



Macro Proliferation of Bamboo

Ethiopia | Madagascar | Tanzania



Introduction:

Multiplying bamboo plants by rhizome separation is called macro-proliferation. Using this technique, one bamboo plant can be separated into two or more viable plants. Bamboo flowers and produces seeds only once in its lifetime (monocarpic plant), and its seeds are not regularly available. The vegetative methods of propagation (rhizome, branch cuttings, culm cuttings and layering) take longer and can only be applied successfully during pre-monsoon and early monsoon periods, when the starch content and rooting hormone in the bamboo culms are high.



Step by step

Preliminary Preparation:

Four to six months old, well managed bamboo plants having multiple culms (three or more) with well-developed roots and rhizomes are suitable for macro-proliferation. Before starting macro-proliferation, bamboo seedlings (from seeds) or transplanted saplings (by vegetative propagation) should be free of weeds and watered thoroughly.

Few days before multiplication, water the plants thoroughly; this will loosen the soil particles and minimize root and rhizome damage.

Remove the poly bags and soil particles attached with the roots and rhizome. Avoid damaging the rhizome, emerging shoots and roots.



Wash the underground portion (roots and rhizome) thoroughly in water. This aids in clearly identifying the rhizome neck for dissection or separation.



Step by step

Use secateurs or sharp knife to dissect each plant at the rhizome neck. Each plant should have well developed rhizome, roots and stem.



Trim nearly 75 percent of leaves and branches to minimize water loss.



To minimize mortality, culm division should be carried out in evening or selective days when the temperature is cool (rainy days).



Immediately after rhizome division, replant them in separate poly bags and water them.



Keep the separated plants in partial shade (50 % shade) and water them daily. After one month, the plants can be transferred to direct sunlight.



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For further information, please contact:

For further information, please contact:
INBAR secretariat:
No. 8, Fu Tong Dong Da Jie, Wang, Jing Area, Chaoyang District, Beijing
100102, P.R. China
Telephone: +86-10-6470 6161, +86-10-8471 3337, +86-10-6471 7108
Fax: +86-10-6470 2166 | Email: info@inbar.int

