

# Natural Fibers Handbook with Cultivation & Uses

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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.olitorius*L. (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, CO<sub>2</sub> 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.

# Contents

## 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

Honckenya Ficifolia

Funga Fibre (*Cephalonema Polyandrum*)

#### 5. MALLOW FAMILY (MALVACEAE)

Knaf (*Hibiscus 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  
Mozambique  
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 Sisilana)  
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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