

With warm greetings to all...

The ICAR-Central Research Institute for Jute and Allied Fibres (CRIJAF), Barrackpore, a premier crop research institute of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) under Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), Ministry of Agriculture, GoI is mandated to develop technologies to improve yield and quality of jute and allied fibres. It remains vigilant and responsive to changing scenario through development of novel technologies and by promoting problem-solving knowledge products in this sector. The multi-disciplinary scientific team of the Institute is dedicatedly working now towards development of high quality fibre which can meet the need to make high value diversified products and focusing on many other aspects beyond the traditional use of fibre, rather emphasizing the pharmaceutical, nutraceutical, diversified commercial uses. Research has been emphasized to produce more biomass of sunnhemp with elevated alpha-cellulose content for quality pulp suitable for paper industry. Such approach can save many forest trees which were earlier used traditionally for paper pulp production. Similarly, R & D on ramie and flax fibre crops have potential to match high quality fabrics required for apparel sector. Sisal and jute fibre with greater strength and durability are the potential raw materials for the manufacturing of cordage, geo-textiles and industrial fabrics. These plant based biodegradable natural fibres are the only alternatives which can arrest use of synthetic fibre and can save the environment. Development of ramie and sisal based farming systems by the institute not only conserves soil but also secure the livelihood of tribal farmers in degraded and marginal soils of the country.

Some of the recent measures of Government of India like the Compulsory Packaging Act, policy to ban on 'single use plastics', launching of technology mission on jute, announcement of revised minimum support price of jute every year will definitely give a fillip to the development of jute sector. Integrated technology support for JAF farming coupled with sensitization through skill development for making of jute diversified products and handicrafts among stakeholders especially the farm women will lead to economic empowerment. Consumer awareness towards greater use of biodegradable products linked to Government's Clean India initiatives "Swachha Bharat Programme" will sustain the market demand for jute-based products.

Keeping these points in view, our multi-disciplinary scientific team of the institute are dedicatedly working to develop technologies to improve raw jute and allied fibres productivity and fibre quality. I am confident that our R&D efforts will lead towards inclusive growth of the stakeholders linked to this sector and will continue to support millions of farm families for their livelihood besides mitigating impacts of climate change.

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