

# Lantana Craft Training program



**Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE),**

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**Lantana Craft Center (LCC)),** Keeranholra village, Nagamalai Road, MM Hills Post, Kollegal Taluk, Chamrajanagara District – 571 490, Karnataka. <http://www.lantanacrafts.org/lantana-products>

**Mission:** Strengthening/ Sustaining the Lantana Craft Center (LCC) by customizing products for rural and urban markets

**Background:** Lantana is one of the world's most invasive weeds. It is used as a substitute for native species such as bamboo and cane and strengthening the livelihood of Soliga tribal community. No-cost and simple skills are used to empower the community. ATREE introduced Lantana craft as a way of improving livelihoods through furniture and other utility products. This contributes conservation.

**Product diversification:** Simple technique of bending Lantana stems, which made it possible to make a range of products like baskets, furniture, toys, utilities, ornaments, and life-size elephants.

**Till now:** ATREE has trained over 650 people in lantana craft, 60% of these folk are women. Trained artisans derive nearly 80% of their cash income from lantana crafts. The average income of an artisan ranges from Rs 12500 – 16000. Health cards and insurance coverage provided for 360 artisans. ATREE disseminates technology and craft to NGOs and 7 forest communities in 23 forest areas of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, and Maharashtra.

**Objectives:** *To train the trainees thoroughly on fabricating furniture from Lantana camara.  
To assure quality training on Lantana crafts and capacity building on marketing strategy.*

### **Outline of the training activities:**

Stages	Number of Trainees	Number of Products	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase
Stage 1 (Basic Training), (20 days)	20	2	Stick selection and boiling	Cleaning cutting and measurement training	Small furniture framing training
Stage 2 (Small Furniture), (20 days)	20	5	Framing	Weaving	Binding
Stage 3 (Large Furniture), 3 (20 days)	20	5	Framing	Weaving	Binding and polishing

### **Budget for the training on Lantana furniture making (for 20 people):**

	Items	Budget(INR)			
		Stage 1 (20days)	Stage 2 (20days)	Stage 3 (20days)	Total
1	Two (2) Trainers honorarium (Rs. 800/- per day per person).	32000.00	32000.00	32000.00	96,000.00
2	One (1) Training coordinator's two month CTC (INR @16500/month)	-	-		33000.00
3	Travel	8000.00	10000.00	12000.00	30,000.00
4	Food and accommodation.	14400.00	14400.00	14400.00	43,200.00
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>54,400.00</b>	<b>56,400.00</b>	<b>58,400.00</b>	<b>2,02,200.00</b>
5	Institutional overhead charges (15%).				<b>30,330.00</b>
	<b>Grand Total</b>				<b>2,32,530.00</b>

### **Important notes:**

- Host institutions have to purchase tools, supporting and other raw materials, they should be kept ready well in advance.
- Lantana training could be conducted in 3 stages; each stage would require around 20 days.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Stage: basic and common: training on a collection of raw material; stick selection, boiling, stick preparation, etc (20 days).
- 2<sup>nd</sup> stage: preparation of small articles etc (20 days).
- 3<sup>rd</sup> stage: preparation of big furniture's etc (20 days).
- Each trainer can train only 10 people maximum (could be considered as a batch).
- We can send 2 trainers' maximum at a time.
- For the second year and onwards the budget will be increased by 10% on the total budget of the first year.
- At the end of the training, the coordinator will give orientation on marketing link and institutional linkages (it needs minimum 1 day to explain and explore the links).
- The host institution has to decide how many batches (based on trainer availability) they would like to have and type of training that needs to be informed well in advance for the facilitation.
- 50% of the fund needs to be paid at the beginning of the training as cash or online transfer to LCC account at MM Hills.