

# Certification Perspective for Bamboo Sector

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## **Abstract**

Bamboo and Rattan (B&R) -classified as Non-Timber Forest Product (NTFP), are multiple use products for villages and towns, artisan and craft activities, resilient housing, flooring, furniture, fabric, fiber, food and fuel. They yield fast-growing and versatile raw materials for high-tech industrial processing and export commodities worth billions of dollars. It is timely to develop and deploy B&R certification for their valorization and quality assurance about environmental, economic, cultural and social dimensions, *inter-alia*, benefiting their custodians, producers, consumers, entrepreneurs and local communities. This calls for policy and strategic support for institutionalizing B&R certification systems and standards.

Categories of certification schemes pertinent to B&R are forest management, social, organic and product quality certification. Forest Certification mainly assesses resource management sustainability, corporate social responsibility and legality, including chain-of-custody certification. Social Certification systems assure that benefits are equitably shared among stakeholders, involving tenure and customary rights, fair returns and adequate benefits, safe and healthy working environment, impact on tribal/indigenous and other local communities, economic viability of handicrafts, and ethical trade and marketing. Organic Certification could apply to B&R products gathered in and outside the forests free of chemical treatments, while wild crafted and semi-domesticated holistic production management system promote and enhance agro-ecosystem health, including biodiversity, water, soil and biological cycles. The “Certificate of Origin” for Product Quality properties evaluates physical identity and purity of raw materials, extracts and other substances, and is pertinent to bamboo shoots.

Asia is the heartland of B&R resources and a battleground of Forest and NTFP certification. More so with the emerging PES (Payment of Ecosystems Services) and MAD (Mitigation and Adaptation to climate change and Development) challenge and opportunity for higher REDD+ remuneration potential and carbon credits through B&R renewable resource regeneration, conservation, cultivation and contribution to post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals for an inclusive green economy. Let us move fast forward for launching B&R certification models designed with due contextual consideration of co-related issues of sustainable forest management, social, organic, product quality and carbon capture certification.