



Bamboo Centre Auroville News Letter

October to December 2017



Our Service

Established in February 2009, with the aim to incorporate the following four aspects:

- ❖ Vocational training opportunities for the unemployed youth around the villages of Auroville and transforming them into craftsmen who can produce world class Bamboo products
- ❖ A technical and sociological research component to bring together Indian traditional craft with contemporary world culture
- ❖ Production and marketing of Bamboo craft for income generation and building stronger communities for sustainable living
- ❖ Unending research and development of Bamboo for the welfare of local and international communities.



Bamboo Centre Auroville as a pioneer in the creative development of sustainable bamboo products, the Bamboo Centre is committed to generate awareness of environmentally sustainable applications of bamboo through research and education. Employing people from local villages around Auroville, from Pondicherry Union Territory and Tamil Nadu State. The organisation strives to support and revitalise the community in which it is located while serving both domestic and global markets that demand high-quality, eco-friendly bamboo merchandise. Through these initiatives the bamboo centre aims to advance the vitality of the planet and it's people.



Training & Workshops

At the Bamboo Centre Auroville we make training accessible to everyone. We invite individuals to participate in a wide variety of workshops, covering bamboo construction and bamboo product development. Architects, designers, students and entrepreneurs attend. They may be interested in new product opportunities, technologies, or designs that use bamboo, or they may simply be curious about bamboo and want to learn about this unique material. All are welcome to take part! We also train local women and have a special program that introduces children to bamboo and its uses. And you may be pleased to know that we can tailor-make courses for groups, even large ones.

Upcoming Workshop Dates

January

8 to 11 –Bamboo Yurt workshop

22 to 25 – Bamboo Geodesic dome

February

7 to 10 – Bamboo & Wood furniture Experience

13 to 16 – Bamboo Construction Experience (Joineries techniques)

22 to 24 – Bamboo Engineering Course

March

5 to 10 – Bamboo & Rammed Earth Workshop

14 to 17 – Bamboo reinforcement workshop

27 to 31 – Bamboo Construction Experience (Full bamboo culm techniques)

During October to December 2017 we hosted a number of groups workshop:

Bamboo and Lime Construction Workshop:

The Bamboo and Lime Construction Workshop is a 1-week learning experience that offers the opportunity to learn the basics of working with bamboo—a plant with amazing characteristics—and lime. From 19 to 23 December we offered a 6-day intensive learning program on natural building with bamboo and lime.



There were twelve participants from all over India as well as abroad. First, the students learnt how to harvest, treat, and work with bamboo using both traditional and modern techniques. After the brief theory, they split into groups to get more hands-on practice.



The participants constructed a bamboo structure and had a sound healing session and capoeira. Bamboo Centre technicians, with external resource persons, guided the participants through the full program with lots of hands-on and high intensity input sessions.



Group Workshops:

From 24-28 October we offered a 5-day Bamboo Furniture Workshop for 17 students from **SAL University** in Rajasthan. The students learned joineries and developing new furniture.



From 19 December to 2 January we gave an 11-day Construction Workshop to a group of 5 students from **Nirma University** in Delhi. On the first day, we offered a presentation on bamboo and introduced the participants to some basic skills, and for the remaining days we taught the students different skills in construction. They also got a sense of the Auroville atmosphere and gained some new knowledge of bamboo.



Regular Workshop:

Bamboo Construction Experience (full Bamboo Culm Techniques)

During October to December we conducted two full Bamboo Culm Techniques Workshops and one Bamboo Joineries Workshop at Auroville Bamboo Centre: 9-11 November; 21-25 November, and 6-9 December. The students who participated were from different parts of India as well as from abroad. The workshops were conducted from 9am to 5pm daily.



Feedback from the participants:

Positive:

The workshop was well prepared in terms of sequence and structure of activities, material and tools as well. And obviously the people who have involved like the teacher and those who all helped during the session. Explanation was clear, interesting and satisfied.

Negative:

There should be small structure taken so that it could be completed within the workshop days. The students want a longer workshop; instead of 5-day courses, they are looking for 10-day courses.

Earth and Bamboo Workshop:

From 9-13 October we offered a 5-day Earth and Bamboo Workshop together with the *Auroville Earth Institute* (AVEI) and *Auroville Green Practices* (AGP). Twenty eight students from various places in India and abroad participated and learned about bamboo construction and earth building development.

Visits:

During the past three months we had several schools and colleges visiting our centre to learn and experience the creative work done here.

Sustainable Habitats Workshop,
11December – 7 participants



American University of Paris (Aup) visit,
20 December – 18 students

Vastu Kala, Delhi, 18 December – 10 students



Dr. B.N. College of Architecture, Pune (Maharashtra), 25 November – 15 students



MDP Program for Bamboo Entrepreneurs of Kerala:

On 7 November, KFRI (Kerala Forest Research Institute) conducted a Management Development Program for potential Bamboo Entrepreneurs of Kerala from 6-9 November 2017 at Kerala Forest Research Institute, Peechi.



As part of this program they invited us to offer a lecture on Developing Marketing Linkages and Experience Sharing of Success about the Bamboo Centre; Mr. Balasundharam, director of the Bamboo Centre, gave the lecture.



Bamboo Fest Exhibition 2017 at Kerala:



From 1-5 December, the fourteenth Kerala Bamboo Fest took place in Kochi, Kerala. The fair was open all day from Friday till Tuesday. It is organized by the Department of Industries in association with the Kerala State Bamboo Mission and the Kerala Bureau of Industrial Promotion, with the aim of promoting bamboo products. The Auroville Bamboo Centre participated in this yearly event.



Approximately 120 different units and organizations exhibited their products or work. Saturday and Sunday were very busy as a lot of visitors came to browse the stalls.



We got a lot of nice feedback at the Bamboo Fest from visitors and other exhibitors, telling us that our products are having a 'modern design' and 'very good finish'. In comparison to others, we had unique products to sell which attracted people and we started making contacts with retailers and business people.



It was a very nice experience and good to see what other units are producing from bamboo all over India. See you next year at the Bamboo Fest!



Testimonials from volunteers and interns:

I am Manasi. I have been volunteering at Bamboo Centre for more than a month. The workspace culture is truly amazing. Having a circle of meditation and discussion before starting work every day is good for building a bond in the community working together. I've never experienced anything like it before. Co-workers are really helpful and kind. Also experiencing the unconventional materials in construction not just by using it for work but also by living in bamboo hut accommodation. I look forward to Bamboo Centre and bamboo in future.



May the New Year bring new hopes, new aspirations, new joys and new successes in your life's journey – Bamboo family - Auroville