about IJSG
A. Jute Sacking and Carry Bags
Yarn made of jute is woven into sacking and carry bags of various sizes, shapes and colors. These are lightweight, easily biodegradable and environment friendly.

B. Home Textile
The exotic fabric made of jute yarn is used to produce decorative textile items like curtains, upholstery, floor coverings, wall hangings, blankets, and other knitwear products, footwear, fashion accessories, etc.

C. Jute Agro Textile
Agro textiles made of jute are used in nursery pots, mulching sheet from jute non-woven, jute tapes and ribbons.

D. Jute Geo Textile
Jute geo textile is used in soil conservation and to check land erosion.

E. Jute Composite
In jute composites, jute mixed with other natural and manmade fibres and other components. Various packaging products, automotive components, building construction materials, toys, garden canopy, garden fences, street lamp stands, window planters, etc. are being made with jute composites.

F. Construction Materials
Protective textile is made from jute which is used as a material on construction projects. Other applications of jute in construction are jute particle boards, sound absorbers, etc.

G. Bio Plastic Products
Bio plastic products made from jute are used just like plastic materials. This can be used to make furniture, house hold items as well as industrial items. The bio plastic is more environment friendly than traditional plastic.

H. Alternative Energy
Jute is used as an alternative source of energy. Jute is used in making fuel cake, activated charcoal, and biomass energy.

I. Food and Pharmaceutical Products
Jute leaves are used as medicine. The other uses include cellulose and cellulose derivatives, products from jute seed oil, oil sorbents, etc.

J. Handicrafts
Various types of handicrafts are made of jute, kenaf and allied fibres. These handicrafts are exported to countries in Europe and Americas where the demand is very high.

K. Pulp and Paper
Jute can be converted to paper pulp and used in place of timber in production of paper and can save thousands of trees from felling.
IJS - An Unique International Commodity Body

The International Jute Study Group (IJS) was constituted in the year 2002 under the auspices of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) as an International Commodity Body (ICB) working for promotion of jute, kenaf and allied fibres. It is the successor organization to erstwhile International Jute Organization (IJO). The group aims to achieve broad development goals of promoting international jute trade through overall development of jute, kenaf and allied fibres; poverty alleviation; women's empowerment; human resource development and promotion of sustainable economic and environmental development. This is the only international commodity body with such a wide and unique mandate.

Objectives & Functions

- To provide an effective framework for international co-operation;
- To promote international trade in jute and jute, kenaf, and other allied fibres and their products;
- To provide a forum for the active participation of the private sector;
- To address issues of poverty alleviation, employment generation and development of human resource, women's empowerment etc.;
- To facilitate improvement of productivity and quality of jute, kenaf, and other allied fibres;
- To promote application of new processes and technologies;
- To create awareness about jute as an eco-friendly, renewable and bio-degradable natural fibre;
- To formulate, sponsor, implement and supervise projects related to the jute, kenaf, and other allied fibres sectors and help in arrange funds from donor agencies.
IJS Secretariat

The Secretariat of IJSG located in Dhaka, Bangladesh is headed by a Secretary General, who is the Chief Executive Officer of the Group. The Secretariat is supported by a Project Officer, an Operations Officer, Finance and Admin Officer and a small team of highly motivated work force consisting of various technical and support staff.

Governance Structure

The highest authority of the Group is the Council, consisting of all members of the organization which meet at least once a year. The Council takes all policy decisions and approves, annual work plan for the Secretariat.

IJSG has a Committee on Projects (COP) comprising of all members which has been established by the Council to discuss and approve the projects. The Private Sector Consultative Board (PSCB) has been established by the Council of the IJSG which consists of all Associate Members of the Group. The PSCB has been set up to encourage active participation of the private sector and to continue dialogue among experts in the jute industry.

The IJSG, recognized as the most economically managed International Commodity Body (ICB), is run on the contributions from the member countries. The project and non-project activities are funded through project grants from international donor agencies including the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) etc.
Member Countries of the IJSG

Membership of the Group is open to all states (countries) and the European Union. Apart from Bangladesh and India the two largest jute producing countries, IJSG has European Union with its 27 Member States i.e. Denmark, Sweden, Germany, Italy, Greece, Ireland, Austria, Finland, Spain, Portugal, The Netherlands, United Kingdom, France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Bulgaria, Romania as its members. Morocco has recently joined IJSG. Several other countries are actively considering joining the group.

Benefits of the Membership of the IJSG

- Exchange of ideas among producers/exporters and consumers/importers of jute and jute products; access to market intelligence and other statistical details;
- Lending support to the poverty alleviation programs in the least developed countries;
- Access to the technologies developed by IJSG through its projects and activities;
- Opportunity to be part of strategic policy initiatives in the sector and being able to sponsor and participate in projects to be initiated by the IJSG;
- Contribute to the growth of jute as a natural fibre in the global economy to be accelerated by Doha Development Agenda and the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development;
- Participate in the global efforts of the IJSG to cut on carbon emission through replacement of polythene bags by jute bags;
- Establish/maintain trade contacts with the interested governments, non-government institutions, private sector organizations and all other jute, kenaf and allied fibres related agencies.
- Benefit from the member country specific development model for employment generation and poverty alleviation through promotion of jute and allied fibres and their products.

Associate Members

Associate Membership of the Group is open to those organizations and entities that are not entitled to full membership. This includes all trade and business associations, companies, jute and allied fibres related industries, research and development institutes, government and semi-government agencies, NGOs and other entities concerned with the development of jute and allied natural fibres products. Currently the IJSG has 170 associate members with representation from Australia, Bangladesh, China, India, Ivory Coast, Japan, Jordan, Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Russia, Switzerland, Syria, The Netherlands, United Arab Emirates (UAE), United Kingdom (UK) and Vietnam, Brazil.
Associate Membership Profile

International Partnerships
The IJSG has Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with various international organizations and bodies and works closely with the member countries, the associate members and all the major development partners for achieving sustainable development, poverty alleviation, income generation and promoting environmental consciousness.

Some Major Development Partners of the IJSG:

1. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
2. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
3. The Common Fund for Commodities (CFC)
4. The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
5. Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRADAP)
6. The Institute of Natural Fibres and Medicinal Plants (INF&MP), Poland
7. National Centre for Design and Product Development (NCDPD), India
8. Develop Natural Fibre Initiative (DNFI)
**IJSG - An International Reference and Resource Centre**

IJSG is an International Reference and Resource Centre for all matters connected with jute, kenaf and allied natural fibres. It has a rich collection of project reports, studies and research reference and IJSG collates, organizes and disseminates this information to all member countries and associate members and those involved in the development of jute and kenaf and allied fibres. IJSG has its website - www.jute.org which is being updated regularly. This online resource provides necessary information on the global jute scenario to the jute producers and consumers, researchers, policy planners, people involved in trade and commerce and is the most updated and comprehensive resource centre for these fibres on the net.

**Internship**

A highly popular Internship program is offered by the IJSG Secretariat to the local and foreign students aspiring to work/study on various aspects of jute, kenaf and allied fibres/products.

**Our Publications**

The IJSG Secretariat collects and disseminates data and information on all issues affecting jute and jute products. There is an agreement with FAO to use their half-yearly statistical bulletin on Jute, Kenaf and Allied Fibres. The IJSG Secretariat presents to its Council a yearly review of world jute economy.

A specialized book on fundamentals of jute has been published by the IJSG named 'Jute Basics'. It is intended to be a hand book on jute.

IJSG has published a report on the proceedings of the International Seminar on Strengthening of Collaboration for Jute, Kenaf & Allied Fibres Research and Development.

A specialized publication on contemporary matters and issues of the sector is published under the name 'Jute Matters'. IJSG publishes its Annual Reports regularly in the beginning of jute year (in July). All these publications are available at Group's website and downloadable.
Projects (till April - 2012)

✓ Making Paper Pulp from Green Jute/ Kenaf (the Whole Plant) technologies developed with the application of enzymes and outcomes are disseminated.
✓ A Road Map for Jute developed and the recommendations being implemented by appropriate authorities/agencies.
✓ A common Harmonized System (HS) Codes for Jute and Jute products prepared and being implemented.
✓ An IJO Standard 98/01 (Revised) including Standard Sampling and Testing Methods for determination of unsaponifiables in food grade jute bags published.
✓ Design and technical support provided through Design Workshops for jute diversified products including floor coverings to the JDP producers of India and Bangladesh to create opportunity, improve market prospects and facilitate marketing of the products.
✓ A study to assess residual silica/silicate in raw jute and remedial measures for its elimination/reduction for facilitating use of raw jute in the manufacture of high quality specialty papers conducted and a Protocol prepared.
✓ To produce Jute Polypropyllin granules, to mould these granules into making jute based composite materials and to carry out an evaluation / need assessment for jute reinforced polyolefin products for market development, a project has been implemented by Agro-technology & Food Sciences Group, The Netherlands.
✓ Metallic card clothing for jute cards prepared, installed and its effectiveness assessed in a private jute mill in India.
✓ Improved retting technique for upgrading the quality of jute/kenaf/mesta disseminated through demonstration training at the farmers' fields in India and Bangladesh.
✓ The project - Small Scale Entrepreneurship Development in Diversified Products implemented in Bangladesh and India for generation and enhancement of rural income and empowerment of village women folks involved in diversified jute sector.
**Major Activities : (till April - 2012)**

- The IJSG Display Centre upgraded with new products of jute/kenaf to stimulate interest and attraction and provide information to the visitors.
- Proactive observance of the International Year of Natural Fibres 2009, declared by United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).
- Training on Design and Product Development for artisans and designers, in collaboration with National Center of Design and Product Development (NCDPD) India held in Dhaka, Bangladesh and Chennai, India.
- Skill Development Training for personnel in jute mills held on Spinning and Weaving modules for trainees from Bangladesh, Nepal & Pakistan.
- An International Research and Development seminar and publications of papers.
- An Interactive CD containing agricultural, industrial socio-economic and environmental aspects of jute including directory of suppliers prepared for generic promotion of jute.
- A Video Film on Jute to highlight the importance of the versatile fibre and also to draw attention of the audience about the environmental advantages of the fibre prepared and distributed.
- In one decade, IJSG has had 09 international seminars/workshops and 12 meetings of PSCB in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Vietnam, China & Turkey.

**Projects under implementation (May 2012)**

- A project entitled - "Increased Production Efficiency in Small-holder Kenaf Production Systems for specific Industrial Applications" being implemented in Bangladesh, Malaysia and China.
- The project - "Development and Application of Potentially Important Jute Geo-textiles" being implemented in India and Bangladesh.

**Ongoing Projects/Studies**

- Proposal for Eco-labeling and Disposal Protocol of jute and jute products.
- Preparing an action plan to facilitate earning of carbon credits through jute and kenaf production and manufacturing by adoption of eco-friendly technologies.
- Project proposal to adopt various knitting weaving and stitching technologies to prepare low cost, flexible and versatile jute fabric and bags for replacing polythene carrier bags.
- Preparing strategic action plan for meeting out future demand for jute shopping bags if and when polythene bags are banned in European Union.
- HYV Seed project: An ambition project to achieve a quantum jump in production of jute through speedy adoption of High Yielding Varieties (HYV) of jute seeds in major jute producing countries- Bangladesh, India and Nepal.
- Development of HS Codes for new products of jute.
- Studying the comparative benefits / drawbacks of 'bio-polythenes' and 'bio-plastics' being made out of plant derivatives vis. a. vis jute / kenaf products in terms of environmental footprints and the implications for global food security.
- Projects on different inter-fibre blending to make exotic and new products.
- Strategic action plan to provide, for the future demand for 'food grade jute bags'.
- Strategic action plan to promote jute composites in automobile and infrastructure sectors.
"Jute Girl" of Bangladesh

Ms. Asma Mahabub Moni, a young and courageous woman from a village named Jhenaidah, Bangladesh, started production of handicrafts in 1998. In 2004, she initiated a small jute enterprise named "Suchili Jute Handicrafts". She first introduced her jute products in the diversified jute goods exhibition and fair at Mymensing, organized by the Small Scale Entrepreneurship Development Project of IJSG, and then in the Dhaka International Trade Fair-2007 under the IJSG project. In Dhaka Trade Fair, her innovative and exclusive jute products grasped the attention of several foreign buyers along with the local traders. She never looked back since then. She is now the Chairperson of Suchili Jute Multi Products (BD) Ltd. with annual turnover around BDT 36 lakh (USD 45,000). Now, she operates 20 sewing machines and 14 handlooms and about 350 people works under her management. She exports the JDPS to United Kingdom and South Korea. She is also the member of National Jute Commission of Bangladesh and Associate Member of the IJSG. For the remarkable effort in jute sector, she is popularly known as "Jute Girl of Bangladesh". She has become an ideal of inspiration to the unemployed youths of her locality.

Monowara and women's empowerment

Ms. Monowara Khanam, a typical rural woman from Bangladesh, believes that sincerity and courage brings success in life. She started struggling to establish a venture with only one sewing machine at very young age. She started selling her products throughout the country and simultaneously participated in all the fairs and exhibitions of the Small Scale Project of IJSG. At present her business enterprise "Bina Handicrafts" has 18 sewing machines and 23 workers. Her annual turnover is around BDT 16 lakh (USD 20,000) and she has entered into Japanese markets with the latest diversified products of jute. She established another organization named Association for Women and Children (AWC) in 1998 in order to fight against deprivation of women and children of rural and slum areas of Bangladesh. Bina Handicrafts also has a "training centre" which can accommodate 30 trainees at a time at its premises in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Monowara's story indeed is a tale of women's empowerment.
Making of an 'Entrepreneur'

Mr. Ajit Kumar Das, a secondary school certificate holder, started working in power looms and cotton mills in 1980 and subsequently he initiated a small entreprenre with four handlooms and two sewing machines in his village named Kukurmara. Mr. Ajit completed the skill and product development trainings under the IJSG project and then started participating in exhibitions and fairs organized under the project and also by the govt. and private organizations. That exposure as well as his quality jute products helped him to sell his products in the local and city markets. At present his designed fabrics and products are being exported to Canada, Germany and America. Mr. Ajit is now the Proprietor of the "Creative Jute Textile Products" and operates 40 handlooms, 4 power-looms, 20 sewing machines and a wet processing plant at his Mill and employs 65 workers on regular basis. His annual turnover is about BDT 7-8 million and he produces about 10,000 jute bags and 12,000 yards of Jute Fabrics annually. He owns his success to SSED project of IJSG.

Making of a self help group-'BAPU'

In 2006, 45 women joined in hands together to struggle against poverty and to change their fates. Their resolve brought into life "Bhabna Association for People's Upliftment (BAPU)" in Berhampur, India through the support of the project 'Small Scale Entrepreneurship Development' of IJSG. The project taught the group how to revolve their efforts and resources to enhance their productivity, marketing, and sales. The group completed the trainings on producing loom based door mats, bleaching & dyeing of raw jute & jute yarn, jute fabric (basic & advance), jute ornaments, bags, footwear and printing jute bags & fabric. The group was formed with a vision to establish themselves as a self employed group.
Side by side this group availed the opportunity of marketing support provided by the project through participating in various fairs and exhibitions in Bangladesh and India. With the successful implementation of the skills learned from the project, at present, the group reached a level of earning about USD 24,336 per year and average income of the individuals rose up to USD 284. The SSED project of the IJSG has led to making of several such groups in Bangladesh and India.
Towards a 'Green Future'
(Jute ... Its Promises)

✓ During 120 days of jute-growing period one hectare of jute plants can absorb about 15 MT of CO₂ from atmosphere and release 11 MT of O₂. During a single growing cycle, each hectare of kenaf absorbs the amount of CO₂ equivalent to exhaust by 20 cars in a year.

✓ At this moment about 46,000 pieces of plastic are floating in every square kilometer of ocean worldwide. Several thousands of seabirds and mammals die annually from ingestion of these plastics bags.

✓ It has been estimated that annual global consumption of polythene bags is approximately 500 billion to 1 trillion pieces. If in a country such as Ireland, with approximately 1.23 million shoppers, 50% of plastic bag users switch to natural fibres, 15,100 MT of CO₂ emissions would be saved every year.

✓ An average European citizen consumes about 500 plastic carrier bags per year totaling the weight of 3.4 million tonnes in the year 2008 which is equivalent to 2 million passenger cars in Europe.

✓ IJSN is the only international commodity body which works directly for poverty alleviation, women’s empowerment and sustainable development apart from its commodity promotion role.

✓ All major global auto manufacturers like Marcedez Benz, Daimler Chrysler, Ford Motors, Toyota, Hyundai and Suzuki are using 10 to 20 kg of jute and other natural fibres per car. With 53 million vehicles being produced globally every year, 2.65 to 5.3 thousand tons of natural fibre (jute) will be required in future.

✓ The present annual jute geo textile market is about 53 million square kilometers.

✓ About 32 million food grade jute bags are required to meet the demand from the production and trade of ‘sustainable’ coffee and cocoa beans. The present supply of such bags is only 12 million bags.

✓ Global demand for paper and paperboard would become 490 million per year by 2020 requiring felling of an average 1,900 million trees. Jute pulp paper can save many of these trees.