackets, gents and ladies dress material and woolen shawls etc.
THE GOLDEN MUGA SILK OF ASSAM

- Only grown in Assam.
- With improved technology the silk has become user friendly both in winter and summer.
- Eco friendly nature.
- Shine increases with every normal wash.
- Highest tensile strength amongst all natural fibers.
- Moisture regain up to 30%.
- Muga can absorb UV ray up to 85.08%.
ERI SILK YARN:

* Only silk which is drawn without killing the pupa (non-violent silk) and hence qualifies as the most eco-friendly amongst Silk.
* Strength and durable and turns yellowish with more and more wash.
* Good elasticity and less wrinkle.
MULBERRY OR PAT SILK

* Silk worms are domesticated and reared indoors.
* Can be bleached.
* Mulberry silk producing states are Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Jammu & Kashmir, Meghalaya and Assam.
* Used for production of dress materials, saris, garments and accessories etc.
* Bulk of silk produced in the world comes from Mulberry silk variety.
POSSIBLE AREAS OF CO-OPERATION:

* New design and product development programme to target the young artisans, weavers and entrepreneurs.
* Introduction of latest production methods with joint collaboration.
* Increase production of raw materials for cane, Muga, and Eri silk.
* Skill development of weavers and artisans in possible areas.
* Craft Exchange Programme
* Buyers-Sellers Meet
* Exhibitions / Expos
* Workshops and Seminars
* By providing design for development of exportable cane & bamboo and silk based products.
* Providing overseas market linkages
* Joint study tours.
* Overseas training for / weavers and entrepreneurs in areas of cane / bamboo processing and treatment as well as in silk processing and weaving.
# TYPES OF CANE USED IN THE NER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Botanical Name</th>
<th>Local Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Calamus Flagellum</td>
<td>Raidang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Calamus Tenuis</td>
<td>Jati</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Calamus Gracilis</td>
<td>Chuli</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Deemonorops Jenkinsianus</td>
<td>Gola</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Calamus Guruba</td>
<td>Sundi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Calamus Floribindus</td>
<td>Lesai</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
With 89 species and 16 genera, the eight States (Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura of the North Eastern Region (NER) accounts for 67% of the growing stock.

Spread over an area of 3,50,000 ha of forest land and also grown in the homestead.
BROAD WORLD MARKET FOR BAMBOO PRODUCTS

* Timber substitute.
* Bamboo shoots (Food).
* Bamboo housing & construction.
* Handicraft & furniture.
* Charcoal & chemicals.