

BAMBOO: CROP OF THE FUTURE

Sinem BİLSEL



Imagine a village called Noh Bo. There are two lines of light-wooden houses. They all have swings attached with ropes to the front of the houses on which children have fun. At nights, they go to the upper floor to sleep safely. People say the houses look like butterfly houses but they are not. They are houses for orphan children. The main material of these houses is a local plant - Bamboo.

Bamboo is a commonly growing plant. It grows about 25 meters long and it is about 15 centimeters wide. Most people think it is grass and they are right to think like that since it really looks like grass; however, it is actually a tree. It grows mainly on the East and Southeast of Asia and some parts of India, Africa, and Australia. It grows and spreads faster than most of the plants.

In the past, people used it for various purposes. Artists made paint brushes and paper. Fishermen made fishing equipment. Musicians made instruments. All of these equipment was made of bamboo. They even made boats out of it.

Today, in India and China, bamboo is used for traditional medicine. People make food with it and even eat it as a healthy food. Bamboo is also used for making cloth. Some beauty products also contain bamboo. It is even used in water cleaning machines. People also use it in buildings and the Noh Bo village is an example of this.

In Ghana, people have designed two wheeled bicycle, in Philippines they have produced electricity out of bamboo. In 1879, Thomas Edison invented the first bulb out of treated bamboo. You can say people are right to call it “the crop of the future”.

In addition to all of these benefits, its main benefit is something else. It helps the nature while it grows. It produces oxygen and reduces carbon dioxide and does that more quickly than other trees. It improves air quality. It also provides shade and shelter from the sun.

In Nicaragua, people cut 3% of hardwood trees every year. Cutting trees causes problems for the environment, people, and animals. An organization called “Eco-Planet Bamboo” tries to replace these hardwood trees with bamboo. The reason for that is growing hardwood trees takes too much time, up to 50 years. But bamboo can grow 60 centimeters in one day and is ready to harvest in 3-4 years. It gets hard and dry. Even though you cut it, it grows back and you can harvest it year after year.

Eco-Planet Bamboo has made a bamboo farm in Nicaragua. This farm not only helps to replace trees with bamboo but it also helps people in the country. One woman says: “I am a single mother of five children. I used to have problems but now I can take care of my children by working on this farm.” That farm helps the environment and local people by reducing poverty. Ever since it was made, there has been more activity in the city. People wear better clothes, buy better houses and the bamboo also helps them with health problems.

As you can see in this example, bamboo has many benefits for the environment, air, people, animals and everything. Projects like this should be increased.

Reference:

http://spotlightenglish.com/listen/bamboo_crop_of_the_future