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THE PROBLEM/ CHALLENGE

India has about 450 million Farm/ Village/ Fisher-folk/ Shifting Community working people (able-bodied male/ female) who are struggling for Sustainable Jobs. About 50 million amongst these working group are shifting community members, and include such skilled artisans as: Basket Weavers; Shoe repairers; Grass-woven Carpet weavers; Metal-wares repairers; Stone cutters ... and the like. The largest amongst these are the Basket weavers, who are congregated into three or four sub-Communities, with the Medera (Andhra/ Telengana based) community forming the largest single group. Currently these Basket weavers communities are either in shifting groups, working on different Roadsides and other available open spaces, and they showcase their wares in the open, for the interested public to buy. They would number about 25 million, and have great skills in their art. However, they struggle to eke out their livelihood existence – with only very low percapita,



often earning less than Rs.7,500 per annum. How may we enhance the average percapita of the Basket weaver community to at least Rs.50,000 per annum?

THE SOLUTION

The signatory has Developed many Products/ Technologies that take advantage of the basic Cellulosic fibrous strengths of the following Vegetation matter: (1) Bamboo; (2) Eata Grass; (3) Mesta Grass; (4) Banana Tree/ stem fibers; (5) Coir/ Coconut husk fibers; (6) Rajasthan Desert Grasses; (7) Agave plant fibers; (8) Coconut Leaf splinter fibers. Some of the specialty products are presented in the Photo-collage here. Many other products are under development, including Fire Resistant Wood Substitute products; Structural Sections for Building Construction; Automobile Body systems and interiors; Molded Doors; Molded Flooring; Molded Roofings ... and many more.

The Concept is that Small Manufacturing Units be set up in various regions where the Medera community and other basket weaver

communities congregate and live – and each unit may be readied to manufacture between 2,000 T to 5,000 T of these products, dispersed all over India. Each manufacturing unit could offer Direct Jobs to 300 to 400 local community personnel, enhancing their special skills many-fold, and offering sustainable and far greater earning power to them. All India potential to manufacture these various “Substitute” Products would be not less than Ten Million Tons, that may need the setting up of over 30,000 Manufacturing units, dispersed all over India, and offering Direct employment with sustainable Jobs/ earning power to over 1.35 million community members. Additional equal number would have indirect jobs, with not less than half the earning potential of the primary workers.

THE PROJECT AND DELIVERABLES

The Objectives/ Deliverable of this Research/ development Project are:

1. Develop Commercially viable and Technically feasible Products/ Process/ Technology systems to take the current Bench-level products (some are already shown in the Photo collage above) to Market level products;
2. One product system has been patented in the systems developed so far. To Patent all the Feasible products/ Developed Products and Systems, so that exclusivity of Rights are obtained – both national and international;
3. Reach technology/ production levels such that entire Plant/ Machinery systems be totally Designed and developed, so that Entrepreneurs could be encouraged to take up Commercialization of the various products – within India and world wide;
4. The following End-Products/ systems are identified for Commercialization/ Technology/ Process development and Patenting:
 - i. Molded Crockery/ Tableware
 - ii. Molded Flooring systems
 - iii. Molded Doors
 - iv. Molded Helmets
 - v. Molded Wood substitute Board products
 - vi. Structural section systems to replace Steel/ Wood etc
 - vii. Molded Furniture
 - viii. Molded Roofings
 - ix. Modular Building systems
 - x. Auto Body; Boat Hulls and Two-Seater Aircraft Fuselage

More details could be presented, once the subject under consideration is accepted for further Research and Development works

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