



INTERNATIONAL JUTE STUDY GROUP
আন্তর্জাতিক জুট গবেষণা গ্রুপ



IJSG at a glance





INTERNATIONAL JUTE STUDY GROUP (IJSG) is an intergovernmental body set up under the aegis of UNCTAD to function as the International Commodity Body (ICB) for Jute, Kenaf and other Allied Fibres.

The International Jute Study Group (IJSG), the legal successor to the erstwhile International Jute Organisation (IJO), was established on 27 April 2002, to administer the provisions and supervise the operations of the Agreement establishing the Terms of Reference of the International Jute Study Group, 2001. The organisation is the outcome of a series of meetings and UNCTAD conferences, which commenced in March 2000 in Geneva and concluded in April 2001 also in Geneva.

The IJSG formally entered into force on and from 27 April 2002 with the completion of the process of Definitive Acceptance/Acceptance by Governments of Bangladesh, India, Switzerland, and the European Union representing its 27 member countries and representing over 60% jute trade (import and export).



OBJECTIVES

- ◆ To provide an effective framework for international cooperation, consultation and policy development among members with regard to all relevant aspects of the world jute economy;
- ◆ To promote the expansion of international trade in jute and jute products by maintaining existing markets and by developing new markets, including the introduction of new jute products and the development of new end-uses;
- ◆ To provide a forum for the active participation of the private sector in the development of the jute sector;
- ◆ To address the issues of poverty alleviation, employment and development of human resources, particularly women, in the jute sector;
- ◆ To facilitate the improvement of structural conditions in the jute sector through improvement of productivity and quality, and promotion of the application of new processes and technologies;
- ◆ To create and increase awareness of the beneficial effects of the use of jute as an environmentally friendly, renewable and biodegradable natural fibre;
- ◆ To improve market intelligence with a view to ensuring greater transparency in the international jute market in collaboration with other organizations, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

FUNCTIONS

- ◆ To develop an appropriate strategy for the improvement of the world jute economy with particular emphasis on generic promotion of jute and jute products;
- ◆ To conduct consultations and exchanges of information on the international jute economy;
- ◆ To initiate, sponsor, supervise, monitor, and act as a catalyst with respect to projects and related activities aimed at improving the structural conditions of the world jute economy and the general economic well-being of those employed therein. In exceptional cases, the involvement of the Group in the implementation of projects shall be approved by the Council, provided that this involvement shall not bring about any additional costs for the administrative budget of the Group;
- ◆ To provide and improve statistics and market intelligence on jute and jute-based products in consultation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other appropriate bodies;
- ◆ To undertake studies on various aspects of the world jute economy and related issues; and
- ◆ To consider problems or difficulties which may arise in the international jute economy.

IJSG SECRETARIAT

The Secretariat of IJSG located in Dhaka, Bangladesh is headed by a Secretary General, who is the Chief Administrative Officer. The Secretary General is assisted by a Finance and Administrative Officer who looks after the financial and administrative matters, an Operations Officer who deals with the projects and project related activities of the IJSG, a Consultant who deals mainly with the Private Sector Consultative Board and also project activities and a Media and Information Officer who is in charge of publications and information on jute and jute products. Besides, there are nine supporting staff.

ROLE OF IJSG

The role of IJSG is one of a catalyst and Supervisory Body in case of implementation of projects. IJSG initiates and sponsors new projects, addressing the current problems and new opportunities. The Group disseminates information on completed projects for adoption or commercialisation. The group also disseminates information relating world jute situation and promotion of jute as well.

COLLABORATION WITH MEMBER COUNTRIES

The IJSG Secretariat is active in strengthening cooperation among member countries in developing product descriptions and standards where necessary for jute products. IJSG also addresses specific concerns of member countries to the extent feasible and mandated. IJSG attempts to promote better understanding between various stake-holders of jute/jute products.

WORKING CLOSELY WITH PRIVATE SECTOR

The Private Sector Consultative Board (PSCB) is an important part of the IJSG in view of the increasing role of the private sector. PSCB is an effective forum for private sector initiative and co-ordination.

COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL/BILATERAL AGENCIES

The IJSG is mandated to work in close cooperation with international and bilateral agencies concerned with commodity development, agriculture, trade environment, poverty alleviation, etc.

The IJSG is working closely with Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) in supervising projects funded by CEC and participating in CFC/ICB coordination meetings. IJSG is assisting CFC in developing commodity strategies particularly in the context of the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development.

The IJSG and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations have agreed to strengthen their cooperation through consultation and coordination for the development of Jute, Kenaf, and Allied Fibres. Both organisations signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and agreed to support the efforts of their Members to facilitate jute production, consumption and trade so as to improve the income and food security of jute producers and others associated with the jute industry.



IJSG is working jointly with International Trade Centre - ITC (WTO/UNCTAD), using ITC/UNCTAD resources available for commodity development/market promotion and building awareness about jute/kenaf through ITC/UNCTAD.

IJSG - A CENTRE OF INTERNATIONAL REFERENCE AND RESOURCE

IJSG is making efforts to make its Headquarters an International Reference and Resource Centre for all matters especially, connected with jute and kenaf. The Library and Resource Centre set up in the IJSG Headquarters is in full operation since its establishment in 2003. A significant collection of books, reports, technical articles, journals, audio visual materials etc. related to jute and other natural fibres are available here. IJSG has launched its website - www.jute.org which is updated regularly. This online resource provides necessary information about the global jute scenario to the jute producers and consumers, researchers, policy planners, people involved in trade and commerce and also working in the media and public in general all over the world.

COUNCIL

The highest authority of the Group is the Council, consisting of all members of the organisation which meet at least once a year.

WHO CAN BE MEMBERS OF IJSG?

Membership of the Group is open to all States (Countries) and the European Community which are interested in the production or consumption of or international trade in "jute" or "jute products" and with the agreement of the Council to any intergovernmental organisation having responsibilities in respect of the negotiation, conclusion and application of international agreements.

[According to the Agreement establishing the Terms of Reference of the International Jute Study Group, 2001, for the purpose of these Terms of Reference:

- (a) "Jute" means raw jute, kenaf and other allied fibres, including *Urena lobata*, *Abutilon avicennae* and *cephalonema poiyandrum*;
- (b) "Jute Product" means a product made wholly or almost wholly of jute, or products whose substantial component by weight is jute;]

PRESENT MEMBERS

Bangladesh, India, Switzerland and European Union representing its Member States (27 Countries): 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 and Romania.

WHO CAN BECOME ASSOCIATE MEMBERS OF IJSG

Associate Membership of the Group is open to those organisations and entities who are not entitled to full membership. This includes all associations, companies and other entities concerned with the development of jute.

COMMITTEES

According to the Terms of Reference, the Council has the authority to establish committees to aid in its functions and activities. The Council of the IJSG has established the following committees and bodies:

COMMITTEE ON PROJECTS (COP)

The Committee on Projects (COP) comprising of all members was established by the Council at its first meeting held in 27-30 April 2002. The COP meets normally once a year or in accordance with the guidelines of the Council. It advises the Council on all aspects of projects and related activities in accordance with rules established by the Council. The Council, in certain circumstances, delegates to the COP its power relating to the approval of the projects. The Council, in its first session, delegated its power of approval of projects and related activities to the COP. Normally, project proposals are received by the Secretary General from the Members of the Group which are scrutinised by the Secretariat. The projects are then considered by the COP and if necessary, by the Council for approval and prioritisation.

PRIVATE SECTOR CONSULTATIVE BOARD (PSCB)

The Private Sector Consultative Board (PSCB) was 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 in the work of the Group and to facilitate dialogue among experts in the jute sector and make recommendations to the Council in all matters related to the development of the jute sector. All Associate Members are members of the PSCB. It has 108 members at present with representation from Bangladesh, India, Australia, China, Cote d' Ivoire (Ivory Coast), Japan, Jordan, Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, the Netherlands, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, Syria, Switzerland, UAE, UK, and Vietnam.





PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

- ◆ IJSG has completed "Biotechnological Application of Enzymes for making Paper Pulp from Green Jute/ Kenaf (the Whole Plant)" project and disseminated its findings.
- ◆ IJSG prepared and published "A Road Map for Jute". The recommendations of the Road Map are being implemented by the appropriate authorities/agencies.
- ◆ An IJO Standard 98/01 (revised) with Sampling and Testing Methods for determination of unsaponifiables in Food Grade Jute Bags has been published.
- ◆ Catalogues/Brochures of Jute Diversified Products for Bangladesh and India were printed separately with necessary information, photographs, product code, manufacturers/suppliers list etc.
- ◆ A study conducted to assess residual silica/silicate in raw jute and remedial measures for its elimination/reduction to facilitate use of jute in the manufacture of specialty papers and a Protocol in three languages (English, Bangla & Hindi) were prepared.
- ◆ New metallic card clothing for jute cards was designed, installed and its effectiveness has been 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.

- To produce Jute : PP granules, to mould these granules into making jute based composite materials and to carry out an evaluation / need assessment for jute reinforced polyolefine products for market development, a project has been implemented by Agro-technology & Food Sciences Group, The Netherlands.
- To enhance the profile of natural fibres in the world market, the International Year of Natural Fibres 2009 declared by UNGA has been observed in a befitting manner by IJSG Secretariat.
- "Small Scale Entrepreneurship Development in Diversified Jute Products", a recently completed project, has been implemented in Bangladesh and India for generation of income and empowerment of rural women who are involved in diversified jute sector.
- A core Book on Jute "Jute Basics" containing key information on various aspects of jute has been recently published.
- A project entitled - "Increased Production Efficiency in Small -holder Kenaf Production Systems for specific Industrial Applications" being implemented in Bangladesh, Malaysia and China with the objective of demonstrating the competitiveness of the Kenaf sector and to contribute to the increased incomes from kenaf production.

- ◆ The project - "Development and Application of Potentially Important Jute Geo-textiles" is being implemented in India and Bangladesh to lead to the commercial acceptability of potentially important jute geo-textiles suitable for use in two identified end-uses namely soil erosion control and rural road construction.

Other activities of the IJSG include collection and dissemination of reliable data and information on all factors affecting jute and jute products. IJSG Secretariat presents to its Council a yearly review of world jute economy.

Various Seminars/Workshops/Discussion meets are regularly organised and participated by the IJSG on different trade related, technical and other issues for ultimate development of the sector.

The Group also organises/participates in different international fairs/exhibitions on jute and natural fibres to popularise and create awareness to make the consumer familiar with the innovated new jute products.

The Group, as part of its promotional activities, has produced an interactive CD and a video film on jute and published posters. Besides, the IJSG Secretariat has established a Display Centre and Photo/Art Gallery at its premises as a part of its promotional activities. Products made of jute/kenaf from all over the world are kept there with producers' information. Jute decorative arts, photographs, etc. are displayed in the photo gallery.





Visitors from home and abroad applaud such a step for promoting use of jute and kenaf fibres.

INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME AT THE IJSG

IJSG being an intergovernmental organisation, staffed with experts and having excellent facilities of a Library & Resource Centre, offers internship to local as well as foreign university students aspiring to work/study on various aspects of jute and jute products. This acts as an exposure of the objectives, functions and activities of IJSG as well as the beneficial attributes and potential of jute and jute products to the young generation of home and abroad. The IJSG Secretariat guides and provides the interns hands-on training in doing an in-depth study on jute related topics as well as research activities of IJSG. A number of graduate students from Bangladesh, France and Germany were accepted so far who successfully completed their internship programme at the IJSG.

LET JUTE BE YOUR CHOICE

Jute is a renewable natural fibre which is compatible with the environment and it is considered as a valuable aid for sound environmental management. Jute is biodegradable and it replenishes earth with nutrients. Jute poses no threat to the environment because it emits neither toxic gases nor harmful chemicals. Jute can check soil erosion.

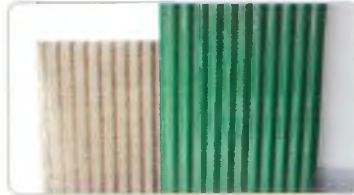
Therefore:

LET US ALL BECOME A LIVING PART OF THE CONSCIOUS WORLD MOVEMENT AGAINST THE ABUSES OF NATURE.

Jute is commercially competitive in numerous applications:



Jute geotextiles



Jute composites (Jutin)



Apparels



Jute jewelry



Handicrafts



Paper products



Jute yarn



Jute bags

LOVE NATURE USE JUTE



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