Chinese firm undertakes Rwanda bamboo study

The Chinese International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR), will next month begin working on a feasibility study on bamboo resources in Rwanda.

Dubbed Production to Consumption Study (PCS), the study will entirely be sponsored by INBAR, as a sign of concrete collaboration with the Rwanda Private Sector Federation (RPSF).

The Secretary General of RPSF, Emmanuel Hategeka, confirmed the study, saying that the development was reached at during his visit to Dr. Coosje Hoogendoorn, the Director General of INBAR.

The entity (INBAR) is known for developing rural livelihoods, environment and businesses worldwide through bamboo and rattan.

Rattan is a plant with long thin stems used for making woven furniture and bamboo is a tropical plant with light-brown stems also used for making furniture among a multitude of other things.

Hategeka said he visited INBAR showrooms in Beijing and was amazed with the wealth that can be made out of bamboo and rattan, using very affordable technology.

He said that the products from bamboo and rattan range from posh furniture, clothes (curtains), drugs and food items, he said.

The visit saw Rwanda, through RPSF literally join a network of 34 INBAR countries, Hategeka said. The country thus became the first African country to join and benefit from INBAR.

He disclosed that he agreed with Hoogendoorn to link RPSF to the huge Chinese market once bamboo business gains ground in Rwanda.

The challenge will then be upon us to satisfy the huge (1.3 billion people) Chinese market, he said After the study, INBAR will also provide technical capacity to RPSF members who would have chosen to partner with Chinese in bamboo business.

In a related development, Eugene Kayigamba, the Chairman Chamber of Commerce and Services of RPSF led a delegation of 47 Rwandese businessmen and women to China. They are attending the Chinese 100th Canton fair for three weeks. Hategeka said that although the Canton trade fair has been exclusively for Chinese, RPSF delegation managed to lobby its committee to go international effective next year.

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