

## 5 Changaer/Chhaj/Chhabru/Chhabri:

This is in the shape of a round basket with or without a lid, which was made exclusively for serving rice during the marriage dhams. Nowadays they are also used for storage of rotis and for carrying meals to the field.



## 6 Shikrhha:

Bigger version of the kilta, used for carriage of bulky material like dry leaves, hay, dried pine needles, grass etc., over a short distance. It is woven loose with numerous openings for carriage of mostly light material.



## 7 Naoli/Woolley/Bhoaltey:

Used by shepherds for carrying wool. Also protects the wool from rodents, as it is hung on the walls of homes.

## 8 Kannoroh:

Large round container of approximately 3' X 3' woven tight and plastered with cow dung. Used for winnowing of grains and pulses, especially wheat, rice, barley, urad, rajmash, etc.



## 9 Measuring Aids:

A number of items of bamboo basketry are found in each household for measuring the grains, etc. Chhotru, Taath, Ser, in order of decreasing ease, respectfully.

Besides, these main items of bamboo basketry, a number of other items are prepared for household use. Notable being Naoli/Bhoaltey/Woolley (for storage of wool); Kannoroh (Large round container used for winnowing of grains and pulses, etc., and later storage); Shup (for small quantity winnowing).

Resource use is an issue of significance for the local stakeholders, with these hill bamboos, since, these species have been found to form one of the most versatile local raw material associated with day to day life of rural household in the region. Be it a carriage material, storage of grains, plucking of apples, winnowing of grains, forming live hedges, stakes for cash crops etc., these native bamboos come in very handy.

### Tokri:

A container shaped basket, which comes in varied shapes and styles as per the requirement of usage. Tokri is used to store and keep warm rotis and food items in the kitchen, besides it is an essential aid during apple plucking. The Kaonda, which comes with a designer lid and handle is used to carry sweetmeats, while visiting relatives and other social events.



Photo Credit: Vaneet Jishtu

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**MAJOR BASKETRY PRODUCTS  
FROM HILL BAMBOO IN DODRA -KWAR**  
(Shimla District, Himachal Pradesh)

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## MAJOR BASKETRY PRODUCTS FROM HILL BAMBOO IN DODRA -KWAR

The people of Dodra-Kwar specialize in making baskets and other handicrafts from 'Hill Bamboo, commonly known as Ringal or Nirgal Bamboos' for their day to day usage and some also earn their livelihood from this vocation.

Nirgal, as it is locally known in the Dodra-Kwar area is a group of dwarf bamboos occupying montane regions in the tropical regions of the world. This little studied group of plants is extremely significant from ecological and socio-economic point of view. Out of about 136 species belonging to 30 genera of bamboos in India, Hill Bamboos account only for 3 genera and 23 species. Major diversity of Hill Bamboos is found in the Eastern Himalayas, while the NW and Western Himalayas have only 4 species belonging to 2 genera, with only 2 species i.e. *Drepanostachyum falcatum* and *Thamnocalamus spathiflorus* being recorded from Himachal Pradesh.

Hill Bamboos form a versatile raw material and are put to multifarious uses especially in the hilly terrains of Himalayas. Almost every household in the region uses the Hill Bamboos or products made of it on day-to-day basis. Hill Bamboos forms moderately dense to dense undergrowth in the Ban Oak and Deodar forests (*Drepanostachyum falcatum*) and in the Fir, Spruce, Mohru and Kharsu Oak forests (*Thamnocalamus spathiflorus*).

» *Drepanostachyum falcatum* (Nees) Keng f. (= *Arundinaria falcata* Nees; *Sinarundinaria falcata* Chao & Ren.). It is found at the lower elevations of around 1,000 m and extends upto 2,100 m. It is an evergreen bamboo with a flowering period of ca. 30 years.

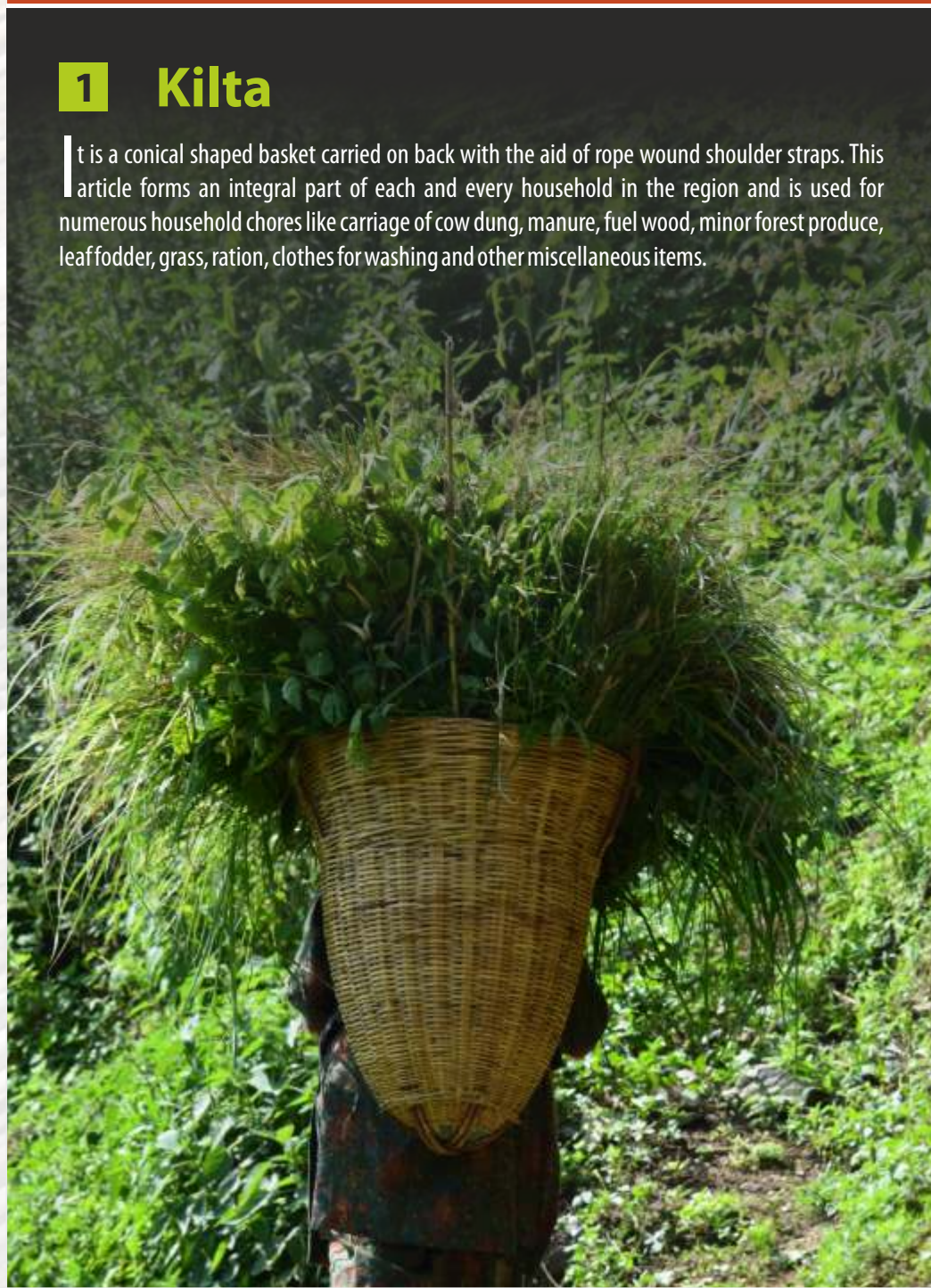
» *Thamnocalamus spathiflorus* (Trin.) Munro; (= *Arundinaria spathiflora* Trin.). This is a species of the higher moist temperate zone and can be encountered in an altitudinal zone ranging from 2,100 - 3,650 m. It is a much stouter and taller evergreen species with the flowering period of around ca. 17 years.

## Major Basketry Products from Hill Bamboo, that finds use in the day to day life of the people.

Weaving of various kinds of baskets and other articles form the major use of hill bamboos in the day to day activities of the village folk. This activity also provides gainful employment to them throughout the year. Some important types of basketry products of the region and their major uses are given below:

### 1 Kilta

It is a conical shaped basket carried on back with the aid of rope wound shoulder straps. This article forms an integral part of each and every household in the region and is used for numerous household chores like carriage of cow dung, manure, fuel wood, minor forest produce, leaf fodder, grass, ration, clothes for washing and other miscellaneous items.



### 2 Panelta

It is a conical shaped basket similar to the Kilta, but with an outgrowth towards the top to fit a water pitcher. It is used for carriage of water from the village water tank, Bawli and for carrying clothes for washing to the village stream, etc. This product is carried exclusively by the fairer sex in contrast to the Kilta, which is carried both by the male as well as the female.



### 3 Kiltu

A smaller version of the Kilta, used exclusively for carriage of meals to the fields/orchards and also for carrying sweet meats and presents within the brotherhood/relationships. It is also used exclusively by the women folk, especially the children and elder ladies.



### 4 Bhouti/Khedi:

It is a flattened, round article weaved from fine bamboo strips, plastered with fine cow dung on regular intervals for longer life of the item. It forms an integral part of each household, used mainly for separating grains from chaff.

