

**RESTRICTED**  
**IJSG/CP(XIII)/9**  
**July 9, 2012**

## **Thirteenth Meeting of the Committee on Projects (COP)**

**May 14, 2012 (Monday)**

**IJSG Secretariat, Dhaka, Bangladesh**

**Report of the Thirteenth Meeting of the Committee on Projects (COP)**  
**of the International Jute Study Group (IJSG)**

**A. Opening of the Meeting**

1. The Thirteenth Meeting of the Committee on Projects (COP) of IJSG was held on May 14, 2012 at the IJSG Secretariat, Dhaka, Bangladesh. The Chairperson, Ms. Shameema Sultana, Additional Secretary (Policy), Ministry of Textiles & Jute, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, opened the meeting and welcomed the distinguished delegates of the Member countries, Associate Members and Observers in the Thirteenth Meeting of the COP.
2. At the outset the Chairperson thanked and expressed her gratitude to all the delegates for attending the meeting. She extended her sincere appreciation to the participants especially those coming from abroad to attend the COP meeting.

**A.1. Ascertainment of Quorum**

3. The quorum for the meeting was ascertained and the required number of Members from Bangladesh, India and European Union was found present.

**A.2. Adoption of Agenda and Organisation of Work**

4. The Secretary General drew the attention of the delegates to the Agenda of the Meeting as contained in **Document IJSG/CP(XIII)/1 Rev. 2** and requested for comments / suggestions relating to the agenda. The Committee adopted the agenda, which is reproduced in **Annex II** of this report. An updated list of documents pertaining to this meeting is given in **Annex III**.

**A.3. Statement by the Chairperson, Committee on Projects (COP)**

5. In her opening statement, the Chairperson, Ms. Shameema Sultana, appreciated the IJSG Secretariat for the continuous efforts in developing and modernizing the jute and allied natural fibre and the sector through implementing various feasible projects and activities. Ms. Sultana appreciated Mr. Bhupendra Singh, the Secretary General of IJSG, for his strong headship through which the activities of IJSG are significantly impacting upon the millions of livelihoods, women entrepreneurship, poverty alleviation and international cooperation of the Jute, Kenaf and Allied Fibre (JKAF) sector. She congratulated the Secretary General as well as the IJSG for the recent achievements having "Morocco" as full member of IJSG and for "Turkey" intending to join IJSG as another full member. The Chairperson also appreciated the escalating numbers of the associate member of IJSG.
6. The Chairperson remarked that despite the global concern of the environmental advantages of the natural fibres jute is still under threat. The sector is still burdened with the shortage of high quality fibre of jute and obsolete processing technology and machinery. The growing global concern for greening and increasing consumer preference for biodegradable natural fibre products has opened up a great opportunity for various diversified products of jute. Ms. Sultana opined that this is a breakthrough for us to capitalize upon. The stakeholders should endeavor to highlight the intrinsic benefits of jute as a natural fibre and expand markets for jute and jute products.

7. The Chairperson briefed the committee about the COP meeting agenda. She stated that the agenda is categorized under the sections titled recently completed activities, on-going projects and activities, approved unfunded projects and new proposals for projects and activities along with other business.
8. The Chairperson gladly noted the successful completion and feedbacks of the recently completed activity "*Trainings on Design & Product Development of Fabric based Jute Bags*" in Bangladesh and India during October 24 to November 2, 2011 and December 16 to 23, 2011 respectively since the last COP meeting. About 30 entrepreneurs, artisans, designers, manufacturers of jute bags etc. each in Dhaka, Bangladesh & Chennai, India successfully completed the trainings. The training was conducted by the internationally reputed Trainers of the National Centre for Design and Product Development (NCDPD), India.
9. The Chairperson noted the substantial progress of the two important on-going projects namely "*Development and Application of Potentially Important Jute Geo-textiles (CFC/IJS/21)*"; and "*Increased Production Efficiency in Small-holder Kenaf Production Systems for Specific Industrial Applications (CFC/IJS/25)*". She shared the Committee that this year is going to be a very important year for the Jute Geo-textile project as all the field trials have to be completed within this year i.e., end of 2012. She also suggested the project executing agencies and the participating organizations to take all necessary actions to reach the targets and goals set for the project and thus ensure its completion within stipulated time with achievements.
10. The Chairperson expressed her pleasure learned that, according to the decision of the last COP meeting, this year the IJS Secretariat has submitted two new project proposals to the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) and another concept note to the Switch Asia under the European Union for funding support. These project proposals aimed at addressing some very important as well as critical issues of the sector e.g., development of Jute seed entrepreneurs through regional cooperation, strengthening of Jute bags value chain and its market promotion, and developments of innovative jute carry bags through adoption of non-conventional technologies.
11. The Chairperson mentioned that the objectives of IJS would be better realized only when the results of the activities and projects undertaken and completed are disseminated across the jute growing countries thereby facilitating productivity, quality and promotion of the applications of new processes and technologies. There is also a need for sustained monitoring and handholding of the beneficiaries. To this end in view, IJS Secretariat has been continuing to organize seminars/ conference and also the trainings/workshops and skill development programs for the specific interested groups in both Member and non Member countries of IJS.
12. The Chairperson requested earnestly the Committee specially the delegates of Member countries to make a contribution to the Special Account of IJS, which is the main funding source of pre-project, promotional and different other developmental activities, being conducted by IJS for the benefit of the jute sector.

13. The Chairperson concluded her speech with thanks to the honorable members, distinguished observers and valued associate members and participants for their genuine interest towards the IJSG and natural fibres. She hoped that the deliberation of this one day will help charting the future course of actions for the sustainable jute sector and bring out certain milestones for development and be able to initiate the efforts in this direction within a short time frame.

**A.4. Statement by the Secretary General, International Jute Study Group (IJSG)**

14. The Secretary General of IJSG, Mr. Bhupendra Singh, welcomed the Chairperson of the COP and all the delegates and representatives from Members, Associate Members and Observers. He also expressed his gratefulness for the cooperation of the Government of Bangladesh and India specially the Ministry of Textiles and Jute, Bangladesh for assisting IJSG in all IJSG matters.
15. The Secretary General stated that IJSG considers and deals with projects in light of industrial demands, applications, market distributions and identified challenges of the jute, kenaf and allied fibres sectors. He opined that jute is now at the critical phase. The major donor agency of JKAF sector the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) is going to adopt modified procurement rules of “bidding” in funding a new project. They will not accept new project expect it includes the active industrial involvement for its implementation. Mr. Singh underscored the industrial involvement and cooperation in developing and implementing a project in this regard.
16. The Secretary General remarked that the IJSG projects developed on the basis of industrial needs should have been sponsored by the industry stakeholders. He emphasized further the Private Sector to come forward with need based projects and activities. Mr. Singh also commented that no successful synergy from the public-private partner came out through the International R&D Seminar was organized by the IJSG Secretariat on June 8-9, 2011 in Bangladesh. He opined that only one industrial project has been turned up with the Institute of Natural Fibres and Medicinal Plants (INF&MP), Poland in collaboration with the Secretariat. The Secretary General suggested the industry stakeholders to become proactive harnessing these kinds of effectual International platforms brought to them in future.
17. Mr. Bhupendra Singh also requested the project proponents to formulate new projects and activities on the basis of current needs of jute sector as the new and potential members of IJSG – Morocco and Turkey may involve into the projects.
18. The Secretary General shared the current focus of IJSG to the Committee. Mr. Singh stated that the Secretariat is working out three Strategy Action Plans (SAP) on jute geo-textile, food grade jute bag and biocomposites in the automobile and infrastructure sectors. The IJSG Secretariat intends to suggest the SAPs to the jute producing Governments for the systemized growth of these recent novel sectors of jute.
19. In the concluding remarks, the Secretary General mentioned that the agenda of the 13<sup>th</sup> COP meeting documented the completed and on-going projects and activities of IJSG and also

included some new projects. He requested the Committee for going through the agenda and share their valuable views and comments. He stated that the decisions, suggestions, recommendations of the Committee regarding this agenda is documented in the Record of Recommendations/Decisions of the Thirteenth Meeting of the Committee on Projects (COP), provided in **the Document IJSG/CP(XIII)/8** and in the **Annex IV** in this report.

#### **B. Review of the Projects and Activities**

20. The IJSG Secretariat presented the report on the recently completed activities in **Document IJSG/CP(XIII)/2**. The agenda discussed the exclusive activity of IJSG accomplished since last COP meeting held in September 2011. The activity titled as *Trainings on Design & Product Development of Fabric based Jute Bags in Bangladesh and India* during October 24-November 2, 2011 and December 16-23, 2011 respectively. The Committee noted with satisfaction the successful completion of the above activity and suggested IJSG to get the training impacts from the trainees as the usefulness of these kinds of exclusive trainings may perceive.
21. IJSG Secretariat placed the status of on-going projects in **Document IJSG/CP(XIII)/3**. At present, three projects are being supervised by the IJSG Secretariat "*Development and Application of Potentially Important Jute Geo-textiles (CFC/IJSG/21)*", "*Increased Production Efficiency in Small-holder Kenaf Production Systems for Specific Industrial Applications (CFC/IJSG/25)*" and "*Small-Scale Entrepreneurship Development in Diversified Jute Products (CFC/IJSG/18)*".
22. The Committee noted the progress of the jute geo-textiles project and suggested to put best efforts to complete all field trials activities within 2012 and also emphasized upon focusing on the standardization of the jute geo-textiles for the international markets. Mr. S. Zaheer Abbas, Technical Advisor of Pakistan Jute Mills Association (PJMA), remarked about the shortage of specific standards on the uses of the jute geo-textiles in the markets. He requested the project partners as well as IJSG to consider the matter and formulate the specific standards of jute geo-textiles through this project. Dr. Latifa Binte Lutfar, Operations Officer of IJSG, informed the committee that the project has already established a "Standardization Committee" working with the objective to standardize nationally and internationally the jute geo-textiles for specific purposes. Dr. Lutfar also hoped that the suitable standards for jute geo-textiles will come up in the markets through this project.
23. The Committee took note of the progress of the project "*Increased Production Efficiency in Small-holder Kenaf Production Systems for Specific Industrial Applications*". Mr. Abbas, Technical Advisor of PJMA commented that Pakistan has recently started growing kenaf; but, the problem they always face in growing jute or kenaf fibre is "retting". He informed that Pakistan has developed a retting technology that utilizes minimum freshwater resources for retting and the technology also ensures the good quality of fibres. He also made an example of Israel which grows kenaf to produce the oil seed and gets fibres as the by-product. He stated that the project partners may utilize these available technologies from Pakistan and Israel in this project, if necessary and also disseminate the project outcomes to them. Dr. Lutfar from IJSG replied that the IJSG Secretariat intends to disseminate the results and outcomes of

projects to all member countries and the related entities of the project. Dr. Lutfar informed the Committee that this project also aims to develop a separate kenaf grading system in addition.

24. The IJSG Secretariat presented the status of on-going activities in **Document IJSG/CP(XIII)/4**. The agenda contained significant on-going activities of IJSG viz. *“Collaborative Action Research Project of Women Rural Artisan on Jute Handicrafts for their Improvement of Livelihoods”*, *“Common HS Codes for Jute and Jute Products including Product Description”*, *“Earning Carbon Credit through Jute Cultivation”*, *“Seminars/Workshops in any Prospective Member Countries”* and *“Skill Development of Supervisors and Technologists of Jute Industry”*. The Committee took note the updates of the on-going activities.

Collaborative Action Research Project of Women Rural Artisan on Jute Handicrafts for their Improvement of Livelihoods

25. The Committee noted the status of the activity and suggested IJSG to take up the similar training for the rural women in different areas of Bangladesh/India in future. Mr. Hossain Shahbaz, Director, Pilot Projects Development of Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) and the collaborating organization of the activity, shared the Committee that the skill development training phase of the activity has been completed. The monitoring phase of the training is going on. Mr. Shahbaz also informed that IJSG and CIRDAP provided some technical supports to the trainees i.e., seed money to purchase the raw materials and accessories and donated two sewing machines so as to apply their acquired handicraft’s skill and build their connectivity to the markets. He also opined that CIRDAP intends to continue this kind of training with high skill upgradation for the rural specially women. One delegate from Industry stakeholder requested IJSG and CIRDAP for the peer monitoring of the training impacts on the real livelihoods. He also suggested that this activity may also be considered collaborating with the Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs) like Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC) to utilize the trained women in the large scale and regular production of jute handicrafts and get the products into the local, regional and export markets.
26. Mohammad Hossain, Director (Agriculture) of Bangladesh Jute Research Institution (BJRI) commented that most of the on-going activities of IJSG are serving the industrial purposes. He requested IJSG to take up the programmes based on agriculture like training and workshop on the cultivation problems e.g., retting, marketing facilities, equity of price etc of jute.

Common HS Codes for Jute and Jute Products including Product Description

27. The Committee noted the status regarding updating the common HS codes for new jute products and suggested IJSG to follow-up with the NJB, India and PJMA, Pakistan for the latest product list. From Indian Delegation, Mr. Raja Roy, Assistant Jute Commissioner of Ministry of Textiles remarked that it is an in-time approach as the existing HS code does not codify all the latest jute diversified products though many of the traditional products have a specific code. He also opined that if needed, the 6-digit HS codes may have to be increased into 8-digit codes

for the better marketing. He also shared that India is also working in updating the HS codes for all the jute products. He assured the Committee that he will be in connection with the National Jute Board (NJB), India regarding early updating of the HS codes of India.

#### Earning Carbon Credit through Jute Cultivation

28. The Committee noted the status of the agenda. The IJSG Secretariat informed the Committee that the Secretariat intends to develop another SAP on ensuring sustainability in the jute supply chain. This “Sustainable Jute Initiative” will explore the earning of carbon credit at together.

#### Skill Development of Supervisors and Technologists of Jute Industry

29. The Committee noted the status of the agenda and suggested IJSG to request the jute industry for funding for the training program. In this regard, the Secretary General remarked that the present contribution from the industry stakeholders for the training is about 5-10% of the total budget of the training. He also stated it is difficult to organize these kinds of trainings without having more contribution. In response, the industry stakeholders shared that they are ready to increase their contributions for the continuation of the trainings.
30. The IJSG Secretariat placed the updates of the approved unfunded projects in **Document IJSG/CP(XIII)/5**.

#### Commercial Application of Effective Simultaneous Dyeing and Finishing Method for Jute, Jute-Cotton Union and Jute-Cotton Blended Fabrics with Reactive Dyes

31. The Committee noted the comments of the delegates and suggested BJRI to send the revised project proposal with minimum possible cost. Dr. Lutfar from the IJSG remarked that as the prerequisite of high cost machinery like Stenter, which most of the factories in Bangladesh do not have, may discourage industries to adopt this method mentioned in the project. BJRI was requested to suggest alternate machinery/equipments that are available to the industries and keep the infrastructure and machinery to a minimum. In this regard, Dr. Prabir Ray, Director of Indian Jute Industries' Research Association (IJIRA) opined that certain dyeing and finishing method can be operated without this high cost machine, Stenter, but this technology will have a versatile line if the Stenter machine is used.

#### Development of Rapid Test Method for Determination of Unsaponifiables in Food Grade Jute Products

32. The Committee noting the comments of the delegates suggested continuing with the project as it is important for the jute industry. The Committee also suggested sending the proposal to the Governments of Bangladesh & India; and Jute Associations to share the cost of the project. Dr. Lutfar, Operations Officer of the IJSG Secretariat shared the committee that as informed in the industry meeting (was organized by IJSG on January 17, 2012), the Secretariat has been searching the similar techniques/machines in BJRI, Bangladesh University of Engineering and

Technology (BUET) and Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE). Unfortunately this similar techniques/ machines are likely unavailable in Bangladesh. The project proponent IJIRA commented that most of the existing determination methods are destructive methods. The project idea is to develop a non-destructive quick method to determine the oil or other unsaponifiable matters during the processing in the mills.

33. Mr. Abbas from PJMA remarked on the titled of the project and suggested to modify it. The Bangladesh Delegation also agreed for the amendment of the project title.
34. Mr. Roy from Indian Delegation shared their position in funding the project. He opined that industry should spend their budget on this kind of project as the project will be actually benefited to the industries. The Government of India will also consider contributing the project after observing the involvement of industries from India and Bangladesh. In funding this project, the Secretary General of IJSG suggested the Committee that the Government of Bangladesh and India should contribute 25% each of the total requirement and the industry associations from these two countries will share USD 20,000 each of the budget cost.

Introductory Work on Jute-Thermoplastic Components for Automotive and other Continuous Profile Applications

35. The Committee took note of the project's status. Zillul Hye Razi, Trade Advisor from the EU Delegation remarked that the major automobile companies Mercedes benz, BMW and Volkswagen have been doing the similar biocomposite activities since long. He concerned about the re-invention of the same product/technique through this project. The Secretary General replied on the query that the project actually aims to demonstrate the practical applications of the old biocomposite technology. There is no way of the re-invention of the technology.

**C. Consideration of New Proposals**

36. The IJSG Secretariat presented new proposals for projects in **Document IJSG/CP(XIII)/6**. The agenda included three new project proposals viz. *“Development of Production Consumption System in Ramie (Boehmeria nivea L. Gaud.) for Long-term Livelihood Security of Farmers”*, *“Enhanced Sunnhemp Production through an Integrated and Self sustaining Model of Location Specific Production Technology of Sunnhemp* and *“Productivity Enhancement in Flax fibre Crop through Technological Intervention for Profitable Flax Cultivation in India”*.
37. The committee suggested IJSG Secretariat to get the views from the counterpart organisations in Bangladesh and advised to put the projects for the guidance of the Council in its next meeting. The BJRI showed their interest to involve in the project *“Productivity Enhancement in Flax fibre Crop through Technological Intervention for Profitable Flax Cultivation in India”* as far as the natural fibre flax is concerned. The BJRI shared that they may also involve in the ramie project but showed unwillingness to participate in the sunnhemp project. Dr. Lutfar requested BJRI to revise the inflated budget and modify the components according to the defined format in collaboration with the proponent, Central Research Institute for Jute Allied Fibres (CRIJAF), India.

**D. Review of the Special Account**

38. The IJSG Secretariat presented the review of the special account in **Document IJSG/CP(XIII)/7** for information of the COP. The IJSG Secretariat briefed the Committee about the Special Account where the fund is available for supporting the projects and activities taken up by the IJSG.
39. The Committee took note of the position of the Special Account.

**E. Other Business**

40. The Secretary General of IJSG asked the Members whether they have any other suggestions in the present agenda where IJSG needs to look into or to be recommended to the Council.
41. The Committee observed no related issues in this agenda.

**F. Consideration of Recommendations to be submitted to the Council of the IJSG**

42. The Committee requested the Council to suggest ways for finding resources for important projects and activities particularly in view of the inadequacy of financial support from donor agencies.
43. The Committee suggested to place the full fledged project proposal as described in the paragraph 12 of the "Record of Recommendations / Decisions of the Thirteenth COP Meeting".
44. The Committee suggested to discuss the new proposals on Ramie, Sunnhemp and Flax as described in the paragraph 19, 20 & 21 of the "Record of Recommendations / Decisions of the Thirteenth COP Meeting".
45. The Committee requested the Secretariat to place this record of recommendations /decisions of the Thirteenth meeting of the COP [**Doc. IJSG/CP(XIII)/8**] before the Council at its next Session for information.

**G. Election of the Chairperson and the Vice–Chairperson for the Jute Year 2012-2013**

46. The COP proposed for continuation of the present Chairperson and Vice Chairperson for another jute year 2012-2013. The Committee unanimously decided to continue with the Additional Secretary (Policy), Ministry of Textiles & Jute, Government of Bangladesh as the Chairperson and the Jute Commissioner, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, as the Vice-Chairperson of COP for the jute year 2012 – 2013.

**H. Dates of the Fourteenth Meeting of the COP**

47. The Committee authorized the Secretary General, IJSG to fix a suitable date possibly in the end of December of 2012 for the Fourteenth Meeting of the COP in consultation with the Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson of the COP and inform all in due time.
48. The Committee adopted the Record of Recommendations/Decisions of the Thirteenth meeting of the COP as contained in **Document IJSG/CP(XIII)/8**.
49. The Committee requested the IJSG Secretariat to circulate the full Report of the Thirteenth COP meeting to all Members, Associate Members and Observers in **Document IJSG/CP(XIII)/9**.

**I. List of Annexes**

Annex I	-	List of Participants
Annex II	-	Adopted Agenda of the Thirteenth COP Meeting
Annex III	-	List of Documents of the Thirteenth COP Meeting
Annex IV	-	Record of Recommendations/Decisions

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