

BAMBOO AS A MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION AND SOIL STABILISER

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Bamboo has been of interest in various fields of technology for a long time and there have been many investigations carried out in various countries regarding its specific applications. With the current interest in low-cost housing in Sri Lanka, and the recognition of bamboos as an effective soil stabiliser for river and irrigation channel banks and shore lines of reservoirs in the Mahaweli Scheme, there has been a renewed interest in the propagation & utilisation of bamboo. This investigation is aimed at providing a scientific basis, for the identification, propagation and utilisation of bamboos.

A comprehensive literature survey has been carried out and the most useful varieties of bamboo have been selected for detailed study. These are then classified into locally available varieties and those which are economically useful for introduction to Sri Lanka. The mechanical properties of the available varieties have been obtained experimentally. Characteristics which would be of use in identifying bamboos in the field have been studied with the intention of producing a monograph which will be of practical use to those interested in utilising bamboo as a material of construction or as a soil stabiliser.

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