

SCRIPT WOMEN BAMBOO WORKSHOP TANZANIA

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LEAD

Normally for brewing a nice and cheap alcoholic beverage, now used to make house hold utensils, and even furniture. We're talking about the bamboo which is processed by a women's group in Mbeya in the South of Tanzania. It was founded by Pauline Samata in 1997 as a way to find work for herself and other single mothers. Since then 60 women were trained in making baskets and other products like bags and furniture from bamboo. The business is doing well, and now they're exporting bamboo products to several countries in Africa.

BETA LENGHT 1'45"

Furaha here is 25-years old, and she has 2 children. She has no husband, and survived on her own. Until she got a job at the Mbeya Bamboo Group. Now she's happy she can pay her children's school fees.

QUOTE FURAHA MWINAMI

***My children now can read very well.
Until now I can see I am very okay.***

The bamboo workshop was founded in 1997 by 44-years old... Pauline Samata, a single mother herself with 4 children. She learned the job at a former employer, and when he left. She took over by teaching other single mothers the same.

QUOTE PAULINE SAMATA, (11 secs, English)
***I Try to talk to them about how she can change her life.
So I teach them how to join us with the bambo.***

The bamboo they use grows naturally on the sides of the surrounding hills.

SOUNDBITE PAULINE WALKING THROUGH FIELD

Pauline shows where she goes to buy her sticks.
They need 3 years to mature before they can be used.
But it's often used for brewing an alcoholic beverage.

QUOTE PAULINE SAMATA (3 secs, English)

We call it wine, bamboo wine.

But Pauline found another nice way to use the bamboo sticks.

SOUNDBITE SAWING BAMBOO STICK

The ladies make durable and cheap products.
Baskets like this go for 2 to 5 Euro, and this table and seats for 150 Euro.
They are sold here in Tanzania, and in other countries in Africa.
To keep up with the growing demand Pauline wants to start her own bamboo plantation.

QUOTE PAULINE SAMATA, (8 secs, English)

***Because it will be easier for us to get sticks, and we can make more money,
and we can help more people.***

Pauline and the other ladies are happy with what they have achieved so far.
They're now thinking of export to... Europe.
and are now venturing into export to Europe.