

NEERI turns toxic fly ash dumps into lifeline for 2K rural women

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Nagpur: What was once a barren stretch of toxic fly ash dumping grounds is now emerging as a thriving source of livelihood for over 2,000 rural women, thanks to an innovative bamboo restoration model developed by CSIR-National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (CSIR-NEERI).

In a remarkable example of "waste to wealth," bamboo grown across nearly 1,500 hectares of reclaimed fly ash dumps at Koradi and Khaperkheda is today helping women self-help groups (SHGs) craft a new economic future.

To strengthen this transformation, CSIR-NEERI on Tuesday launched a five-day bamboo handicraft training



Women with items made up of bamboo in Koradi.

programme for women SHGs, where artisans from Assam and NEERI experts are training participants to convert bamboo into marketable handicrafts and value-added products.

The programme, a joint initiative of NEERI and Mahagenco, being held from June 16 to 20, is part of NEERI's broader bamboo-based eco-

rejuvenation technology (ERT), which seeks to restore degraded industrial landscapes while simultaneously creating livelihood opportunities for vulnerable communities.

"Bamboo is much more than a plant. It is a renewable resource that connects ecological restoration with economic opportunity," said Dr

S Venkata Mohan, Director, CSIR-NEERI. He described bamboo as a crucial element in building climate resilience, supporting the circular economy, and generating sustainable rural livelihoods.

According to Dr Mohan, the success of bamboo plantations on fly ash dumps demonstrates how degraded land can be transformed into productive ecosystems with social and economic benefits.

"The real success of environmental restoration lies in how it improves people's lives, especially women at the grass-roots," said Sudip Rane, chief engineer of Koradi Thermal Power Station (KTPS).

For scientist Dr Lal Singh, who has been closely associated with the bamboo plantation initiative, the training programme marks the next step in a long-term vision.

महिला बचत गटांसाठी नीरीत बांबू हस्तकला प्रशिक्षण



लोकमत न्यूज नेटवर्क

नागपूर : सीएसआयआर-राष्ट्रीय पर्यावरण अभियांत्रिकी संशोधन संस्था (नीरी) येथे मंगळवारपासून २० जूनपर्यंत महिला बचत गटांसाठी बांबू हस्तकलेवरील प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम सुरू झाला आहे. कोराडी वीज केंद्राच्या 'फ्लाय अॅश डम्प'वर उगवलेल्या बांबूपासून हस्तकला

निर्मितीद्वारे महिला बचत गटांचे सक्षमीकरण करण्याचा यामागे उद्देश आहे.

उद्घाटनप्रसंगी कोराडी औष्णिक विद्युत केंद्राचे मुख्य अभियंता सुदीप राणे, नीरीचे संचालक डॉ. एस. वेंकट मोहन, डॉ. महेंद्र पाटील आणि उपकार्यकारी अभियंता प्रवीण बुटे उपस्थित होते. सुदीप राणे यांनी बांबू आधारित

उद्योजकता रोजगारनिर्मितीसाठी नीरीच्या प्रयत्नांचे कौतुक केले. डॉ. वेंकट मोहन यांनी पर्यावरण संवर्धन, सर्व्हेलर इकोनॉमी आणि हवामान अनुकूल विकासात बांबूचे महत्त्व अधोरेखित केले. डॉ. पाटील यांनी खराब व अनुपयोगी जमिनीच्या पुनर्वसनासोबत महिलांसाठी उपजीविकेच्या संधी निर्माण करण्यात

आणि बांबूची भूमिका स्पष्ट केली. कार्यक्रम संयोजक डॉ. लाल सिंह यांनी नीरीच्या बांबू आधारित इको रीजुव्हेनेशन टेक्नॉलॉजीची माहिती दिली. प्रशिक्षणादरम्यान महिलांना बांबूकापणी, प्रक्रिया, संवर्धन हस्तकला निर्मिती, मूल्यवर्धन उत्पादन, उद्योजकता, ब्रँडिंग, विपणन आणि उत्पादन डिझाइन याबाबत प्रत्यक्ष मार्गदर्शन दिले जाणार आहे.

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CSIR-NEERI starts 5-day bamboo handicraft prog for women SHGs

CSIR-National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (CSIR-NEERI), Nagpur, has launched a five-day training programme (June 16-20) on bamboo handicrafts for women Self-Help Groups (SHGs) under the theme 'Empowering Women Self-Help Groups through Bamboo Handicrafts from Bamboo Grown on Fly Ash Dumps'. The programme was inaugurated by **Sudip Rane**, Chief Engineer, Koradi Thermal Power Station (KTPS), Koradi, and presided over by **Dr S Venkata Mohan**, Director, CSIR-NEERI. **Dr Mahendra P Patil**, Scientist-G and Chair, Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Division, and **Pravin Bute**, Deputy Executive Engineer, KTPS, were also present. **Dr Lal Singh**, Scientist-E and Programme Organiser, presented an overview of bamboo-based ERT initiatives. The initiative aims to promote sustainable livelihoods, women empowerment, and environmental restoration.

