THE WORLD'S FIRST ISO STANDARD FOR BAMBOO DRINKING STRAWS AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR PLASTIC PRODUCTS

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The International Bamboo and Rattan Organization (INBAR) is diffusing the news that on January 22, 2025, the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) officially released a groundbreaking international standard: "ISO 16830:2025 Specification of Bamboo Drinking Straws" (hereinafter referred to as "Bamboo Drinking Straws"). This is the world's first ISO standard for <u>Bamboo as a Substitute</u> for Plastic (BASP) products and the 12th ISO standard issued by the <u>ISO Technical</u> <u>Committee on Bamboo and Rattan</u> (ISO/TC 296) since its establishment.



The article also underlines that "Globally, over 70% of single-use plastic products end up in soil, air, and oceans. Single-use plastic straws, due to their small size and lightweight nature, are rarely recycled. On January 19, 2020, the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) and the Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE) of China jointly issued the "Opinions on Further Strengthening Plastic Pollution Control," which stipulates that by the end of 2020, the use of non-degradable disposable plastic straws will be prohibited in the catering industry nationwide. Similarly, the international community has enacted numerous policies to ban the use of disposable plastic straws. Being one of the fastest-growing plants in the world. bamboo serves as an excellent, renewable, and biodegradable material. Beyond its use in engineering applications, the development and application of bamboo drinking straws can significantly mitigate global plastic pollution caused by disposable plastic straws, while also offering substantial economic, social, and ecological benefits. Bamboo straws produced using advanced technologies such as drilling holes in bamboo sticks or rolling bamboo veneer, exhibit immense market potential."

The Bamboo Drinking Straws standard specifies the requirements, test methods, storage, packaging, and labeling. The project was officially approved on June 24, 2022, following a vote by members of ISO/TC 296. The project was led by the International Center for Bamboo and Rattan (ICBR), with key contributions from leading entities such as ICBR, China Anhui Hongye Group, and China Long Bamboo Technology Over ten domestic institutions in China, including Group. Central South University of Forestry and Technology, Inner Mongolia Agricultural University, and Zhejiang Agriculture and Forestry University, along with researchers and experts from ISO/TC 296 member countries, participated in the development of the standard.

This milestone marks a significant step forward in promoting sustainable alternatives to plastic products while leveraging the world's abundant bamboo resources.



<u>China and INBAR jointly launched the Bamboo as a Substitute</u> for Plastic (BASP) Initiative in 2022, which seeks to leverage bamboo to reduce plastic pollution and address climate change. Now they have released the <u>official Global Action Plan for</u> <u>Bamboo as a Substitute for Plastic (2023-2030)</u>. This will act as a roadmap for related future work, helping to mobilize stakeholders and galvanize progress around the world toward implementing the BASP Initiative while also accelerating progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Bamboo grows across over 50 million hectares, most of which is in the Global South, and features many other advantages over plastics. Bamboo is annually harvestable, maturing in three to four years. It is also biodegradable, capable of breaking down within two to six months with proper composting. Conversely, some plastics take hundreds of years to break down, degrading into microplastics with potentially harmful impacts. Bamboo forests act like a giant carbon sink, efficiently sequestering more carbon than some tree species. On top of that, durable products made with bamboo lock in carbon for the product's entire lifespan. unlike plastics which mostly rely on fossil fuels and energyintensive processes. Over 10,000 types of bamboo products have already been developed, from daily necessities to construction materials. The world is now waking up to the promise of bamboo as a critical tool for ushering in a bio-based, lowcarbon economy and defeating the scourge of plastic pollution.

## To know more

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Global Action Plan BASP Initiative

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