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Natural Fibers Handbook with Cultivation & Uses

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Description

Natural fibers production, processing and export are vital to the economies of many developing countries and the livelihoods of millions of small scale farmers and low wage workers. Almost all natural fibers are produced by agriculture, and the major part is harvested in the developing world. It is convenient to classify natural fiber in two ways; morphologically, according to the part of plant from which they are obtained and practically according to the uses to which they are put, which in turn depend on their properties. From the view point of the uses vegetable fibers may be classified into following groups; textile fibers, cordage fibers, brush and mat fibers, stuffing and upholstery materials, paper making materials etc. Fibers from the view point of the part are classified as hair fibers, leaf fibers, woody fibers, bast fibers, etc. The use of fibers for paper making differs completely from their use in textiles, in that in papermaking it is ultimate fiber cells which are used; thus in papermaking process consists in breaking down the strands of fiber into the ultimate fibers. Jute, the most important textile fiber apart from cotton, is obtained from two species of corchorus(white jute) and C.olitoriusL. (tossa jute). Farmers around the world produce a wide variety of natural fibres, planting crops and rearing animals. Plant fibres may be from the plant fruit (e.g. cotton), stems (e.g. flax and jute) or leaf (e.g.sisal). Natural fibres are generally considered more environment friendly than synthetics in their production and disposal. However, there is great variation depending on the fibre and the growing conditions. Many chemicals are used to contain pests and weeds. Chemicals are also used in the processing and dyeing which can lead to water contamination. Processing of some natural fibers can lead to high levels of water pollutants, but they consist mostly of biodegradable compounds, in contrast to the persistent chemicals, including heavy metals, released in the effluent from synthetic fiber processing. Farming and production of natural fibres also plays a significant role

in eradicating poverty as an important source of farming income and contribution to food security in developing countries. Demand for natural fiber composites are largely driven by increasing environmental awareness. Due to low cost, low density, acceptable specific properties, ease of separation, enhanced energy recovery, CO2 neutrality, biodegradability and recyclable properties, natural fiber use in composites is gaining as demand grows for component materials that are durable, reliable, light weight, with mechanical properties better than those of traditional materials. Total global natural fiber composite market expected to grow at 11% CAGR. Some of the fundamentals of the book are the occurrence and nature of vegetable fibres, conditions necessary for growing flax, mulberry family (moraceae), lime family (titliaceae), experiments on mechanized production of jute, mallow family (malvaceae), kenaf production in various other countries, the use of unretted kenaf ribbons for sack manufacture, pea family (leguminosae), sterculia family (sterculiaceae), agave family (agavaceae), structure of the sisal industry, narcissus family (amaryllidaceae), lily family (liliaceae), pineapple family (bromeliaceae), fibres from other species of musa and a related genus, brush making fibres, etc. The book contains process and other parameters for the manufacturing of fibers arrive from natural sources. Due to eco friendly nature there is very good domestic and export potentiality for natural fiber. This is very useful book for new generation entrepreneurs, consultant institutional libraries, and existing units.

Content

1. INTRODUCTION

The Occurrence and Nature of Vegetable Fibres
Bast Fibres
Leaf Fibres
Fibre Identification
Testing of Fibres
Chemical Analysis
Fibre Fineness and Commercial Use

2. FLAX FAMILY (LINACEAE)

Flax (Linum Usitatissimum)
Conditions Necessary for Growing Flax
Varieties
Cultivation
Harvesting
Pulling

Drying Retting

Dew Retting

Water Retting

Warm Water Retting

Leaching

Double Retting

Aerated Retting

Green Flax

Scutching

Flax in the U.S.S.R

Flax in Belgium

Flax in Other Countries

China

Japan

Egypt

India

Australia

New Zealand

Kenya

Uganda

Grading of Flax

Properties of Flax

Trade

3. MULBERRY FAMILY (MORACEAE)

Hemp (Cannabis Sativa)

Botany

Breeding Experiments

Cultivation

Harvesting

Yield

Retting

Breaking and Scutching

Hemp in China

Hemp in Chile

Quality of Hemp

Properties and Uses of Hemp

4. LIME FAMILY (TITLIACEAE)

Jute (Corchorus Capsularis and C. Olitorius)
Cultivation
Soil
Preparation of the Soil
Sowing
Varieties
Harvesting
Retting
Extraction of Fibre
Cost of Production
Jute in Brazil
Jute in China
Production in Taiwan
Experiments on Mechanized Production of Jute
Varieties
Cultivation
Harvesting
Ribboning
Scutching
Retting
Washing
Drying and Storage
Sorting and Grading
Production of Jute in Other Countries
Burma
U.S.S.R
Borneo
Malaya
Philippines
Thailand
Nepal
Vietnam
Iran
Peru
Miscellaneous Countries
Sorting and Grading of Jute
Uses of Jute
The Jute Trade
Triumfetta Species
•

Honckeny Ficifolia

Funga Fibre (Cephalonema Polyandrum)

5. MALLOW FAMILY (MALVACEAE)

Knaf (Hibicus Cannabinus)

Varieties

Sowing

Harvesting

Growth Phases

Retting

Pests and Diseases

Kenaf in India

Kenaf Production in Various Other Countries

Argentina

China

Egypt

Guatemala

Haiti

Italy

Mexico

Mozamibque

North Africa

Papua and New Guinea

Peru

Southern Rhodesia

Spain

Thailand

South Africa

Economics of Kenaf

The Use of Unretted Kenaf Ribbons for Sack Manufacture

Properties of Kenaf

Roselle (Hibiscus Sabdariffa)

Fibres From Other Species of Hibiscus

Urena Lobata

Cultivation

Retting

Yields

Distribution

Labour Requirements in Fibre Preparation

Grading of the Fibre

Properties and Uses

Trade

Abutilon Species

Sida Species

Pavonia Species

Thespesia Species

Miscellaneous Fibre Plants of the Malvaceae

6. NETTLE FAMILY (URTICACEAE)

Ramie (Boehmeria Nivea and its Var. Tenacissima)

Varieties

Soils and Growing Conditions

Planting

Harvesting

Yields

Replanting

Fibre Extraction

Degumming

Problems of Ramie Degumming

Drying

Ramie in China

Varieties in China

The Ramie Industry in Japan

Varieties Grown

Pests and Diseases

Grading of Ramie in Japan

Spinning of the Fibre

Ramie in Taiwan

Ramie in Brazil

Ramie in Other Countries

Uses of Ramie Fibre

Properties of Ramie

The Trade in Ramie

Other Fibre Yielding Plants of the Urticaceae

7. PEA FAMILY (LEGUMINOSAE)

Sunn or Sunn Hemp (Crotalaria Juncea)

Varieties in India

Growing Conditions

Harvesting and Yield

Retting

Washing and Stripping

Preparation of Hanks

Cleaning and Dressing

Grading

Cost of Production

Sunn Hemp in Ceylon

Properties and Uses of Sunn Hemp

Trade and Prices

Spanish Broom (Spartium Junceum)

Sesbanea Aculeata

8. STERCULIA FAMILY (STERCULIACEAE)

Abroma Augusta

Cultivation

Harvesting

Yields

Fibre Extraction

Properties of the Leaf

9. THE MECHANIZED PRODUCTION OF STEM FIBRES

Large Labour Requirements of Non Mechanized Production

Advantages of Mechanized Production

Harvesting Mechanically

Ribboning Machines

Problems of Ribboning

Drying

Retting

Washing

Costs of Mechanized Production

10. AGAVE FAMILY (AGAVACEAE)

Agave Species

Botany

Fibre Yields of Various Species

Breeding Experiments With Agave Species

Nature of the Fibres in the Agave Leaf

Sisal (Agave Sislana)

Cultivation

Climate and Soil

Preparation of the Land **Planting Fertilizers** Harvesting **Yields Decortication and Decorticating Machines** Flume Tow Structure of the Sisal Industry Drying **Artificial Drying Brushing** Grading **Baling** Labour Requirements for Sisal Production **Production in Other Countries Properties of Sisal** Uses of Sisal Trade Henequen (Agave fourcroydes) Cultivation Harvesting Decortication Drying Uses Trade Cantala (Agave Cantala) Cultivation Harvesting Retting Uses Trade Agave Letonae Fibres from other Agave species 11. NARCISSUS FAMILY (AMARYLLIDACEAE) **Furcrea Species** Mauritius Hemp (Furcrea Gigantea Var. Willemettiana)

Yields

Extraction of the Fibre

Retting

Uses of the Fibre in Mauritius

Properties of the Fibre

Furcraea Gigantea

Furcraea Cabuya

Furcraea Macrophylla

Furcraea Andina

Furcraea Humboldtiana

Furcraea Cubensis

Curculigo Species

12. LILY FAMILY (LILIACEAE)

New Zealand Flax (Phorium Tenax)

Production of Phormium in New Zealand

Varieties

Propagation

Cultivation

Diseases, etc.

Harvesting

Stripping

Washing & Bleaching

Scutching

Baling and Grading

Advantages and Disadvantages of Phormium Production

Production and Costs

Phormium Tenax in Argentina

Phorium Tenax in South Africa

Phorium in Other Countries

Properties of Phorium Fibre

Trade

Sansevieria Species

Propagation and Cultivation

Lily Family (Liliaceae)

Extraction of the fibre

Production in Mexico

Other Countries

Yield

Properties

Yucca And Some Relatives

13. PINEAPPLE FAMILY (BROMELIACEAE)

Pineapple Fibre (Ananas Comosus)

Cultivation

Production in the Philippines

Production in Other Countries

Extraction by Machine

Pita Fibre or Silk Grass (Aechmea magdalenae)

Harvesting

Yield

Caroa Fibre (Neoglazovia variegata)

Fibre From Other Members of the Bromeliaceae

14. BANANA FAMILY (MUSACEAE)

Abaca or Manila Hemp (Musa Textilis)

Varieties

Cultivation

Propagation

Diseases and Pests

Harvesting

Extraction of the Fibre

Grading of the Fibre in the Philippines

Production of Abaca in Central America

Cost of Producing Abaca

Production in Borneo

Abaca in Malaya

Canton And Pacol Fibres

Properties of Abaca

Uses

Trade

Fibres From Other Species of Musa and a Related Genus

15. PALM FAMILY (PALMAE)

Coir or Coconut Fibre (Cocos nucifera)

Collection of Fruit

Removal of Husks

Retting

Production of Coir Yarn

Grading of Yarn

Costs of Production

Cost of production of Fibre and Yarn

Mattings

Bristle or Coco Fibre

Dyeing of Coir Fibre

Mattress Fibre and Combings

Production of Coir Fibre in India

Production in the Philippines

Machine Extraction of Coir Fibre

Properties of Coir

Trade

Crin Vegetal (Chamaerops humilis)

Botany

Distribution

The Industry in Morocco

Extraction of the Fibre

Uses of the Fibre

Technical Characteristics

Trade

Tucum Fibre (Bactris Setosa)

Date Palm Fibre (Phoenix Dactylifera)

Doum Fibre (Hyphaene Thebaica)

16. BOMBAX FAMILY (BOMBACACEAE)

Kapok (Ceiba Pentandra)

Soils

Propagation

Yields

Harvesting

Hulling

Drying

Removal of Seeds

Baling

Kapok in India

Collection of the Floss

Preparation

Grading

Baling

Properties of Kapok Fibre

Uses of Kapok

17. MILKWEED FAMILY (ASCLEPIADACEAE)

Akund Floss (Calotropis Procera and C. Gigantea)

Yields

Preparation

Grading and Packing

Trade

Uses

Kendyr Fibre (Apocynum Venetum)

Asclepias Species

18. BRUSH MAKING FIBRES

Fibres Used in Earlier Times

Properties required in Brush Making Fibres

Bahia Piassava (Attalea funifera)

Botany and Germination

Collection and Preparation of the Fibre

Properties and Uses

Para Piassava (Leopoldinia Piassaba)

West African Piassava (Raphia Hookeri and R. Graolis)

Madagascar Piassava (Vonitra Fibrosa)

Mexican fibre (Agave lecheguilla)

Harvesting and Extraction of the Fibre

Cleaning and Grading

Uses

Jaumave Fibre (Agave Funkiana)

Coco Fibre (Cocos Nucifera)

Palmyra or Bassine Fibre (Borassus Flabellifer)

Kitool Fibre (Caryota Urens)

Gomuti Fibre (Arenga Saccharifera)

Broom Root (Muhlenbergia Macroura)

Italian Whisk (Sorghum Vulgare)

Palmetto Fibre (Sabal Palmetto)

19. PAPER MAKING FIBRES

Properties for Paper Making

Treatment for Conversion into Pulp

Wood

Esparto Grass

Collection from Wild Plants in North Africa

Production in Spain

Treatment and Uses

Straw

Bamboo Bagasse Other Materials

20. MISCELLANEOUS FIBRES
Toquilla (Carludovica Palmata)
Preparation For Making Panama Hats
Weaving and Bleaching
Alpinia Chinensis
Polygala Gomesiana And Other Sources or Rope, etc.

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