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PUBLICATIONS

INBAR produces a wide range of publications on bamboo and rattan-related topics. We publish ongoing series of working papers, proceedings and technical reports. We also issue news magazines and corporate documents such as Annual Reports and strategy documents.

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CYANIDE IN BAMBOO SHOOTS <u>working papers</u> downloads

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Author	I Hunter and Fenge Yang
Publisher	INBAR
Year	2002
Ordercode	WP39
Pages	7

DESCRIPTION

INBAR is involved in an active research programme to develop new food products from bamboo shoots. The objective of the research programme is to stimulate new uses of bamboo shoots in existing markets and to assist developing food security in food-poor areas.

A concern in this project is that, although cyanide is unknown as a problem in the Chinese bamboo shoots food industry, there are several reports elsewhere of bamboo species containing significant, potentially very toxic, amounts of cyanogenic glycosides in their shoots.

There is very little published material, however the available material does confirm that some bamboo species do indeed contain very high levels of cyanogenic glycosides in their shoots. There are clear differences between species and insufficient information to generalise. More work by national agricultural research institutes is necessary.

The cyanogenic glycoside in bamboo is taxiphyllin. Taxiphyllin is unusual amongst the 60 or so known similar compounds in that it degrades readily in boiling water.

Thus the normal preparation of bamboo shoots should remove any problem.

However in extending the use of bamboo shoot eating to other regions a problem may occur if people prepare bamboo shoots in a manner similar to that used for another cyanogenic crop (cassava) in Africa.

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PO Box 100102-86, Beijing 100102, P.R. China **Fel:** +86 (0)10 6470-6161 **Fax:** +86 (0)10 6470-2166 **Email:** info@inbar.int **©2014 International Network for Bamboo and Rattan**