



International Blue Crescent (IBC) in response to the Bam Earthquake has responded with relief and rehabilitation initiatives. One of the components of the Rehabilitation initiative is Safe Building project.



The project of Safe Building is to demonstrate a technical solution for Earthquake resistance for the people of Bam and to provide technical option along with other benefits of community development if accepted by the Government and people at large.

Earth was a traditional building material in Bam and which is still evident in and around the city of Bam. IBC with the project of Safe Building shall be working with the basic traditional building material Earth for demonstrating an earthquake resistant housing option.

IBC has procured 3 Nos Auram press-3000 from India. The press shall make Hollow Interlocking Compressed Stabilized Earthen Blocks (CSEB) specially designed for Earthquake resistance. The technology of interlocking blocks is accepted worldwide for Earthquake resistance.

The technology was used for the mass housing program post Gujarat Earthquake (More than 3000 Houses build with this technique).

A MODERN TECHNOLOGY

Over few milleniums of years, earth has been used as a building material to achieve amazingly long lasting buildings: the oldest one, still standing, can be seen in Egypt, near luxor which was built in 2000 BC.!

The city of Bam is one of the best examples in front of us to witness the potential of earth. As the design of those structures were not done keeping in mind the earthquake but we can see today that it was more of a designing factor due to which the structures failed.

Accordingly to the soil quality and, particularly its hydrous behavior, 12 techniques were developed worldwide.

Among them is the pressed technique; either Rammed Earth used centuries long, and more recently the Compressed Stabilized Earth Blocks (CSEB).

The first attempts of CEB were tried in the XIXth C. in Europe: to precast small blocks of rammed earth. They used rammers to compress the humid soil into a small wooden mould held with the feet.

Since 1950 many laboratories got specialized and skilled to identify the soils for buildings. Many more projects born: specially in Africa, South America, India but also South Asia and Europe and few in the USA!



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