



NIRJAFT

Newsletter



AN ISO 9001-2015 CERTIFIED INSTITUTE

Volume 21 No 2

April 2018 to September 2018

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DIRECTOR'S DESK

The Government of India procured 7.5 lakh metric tonnes jute bags to fulfil the JPM Act for the packing of 90% of food grains and 20% of sugar in the country in 2017-18. To implement the JPM Act, jute industry prefers to procure medium quality jute fibre and it leads to decrease (<40%) in the production of high quality jute fibre of TDN1 and TDN2 varieties and increase in production of medium quality (>60%) jute fibre. India is the largest producers of jute products in the world followed by Bangladesh; however, among exports of jute products of 10.7 lakh tonnes, Bangladesh was the largest exporter with a share of 78.2 percent followed by India (11.3 percent) and Nepal (6 percent), since Bangladesh produce high quality jute fibre which meet out the requirements of the international customer in terms of jute diversified products. This is the right time to give prominence on product diversification to manufacture new non-conventional products, which are in high demand. With cutting-edge technological developments, government initiatives and scientific community participations, it is now possible to strengthen the efforts towards jute & allied fibres based diversified products in order to accelerate and sustain their growth in medium to long run. This eco-friendly and highly sustainable plant fibres shall not only help the economy but also provide an alternative to environmentally harmful materials such as plastics.

ICAR-NIRJAFT has a multi-disciplinary scientific community and is constantly working in the area of natural fibres like coconut fibre, flax, ramie, yak hair, silk, coarse wool, sisal and banana fibres in addition to jute fibres. Such efforts have been appreciated by the council from time to time and make this institute as a unique hub to develop suitable technologies for natural fibres. I am sure that institute will develop potential technologies for stakeholders' needs and come out with the suitable solutions.

During this period, institute has conducted four NFSM sponsored training programs, eight FLD programs, four self-sponsored training programs, three externally funded training programs and participated in one exhibitions, one Technology Demonstration Mela for the benefit of jute stakeholders. I also complement the editorial team for their efforts in bringing this issue.

Dr. Alok Nath Roy
Director

INSTITUTIONAL ACTIVITIES

IJMA Technical Committee Visit

Four members of Indian Jute Mills Association' Technical Committee led by Shri. S.K.Chandra, Chief Executive (Works), Hooghly Infrastructure Pvt. Limited, Hazinagar, have visited the institute on 19th May 2018. Dr. N.C.Pan, Director (Officiating) welcomed the delegates. Shri. S.K.Chandra stressed upon the grading of jute by developed instrument for the effective utilization of quality jute for the high quality jute products with better remuneration to the farmers. Dr. G.Bose, Principal Scientist & Head, MP Division presented the activities of the institute i.e. services offered, technology developed by the institute, training offered, infrastructure & facilities available, R&D works carried as per market demand.

The Committee had an interaction with the scientists of the institute in the area of jute industries' requirement and had suggested for R&D in the following areas. i.e. (a) Modernization of jute spinning machinery (b) Substitute for the Jute Batching oil (JBO) with better retention of the moisture regain for the development of food grade hessian fabrics ; (c) Implementation of new jute grading; (d) To enhance the quality of baky jute with suitable micro-organism and (e) large scale demonstration of accelerated jute retting process. Director Dr.N.C.Pan has suggested the team to participate such interactive meets once in three months in order to exchange the benefits of the developed potential technologies of the institute to the industry. Dr. G.Bose offered the vote of thanks. After completion of the interactive meet, the team visited the laboratories of the institute.



Scientists at Interactive meet



Presentation by Dr. G.Bose



Demonstration of jute grading



Demonstration of Accelerated retting

Visit of the State Minister

Honorable Shri. Aroop Biswas, Minister of Public Works and Youth Development & Housing, Govt. of West Bengal has visited the institute on June 12, 2018. Honorable Minister addressed the gathering and stressed scientists to develop the potential technologies for the benefit of the jute farmers and jute entrepreneurs. He then visited the institute exhibition stall to know about various products & different technologies. The minister has appreciated the efforts taken by the institute for the development of diversified products and technologies.



Warm welcome & reception to Shri. Aroop Biswas



Demonstration of products to dignitaries

Skill Development Training Programs

Skill development training programmes on “Manufacture of Jute Handicrafts” under Agri-Business Incubation (ABI) project was organized in two batches during August 01-14, 2018 & August 27 – September 10, 2018 respectively.



Address by Shri. Aroop Biswas



Display of jute based handicrafts



Training on jute handicrafts



Certificate distribution to trainee

In the inauguration program, Shri. Aroop Biswas, Honorable Minister for Public Works, Youth Services & Sports, Government of West Bengal graced the occasion as Chief Guest and lauded the efforts made by ICAR-NIRJAFT in imparting skill development training programs & emphasized upon the need of diversification in jute sector. Shri Tapan Dasgupta, Honorable Chairman, Borough-X & Councilor, Ward No. 95, Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) graced the occasion as Guest of Honour and spoken about the importance of jute handicrafts in creating opportunities amongst un-employed youths. Dr. Alok Nath Roy, Director briefed about the skill development programs taken-up by the Institute and their role in developing entrepreneurship in jute sector. Thirty eight progressive female candidates associated with agro-based craft works of Kolkata district, West Bengal have been benefited by these programs. Certificates were distributed to the trainee participants in the valedictory function held on 11th September, 2018.

Farmers' Fair-cum-Technology Demonstration



Inaugural Address by Director



Guests at dais



Interaction with farmers

A Farmers' Fair-cum-Technology Demonstration was organized on September 28, 2018 at institute premises. Dr. A.N. Roy, Director, briefed the farmers about the present scenario of Jute sector in West Bengal and focused the role of ICAR-NIRJAFT in improvement of livelihood of jute growing farmers. Prof. P.K. Das, Ex-Professor, BCKV, West Bengal graced the occasion as Chief Guest and highlighted upon the importance of jute and its by-products. He also discussed about the benefits of adopting these technologies in their profession for increasing of their income and livelihood. Different value added products from jute & allied fibres developed in the Institute were exhibited to the participants. Farmers also visited all divisions to get exposure on different technologies. A quiz competition was also arranged for the participants comprising on different questions on areas of agriculture focused on jute cultivation. About 120 farmers have participated in this programme from different jute growing districts of West Bengal like Murshidabad, Bardwan, Nadia, Howrah, North and South 24 Parganas.



Demonstration of grading



An aerial view of exhibition



Demonstration on bleaching

National Level Training program under NFSM

Four (04) National level training programs on “Production and retting technology of Jute/Mesta/Ramie/Sunnhemp including other related aspects” sponsored by National Food Security Mission (NFSM) - Commercial Crops, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India were organized at the Institute. The details of the duration of the trainings and the participants are given in the table below.

Duration	No. of participants	State from where trainees participated
July 11-13, 2018	25	West Bengal, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh & Uttar Pradesh
July 17-19, 2018	25	Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar & Uttar Pradesh
July 23-25, 2018	25	Odisha, West Bengal, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh & Uttar Pradesh
August 1-3, 2018	25	Meghalaya, Assam, Odisha, West Bengal, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh & Uttar Pradesh

In the inaugural function of the first training programme on 11th July, 2018; Dr. A.N. Roy, Director (Acting) welcomed the participants and briefed about the technologies developed at the Institute for better processing & value addition to jute and allied fibres. Dr. S.K. Biswas, Ex-Director, Directorate of Jute Development graced the occasion as chief guest and highlighted upon the production scenario of jute & allied fibres in India. Shri Jintu Das, Deputy Director, Directorate of Jute Development graced the occasion as guest of honour and spoken about the importance of quality jute for getting better price in the market. The trainees have learned about different post harvest processing & value addition aspects of jute and allied fibres through lecture and live demonstrations. Visit to the different divisions of the institute and the experimental mill was also part of the training programme where the trainees have exposed to various R&D and transfer of technology activities carried out by the institute. Dr. L.K. Nayak, Principal Scientist, ICAR-NIRJAFT, Kolkata & Co-Course Director have coordinated all four training programs.



Dr. Laxmikanta Nayak, welcoming the participants



Address of Director in the inaugural session



Gathering in an inaugural session



Address of guest of honour Dr. K. Manoharan, Director, DJD



Participants of first training program during July 11-13, 2018



Participants of second training program during July 17-19, 2018



Participants of third training program during July 23-25, 2018



Participants of fourth training program during August 01-03, 2018

Front Line Demonstrations



FLD at Shridharpur



FLD at Ranigachi



FLD at Pukuria



FLD at Chakudunga

Front line demonstrations on power ribboner under National Food Security Mission for the year 2018-19 for the dissemination of improved jute retting technology through extraction of ribbons/barks from jute/Mesta plants were conducted at eight (08) different places covering four jute growing districts of West Bengal in collaboration with respective KVKs, and Farmers clubs of West Bengal. About 535 jute/Mesta growing farmers have actively participated during deliberation of a lecture and involved in the operation of the machine for extraction of ribbons from green jute/ Mesta plant. The retting of extracted jute ribbon was conducted in vertical hanging method on bamboo stick in an open ditch and pond. It is found that the jute ribbons were retted within 6-8 days whereas convention whole plant retting required 16-18 days. Queries on ribboning capacity, fibre quality, cost of machine, labour requirement, power consumption and weight of the machine were clarified satisfactorily and some of the farmers showed their interest to adopt the technology.

Sl.No.	Date of Demonstration	Village	Block	District	No. of Participants
1.	20.07.2018	Ranigachi	Bhangur - I	24 Parganas (S)	65
2.	25.07.2018	Pukuria	Chapra	Nadia	105
3.	03.08.2018	Shridharpur	Ranaghat -II	Nadia	55
4.	08.08.2018	Badai	Barasat -I	24 Parganas (N)	50
5.	01.09.2018	Pitamberpur	Chapra	Nadia	110
6.	03.09.2018	Chakudanga	Chakdah	Nadia	45
7.	05.09.2018	Dubramatpara	Chakdaha	Nadia	55
8.	12.09.2018	Rasulpur	Gopalnagar	24 Parganas (N)	50

Self-Sponsored Training Programs

S.No	Training	Duration	No of participants
1	Jute Hand/ Shopping Bags	May 21 to June 02, 2018	18 (10F+08M)
2	Advanced Jute Jewellery	July 16-28, 2018	13 (12F+01M)
3	Bleaching & Dyeing of Jute	August 6-10, 2018	09 (06F+03M)
4	Jute Hand/ Shopping Bags	September 10-25, 2018	18 (09F+09M)

Self-sponsored training programs for the duration of 5 to 14 days in the following areas were conducted in this duration at the institute premises for improving the sustainability of jute entrepreneurship development and self-employment generation. In these training programs, different types of Hand Bags, shopping bags, ladies purse, printed bags, water bottle bags and laptop bags different types of folders were developed from jute fabric by the participants.



Training on Shopping Bags



Successful completion of training



Training on Jute jewellery



Development of laptop bag by trainee



Training on Bleaching & Dyeing



Certificate distribution to trainee

ITMU Activities



Institute Technology Management Unit of the institute has conducted two ITMC meetings on 02.06.2018 and 15.09.2018. ITMU is also facilitated the documentation process of patentable / non-patentable technologies , commercialization of the technology and overview the liaison between Patent Office as well as in the process of new patent filing and follow up old cases.

Patent Filed

1. L. K. Nayak, V. B. Sambhu and S. Debnath. Leaf fibre extractor for extraction of fibres from green sisal leaves (Number 201831015037) filed on 20.04.2018.
2. L. K. Nayak, S. Debnath, V. B. Sambhu and A.Das, A leaf processing device for extraction of fibre from pineapple leaves (Number 201831017352), filed on 08.05.2018.

Library Activities

One-day workshop on theme “Role of library as information tool in modern research” was held on 08.08.2018. Dr. N C. Pan, Director (Officiating), ICAR-NIRJAFT welcomed the participants and highlighted upon the theme of workshop.



Inaugural address by Dr. N.C.Pan



Lighting of lamp by dignitaries

Dr. N. C. Ghosh, Chief Librarian, Indian Institute of Chemical Biology, Kolkata graced the occasion as chief guest and emphasized that workshop is highly valuable for users' awareness as well as for librarians. Dr. Sabuj Kumar Chaudhuri, Assistant Professor (Stage III), Department of Library & Information Science Calcutta University, Chaired the technical session. Three technical papers i.e. “NIRJAFT library at a glance”, “Role of Library and Librarians in Modern Day Research” and “Effective Role and Value Addition by Libraries in R&D Activities” were presented. Dr. Rina Naiya briefed the participants as facilities available in the library, CeRA and highlighted about institute repository etc. Mr. Rabi Sankar Giri, Assistant Librarian and In-Charge of Information Communication technology of Presidency University in his presentation highlighted that how a library assist a researcher, and discussed regarding modern tools use in the field of research. Dr. N. C. Ghosh, Librarian, CSIR- Indian Institute of Chemical Biology, Kolkata discussed about “Plagiarism” and Plagiarism checker tool. Librarians from adjoining research institutes, scientists, technical, administrative staff of ICAR-NIRJAFT have participated in the workshop which was successfully completed with the vote of thanks to the dignitaries on the dais and the participants.

Swachh Bharat Mission Activities

Swachhta workshop under Swachh Bharat mission was organized at the institute on 28th June 2018. Dr. Alok Nath Roy, Director briefed the positive impacts of swachhata both at an individual and societal level. He urged the staff members of the institute to act as catalyst in spreading this campaign for bringing remarkable changes in the society. Dr. Rina Naiya, Nodal Officer, Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan appreciated the whole hearted efforts of all staff members in joining hands for this noble campaign.



Welcome to Dr. T.R. Choudhury



Audience in the workshop

Dr. Tarit Roy Choudhury, Director, School of Environmental Study, Jadavpur University, Kolkata has graced the occasion as Chief Guest and emphasized upon the benefits of clean environment and our responsibilities to keep it safe & green. Dr. S.C. Saha, Senior Scientist offered hearty vote of thanks to the dignitaries on dais and the participants.



Swachhta Hi Sewa awareness in public



Clearing activity by institute's staff

Institute celebrated Swachhta Hi Sewa from 15.9.2018 to 02.10.2018 under Swachh Bharat Mission. On first day, staff members took Swachhta pledge and took participation in cleanliness drive in and around Institute campus. A health check up camp was arranged in collaboration of Apollo Hospital, Kolkata at Institute campus for all staff members. Institute took initiative to dispose the scrap materials of the different divisions, sections, cells. Essay competition among the NIRJAFT staff members and debate competition among the local school students were arranged to increase awareness on Swachhta. Saplings were planted by Director and staff members at Institute campus. Staff members have also participated in a rally with banner on Swachhta in the local area and displayed the posters on various theme of Swachhta for public awareness.



Essay competition on Swachhta Hi Sewa



Medical camp in the Institute' camp



Cleanliness drive by staff at a public place



Planting of a sapling by staff members



Disposal of scrap



Weekly cleaning at DDM Section



Awareness on cleanliness by displaying poster at public



Disposal of old books/newspapers

International Yoga day

Institute celebrated the international yoga day on 6th June 2018. Yoga trainers from World Yoga Society, Kolkata demonstrated different asans such as Bhujangasan, Pabanmuktaasan, Salvasan, Uthhanpadasan, Gomukhasan and Padahastasan; different Mudra i.e. Jalabandha mudra, Sahaj agnisha, Pranyam i.e. Kapalbhati, Ujjai pranyam and Bhamri and Meditation for attaining the stress-free life.



Institute staff participating in the yoga day

ABI-Sponsored training programs

A six days skill development programme on “Manufacture of jute Handicrafts” sponsored by ABI Project has been organized at KVK Jagatsingpur, Odisha from July 2-7, 2018. Twenty (20) ladies associated with agro-based craft works of Jagatsingpur district, Odisha have participated in this programme. Smt. Sujata Mohanty, Chairman, Panchayat Samiti, Tirtol, Jagatsinghpur graced the inaugural occasion as Chief Guest and spoke about the importance of jute-based handicrafts. Shri Balaram Subudhi, Agronomist, DAO, Jagatsinghpur graced the occasion as Guest of Honour and highlighted upon the market demand of jute products.



Inauguration of training programme



Training is in progress

Externally sponsored training programs

Three skill development training programs (12 days duration) on “Jute Handicrafts, Jute Bag Design Development & Bleaching Dyeing” sponsored by Office of Additional Chief Secretary, Co-operation Department, Govt. of West Bengal have been conducted by the institute during the following period at different places.

S.No	Duration & Venue	Venue	Beneficiary
1	July 16 – August 14, 2018	ICAR-NIRJAFT, Kolkata.	25 progressive female farmers of South 24 Parganas district, West Bengal
2	September 10-29, 2018	Coochbehar, West Bengal	25 progressive female farmers of Coochbehar district, West Bengal
3	September 25 – October 12, 2018	Krishnagar, Nadia, West Bengal	25 progressive female farmers of Nadia district, West Bengal



Training on jute handicraft at ICAR-NIRJAFT



Certificate distribution by Shri M.V.Rao, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary



Inauguration of training program at Coochbehar



Training in progress at Coochbehar



Inauguration of training program at Krishnagar



Products developed by participants at Krishnagar

Official Language Activities

The meeting of Official Language Implementation Committee under the chairmanship of Dr. Alok Nath Roy, Director (Acting), NIRJAFT for the first and second quarter were held on 29th June 2018 and 10th September 2018 respectively. The agenda items of the previous meeting were confirmed and new agenda were placed in the meeting.

Hindi Fortnight Celebration

Hindi Fortnight was celebrated in the Institute during 14-29 September, 2018. During this period Quiz competition, Extempore Competition, Debate Competition, Recitation Competition, maximum work in Hindi and Hindi Noting Writing Competition were organized among the staff members of the Institute. During Hindi Fortnight closing ceremony, Prof. (Dr.) Soma Bandyopadhyay, Vice Chancellor, West Bengal University of Teachers Training, Education, Planning and Administration graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Prof. Bandyopadhyay suggested to work more and more in Hindi and appreciated the enthusiasm of the staff members for participating in different competitions during Hindi Fortnight Celebration. Prizes were distributed to the winner of the different competitions organized during this period. Dr. A.N. Roy stressed upon the use of Hindi language to the maximum possible extent by the staff members. Dr. L.K. Nayak, Principal Scientist offered hearty vote of thanks.



Quiz Competition



Extempore competition



Hindi noting & writing competition



Hindi Fortnight Closing Celebration

Hindi Workshop

A Hindi Workshop on Bilingual Policy of the Govt of India and Rajbhasha ke Badhte Kadam was held on 23.06.2018 in which 30 participants (07 Officers and 23 staff members) were participated. Mr RD Sharma, welcomed the participants and Dr. Chandra Gopal Sharma, Ex-Deputy General Manager (OL), Eastern Railway, Kolkata discussed about Dhara 3(3) and bilingual policy of the Govt of India. During the second session Mr. RD Sharma presented the use of Hindi as Official Language before achieving the independence and progressive use of Hindi after independence.

Another Hindi Workshop on Hindi Bhasha ka Saralikaran and Computer par Hindi was held on 25th August 2018 in which twenty nine (29) participants (04 Officers and 25 staff members) were participated. Smt. Rita Bhattacharya, Ex- Chief Manager (official Language), UBI (Bank) delivered lecture on history of Hindi language as well as use of gender, case, number etc. in Hindi. During the second session Mr. RD Sharma had a presentation on "Use of Hindi on computer". During discussion, typing in Hindi on Unicode and typing in Hindi by means of Google Voice Typing Tools was taught to participants.

Meetings attended

- Mr. R.D. Sharma, Assistant Director (OL) attended Special Workshop on Quarterly Progress Report organized by Town Official Language Implementation Committee, Kolkata (Karyalay-2) on 17th July, 2018 at APC Roy Seminar Hall, CSIR-Central Glass and Ceramic Research Institute, 196 Raja S.C. Mullick Road, Jadavpur, Kolkata- 700032.
- Mr. R.D. Sharma, Assistant Director (OL) attended 2nd Half-yearly meeting of Town Official Language Implementation Committee, Kolkata (Karyalay-2), held on 18th September, 2018 at APC Roy Seminar Hall, CSIR-Central Glass and Ceramic Research Institute, 196 Raja S.C. Mullick Road, Jadavpur, Kolkata- 700032.

Participation in Exhibition

Institute has participated and displayed various R&D products developed in the 22nd National Exhibition organized by Central Calcutta Science & Culture Organization for Youth at Milan Samity Maidan, Nimta, Belgharia during August 3-6, 2018. Participants visited the institute stall have expressed their interest on various products and different technologies from jute and allied fibres. Shri. Sujay Das, Scientist has coordinated institute' the participation of institute in the exhibition.

Training on Bleaching

A three days training program on "Bleaching & Dyeing of Jute" have been organized by the institute at Rama Krishna Mission Sargachi, Murshidabad, West Bengal during from 16 to 18 August 2018. In this training program, twenty (20) persons have participated.



*Demonstration of products to dignitaries
at Milan Samity Maidan, Nimta, Belgharia*



*Theory and practical demonstration on
bleaching and dyeing process to trainees*

In-house seminar

Date	Resource person	Topic
27.04.2018	Dr. D.P.Ray	Synthesis and Application of Chemical Compatibilizers to Enhance the Properties of Jute based Biocomposites
04.05.2018	Mr. Amitava Sarkar	Quality Evaluation & Grading of Jute & Mesta Fibres
11.05.2018	Mr. T.K.Kundu, Mrs. I.das, Mr. R.Das, Sh. I. Mustafa & Mr. S.Bhowmick	Grading of Jute Fibres
18.05.2018	Dr. Gautam Basu,	Danger in Science Communication
25.05.2018	Sh. Haokhothang Baite,	Dyeing Process Variables study on Soybean treated Cotton and Jute Fabric
01.06.2018	Dr. Atul Singha	Prospects of Application of Microorganisms in Quality Up-gradation of Jute and allied fibres
15.06.2018	Dr. Purna Chandra Sarkar	The Enigma of Lac
24.08.2018	Dr. Laxmikanta Nayak,	A scutching devise for extraction of fibre from flax stalk

HRD Training

Name	Designation	Training Area	Duration	Venue
Smt. Poonam Kesari	Assistant	Pension & Retirement	September	ICAR-CIFRI,
Shri. Prasun Kumar Nath	Lower Division Clerk	Benefits	03-04, 2018	Barrackpore

Personnel

NEW ENTRANTS					
Name	Post	From	wef	Division	Welcome aboard!
Dr. Nilimesh Mridha	Scientist	IARI, New Delhi	02.07.2018	MP Division	

SUPERANNUATION					
Name	Designation	Date	Division	Happy Retirement Life	
Shri. Dulal Chnadra Sardar	Skilled Supporting Staff	31.08.2018	Adm. III		

Published by

The Director,

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Printer : M/s SKG Media, Kolkata Phone : 4063 3318

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