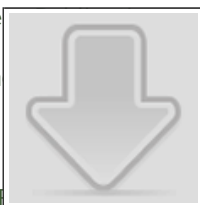


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DESCRIPTION

The bamboo sector in Costa Rica is extremely small, as much in actors extension of plantations, that country has an important investigation process technological development in cultivation and construction of bamboo has achieved by Funbamb? main agent in that sector.

The development of plantations and of construction technology has contributed to solve the housing problem of marginal sectors, through the use of a public policy granted to the beneficiaries, also known as "housing voucher (bond)" This taken by Funbamb?has prevented it to develop nexuses with other national and international commercial agents.

The development of the sector depends on the specific politics that the governments adopt in relation with the "housing voucher." Although the bamboo for export is an attractive option, currently, the scarce plantations are not in a phase that allows making front to other contracts of importance. The same happens to other options of industrialisation of the bamboo, which are limited

to the scarce size of the existent plantations.

The productive chain of bamboo and “ca? brava” in Costa Rica is quite red participants’ number and in scale of operations. Two organisations star Funbamb?and Agroindeba (only private company). In the process of sov harvesting, the primary one and the secondary one do not use female man Women, who are generally young, with an average age of 22 years, intervene most part (88%) as salespersons in retail establishments.

In the process of sows and gathering, secondary and retail, the bamboo repr the main activity for the workers. Less than 50% of the workers of the sec process are devoted to the bamboo as the main activity. In general, the v have an education of at most elementary school and, to a smaller degr secondary education; yet the majority of the consumers of furniture and so have a university level education. The bamboo house consumers, according social class to whom the “housing bond” is given, the majority of ther achieved only elementary school education.

The activities related with the bamboo sector in Costa Rica present appr levels of profitability that vary proportionally with the scale of the plant, the extraction of culms and the percentage of the sales for export, and it inversely with the density of the plantation.

In connection with the housing construction of bamboo materials, it is ok that Costa Rica has overcome the technological barriers associated to the h; of the material. Currently the project is in a stage with high possibilities of and it generates appropriate levels of profitability; in contrast with an initial in which the investment in technological development and positioning market, demands investment levels that diminish the profitability of these p considerably. During the last three years, the subsidy to the popular housi been diminishing, resulting in a decrease in the market goal of bamboo r construction. Therefore, the activities of housing construction should be exj to new social sectors that guarantee the financial sustainability of the projec long term.

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