



Shri Nitin Gadkari
Union Minister of Road, Transport,
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Government of India

Bamboo Investors' Meet Investing in Green Gold

Address of **Shri Nitin Jairam Gadkari**, Hon'ble Union Minister of Road, Transport, Highways and Shipping

Respected Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhanji; Dr Gauri Shankar Shejwarji, Hon'ble Minister of Forests, Bio-diversity and Bio-technology, Government of Madhya Pradesh; Chief Secretary of Madhya Pradesh, Shri Anthony de Sa; Principal Secretary of Forests, Madhya Pradesh, Shri A.P. Shrivastava; distinguished invitees, delegates, representatives of various agencies, the media professionals, ladies and gentlemen.

- I am extremely happy, to be here, amidst you, in the first ever Bamboo Investors Meet in the country, organised to address issues for promoting investment in bamboo in Madhya Pradesh. Such an event is aptly timed coinciding with the rising consciousness of the people towards green economy. Bamboo has multiple applications thus offering plethora of opportunities for business while addressing concerns of environment and society.
- India is the second largest bamboo producer in the country and is endowed with a variety of species. This is also reflected in the abundance of bamboo within forests and private farms. This resource is untapped to its fullest potential and this is where innovations can be made and scaled up at a larger level.'
- At present, bamboo products account for INR 50,000 Crore worth of market. This is expected to grow at a rapid rate and a little push from the Government and industries can accelerate the rate to a phenomenal level.
- The first National Policy Consultation on Bamboo as a Change Agent for a better country was organised on 12th February, 2015 under my chairmanship where 8 Union Ministers with different stakes in bamboo had deliberated on issues related to promotion of bamboo. To achieve the resolutions passed in the event, it is imperative to promote bamboo as an investment opportunity to industries.
- Presently there is very little value addition in bamboo. However, bamboo can support immense industrial application particularly in wood substitution. This will greatly reduce the dependence on wood which takes a much longer time to replenish as compared to bamboo. Another area of bamboo application could be use of bamboo as an alternative source of energy. Thus, with this level of versatility, more value added products can be developed from bamboo.
- With "Make in India" movement gaining steam bamboo can act as catalyst for the campaign as it can be integrated across many levels of value chain for the industries. Thereby making the movement a reality.

- The policy issues related to the bamboo sector need to be addressed meticulously, and Federal Govt is committed to make policy changes conducive to "ease of business". The issue of Transit Pass for transportation of bamboo has emerged time and again, both intra-State and inter-State. The Hon Minister of Environment and Forests, Mr Javarekad, has already assured in the Consultation Meeting of Delhi that TP should be eased out for bamboo. I will request MP State to set a model for this.
- The Government can commit to include bamboo in the Schedule of Rates. This will ensure our commitment towards livelihood of bamboo growers and artisans. Also we may directly employ the traditional bamboo artisans in new industries that are set up based on bamboo as a raw material.
- The Government is contemplating setting up of a sub group in NITI Aayog, given the importance of bamboo in the economy and society of the country. We will request the Hon CM of MP to take the lead in the bamboo based development in the country as the convener of this sub-group.
- For an effective convergence of all the bamboo related schemes of different Ministries at Federal level, the Central Govt is also considering for an apex body, like National Bamboo Development Authority, which will coordinate all the bamboo related initiatives of the Central Government.
- I congratulate MP State Government for taking these innovative initiatives in the Bamboo Sector. I specially thank the Hon CM and his team for organising the historical event in Delhi – the National Policy Consultation for promoting Bamboo Sector in the country, which has led to many new initiatives. And special appreciation for the MP Government for taking Bamboo to the level of United nations, New York, where bamboo was discussed for the first time as a side event of United Nations Forum on Forests on 6th of May.
- I am happy to note that issues pertaining to interest of the investors will be flagged and addressed suitably by the concerned Departments. The Bamboo Investors Meet can serve as a precursor to more such events in the future. It will also help us in chalking out an investors' friendly policy and develop a road map for bamboo based development. I am keenly looking forward to the outcome of the meet and witness an unprecedented growth in bamboo based industries.