



CENTRE FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

24 January 2011

To
Hon'ble Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh,
Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture, Shri Sharad Pawar
Hon'ble Minister of State of Environment and Forest, Shri Jairam Ramesh

Respected Gentlemen,

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the government for making an official announcement declaring bamboo as grass, not a tree. This comes as a huge relief to our long standing campaign demanding correct recognition for bamboo and establishment of the rights of tribals and forest dwellers.

We believe that the tribal communities needed to be given better rights, control and revenue from the forests they lived in or depended on. And with declaration of bamboo as grass, we hope that the bamboo industry can flourish appropriately, helping save our forests and providing employment and livelihood to crores of people in the country

India has the largest proportion of area under bamboo cultivation and if managed well bamboo could become a steady and sustainable source of livelihood for millions of tribals and rural habitants. It could reduce use of timber and save our forests, and help build peace and prosperity in our volatile North East region.

We hope that the final step of amending the Indian Forest Act would also be taken soon.

Many Thanks,

Yours Sincerely,

Mr P D Rai
Member of Parliament
Lok Shaba, Sikkim

Mr Kamesh Salam
Former President
World Bamboo Organization

Dr Parth J Shah
President
Centre for Civil Society

Copy:

Shri Kantilal Bhuria, Minister of Tribal Affairs
Shri Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce and Industry
Shri B.K. Handique, Minister of Development of North Eastern Region.
Shri Vilasrao Deshmukh, Minister of Rural Development
Ms. Agatha Sangma, Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development

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