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## BREAKING BARRIERS AND CREATING CAPITAL - SUSTAINA DEVELOPMENT WITH BAMBOO IN THE KONKAN REGION, MAHARASHTRA, INDIA « WORKING PAPERS « DOWNLOADS

Date posted	September 28
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Author	I.V. Ramanuja Rao, Bhargavi Motukuri, Sanjee
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## **DESCRIPTION**

In 2003, INBAR and CIBART set up an action research-based develo programme for using local bamboos to benefit the poor rural communities Konkan division in Maharashtra State, India. The Konkan Bamboo and Development Centre (KONBAC) was established to implement the progr which

aimed to enhance rural livelihoods, while addressing local, crosscutting social and economic challenges, such as dependence on rain-fed agriculture urban migration, caste prejudices and low market demand.

The Sindhudurg and Ratnagiri districts of Konkan division pose a development challenge, as the majority of rural residents depend on a single, rain-fed agriculture season. Lack of year-round employment opportunities is a major of poverty, leading to seasonal migration of males. The action research prog has incrementally changed social perceptions of bamboo as a cheap and lov material. To promote such changes, the action research programme rel

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training and capacity building of local communities, particularly empowerin women as income earners (women comprise two-thirds of the rural workforc

The programme also intervened to develop bamboo resources in the area, w to improve bamboo stocks and its diversity, as well as bamboo supply chai remunerative returns for farmers. It set up furniture, packaging, craft, const and sanitary napkin enterprise units. These units provide community membe access to training and equipment. With the exception of the sanitary napk which is a pilot demonstration, all of these

are commercial enterprises that help promote uptake of bamboo livelihoods among the local communities.

At present, the Konkan action research programme has made consic progress in developing into a self-sustaining institutional ecosystem. Al certain issues relating to working capital and capacity expansion still KONBAC is well on the way to solving these, and has already emerged as a that is being emulated elsewhere in India and abroad.