



Global market for jute and jute products: past, present and future

Jute is one of the most affordable natural fibers and is second only to cotton in amount produced and variety of uses of vegetable fibers. As an environment friendly and 100% bio-degradable fibre, world production of jute is increasing vis-a-vis consumption and trade of jute and jute products are also increasing. Some countries have started to prefer jute products as it is a sustainable alternative to plastic and bio-polythene. Therefore, market for jute and jute products are changing year by year. The major objective of this study is to analyze the past and present market of jute and jute products, and identify the future destination of this market along with products.

Raw jute importing Countries

Figure 1 indicated that, Pakistan, EU and Brazil were top importers

in both the time period. Former USSR, Indonesia, Egypt, USA, Australia, Cote d'Ivoire and Iran were top importers in 1980-2000. India, China, Tunisia, Ethiopia, Thailand, Cuba and El Salvador were top importers in 2001-2011.

Pakistan showed fluctuating trend in import while India and China showed increasing trend. This was mainly due to declining trend in jute production in India and China. Pakistan and China have started to manufacture jute products for domestic use and export. India already implemented mandatory packaging act. They import raw jute mainly to manufacture sacks. EU showed decreasing trend in 1980-2000 and fluctuating trend in 2001-2011. The reduction was due to the fact that there was no jute yarn/ twine

spinning mills left in Europe, they gradually switched to import. Brazil's import was declining because they are producing jute. Volatile price and supply situation was also another reason for such trend. Former USSR, USA, Egypt, Australia, and Iran showed decreasing trend in import because of preferences for low cost synthetic products and embargo volatile supply of jute. On the contrary, declining use of synthetics was the major reason for increasing trend in Cote d'Ivoire, fluctuating trend in Tunisia, Ethiopia and steady trend in Cuba, El Salvador.

Future raw jute importing countries

Import statistics of jute and jute products and their consumption have been considered to forecast about future raw jute importing



Issue Highlights

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Figure 1: Top ten raw jute importer in 1980- 2000 and 2001- 2011 (in '000 MT)

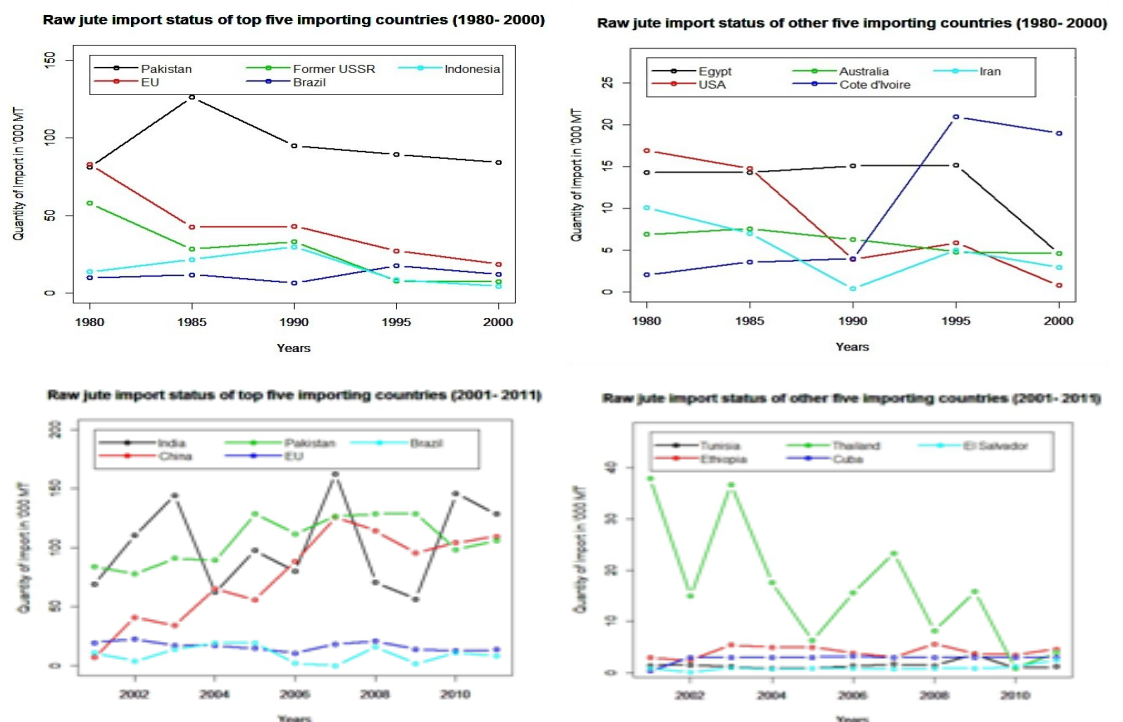
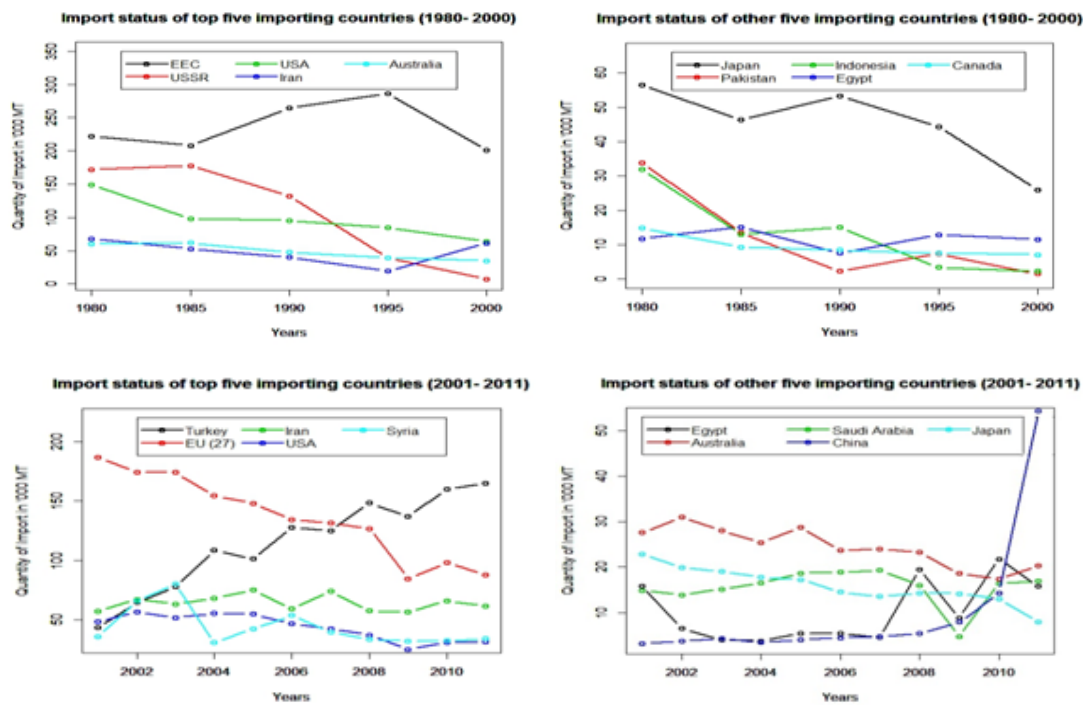


Figure 2 : Top ten jute products importer in 1980- 2000 and 2001- 2011 (in '000 MT)



countries.

The major feature was increasing trend in raw jute import. India, China, Pakistan, Ethiopia, Cuba and El Salvador showed of 85.86%, 1422.22% 35.90%, 53.33%, 900% and 200% change respectively in import at 2011 over 2001.

Next consideration was increasing trend in jute products export. Syria has showed a high increase of 4100% export in 2011 over 2001. They manufactured jute products by importing raw jute. Syria could be a major importer in this sector though currently

Syria is in an unrest situation. India and Nepal have also showed a high jute products export rate (40.99% and 207.69% respectively), their jute production was also declining.

The last but not the least consideration was increasing trend in jute consumption. China, India and Zimbabwe have showed high consumption rate of 70.56%, 1.98%, 296.77% increase in 2011 over 2001 respectively. Zimbabwe's jute production has increased by 9.08% while jute consumption increased by 296.77%, so they will need to import more raw jute to

meet their needs.

Based on the above mentioned criteria, the future raw jute importing countries are: India, China, Pakistan, Brazil, Ethiopia, Cuba, El Salvador, Nepal and Zimbabwe.

Jute Products Importing Countries:

Over a century, several jute products are being widely used all over the world. Jute yarn, twine, sacks, carpet backing cloth, hessian fabric etc. and different diversified products like carry and shopping bags, floor coverings, food grade jute bags, jute com-

posites, jute geo-textiles etc. are now being used by many countries.

Figure 2 of top ten jute products importing countries indicated EU, USA, Iran, Australia, Japan, Egypt were top importers in both period. Former USSR, Pakistan, Indonesia, Canada were top importers during 1980-2000. Turkey, Syria, Saudi Arabia and China were top importers during 2001 - 2011.

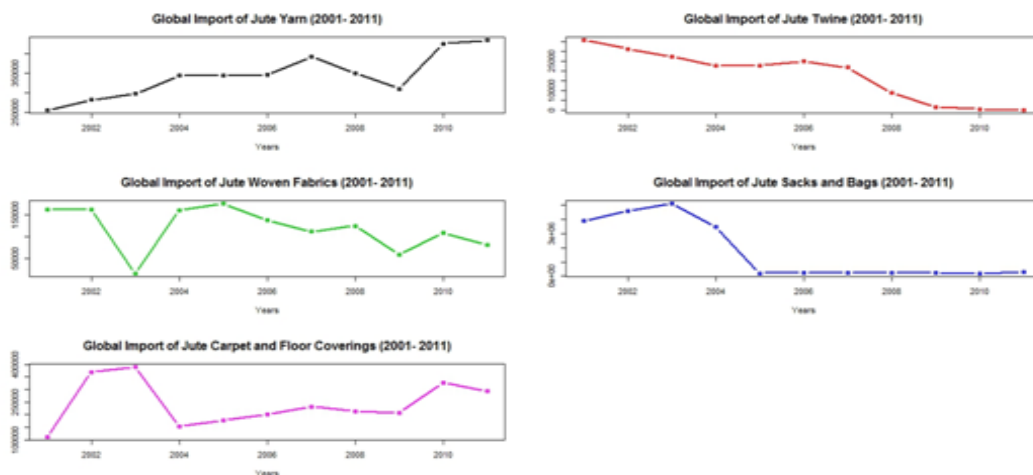
Economic recession in Europe was the main reason for fluctuating import trend of EU. Iran showed almost steady performance in importing yarn for carpet weaving sector. USA, former USSR, Pakistan and Indonesia showed declining trend while Canada showed almost steady trend for preferences to synthetic alternatives. The Australian market of woolpacks for packing and export wools has been lost to synthetic bags. Japan used to import a special type of rice sacks for rice packaging, this market has also been lost to woven polypropylene sacks. But Australia and Japan import hessian cloths, odorless hessian bags, geo-textiles etc. Turkey and China showed a high increasing trend. Banning of polythene increased the demand of jute bags in China. Turkey imports yarn to manufacture carpet and mats. Turkish hazelnuts are also required to be packed in Food Grade Jute Bag (FGJB).

Future jute products importing countries

Increasing jute products import trend was the major consideration to predict future importing countries of jute products. Turkey, China Saudi Arabia, Iran, Brazil, Ghana, Indonesia and Thailand showed increasing trend of about 280.18%, 1596.88%, 14.09%, 7.89%, 421.05%, 232.88%, 180.49%, 804% respectively in 2011 over 2001.

The second consideration was

Figure 3 : Top imported jute products in 2001- 2011 (in MT)



banning of polythene bags. China and Tanzania have banned polythene as well as they imported jute products. Tanzania's jute products import was increased by 100% in 2011 over 2001.

Based on these facts, the future jute products importing countries would be: Turkey, China, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Brazil, Ghana, Indonesia, Thailand and Tanzania.

Promising jute products for import

Different types of jute products are being traded around the world. From figure 3 it was observed that, twine, woven fabrics, sacks and bags showed decreasing trend in global import; whereas yarn and carpet showed increasing pattern. So, it can be concluded that yarn, carpet and different floor coverings will be imported significantly by different countries in the coming years.

Prospective areas in future world trade

The adverse effects of polythene on environment have driven many countries around the world to take regulatory measures to

reduce the use of polythene considering eco-friendliness. Jute may be the best alternative to it. Estimated annual world demand for shopping bag is approximately 500 billion pieces whereas the supply of jute shopping bag is very negligible in comparison. If this could be met by jute shopping bags weighing 15g, the annual raw jute requirement will be above 7 million tonnes if only one bag is used per week per family.

Food grade jute bag provides hydrocarbon contamination free storage and transportation of food items. Demand for FGJB is increasing due to sustainability initiatives taken by Coffee and Cocoa producing countries. The estimated global requirement of FGJB is about 52.3 billion bags for safe and healthy packaging of different food items. At present about 235 million FGJB are being used.

Jute composites have diverse uses in toys, automotive, marine, aeronautical, furniture, electronics, music instruments, automobiles, packaging etc. A study conducted in 1999 (Nonwoven Structures for Applications as Automotive Component Substrates) indicated that there is

scope for about 20 kg of natural fibers to be used in each of the 60-70 million vehicles being produced globally each year. Jute is the most suitable natural fibre to meet this purpose.

Jute geo-textiles is a lightly woven fabric made from natural fibers that is used for many agricultural and landscaping uses. An analysis (Jute Basics- International Jute Study Group) of the broad consumption pattern of different geo- textiles in the year 2000 showed that jute accounts for only 1% of the total geo textiles market. The future demand of geo textiles is estimated to be 5300 million sq km. Based on current projections, it is estimated that by 2014, there will be a 10% market share in geo textiles of jute which would need 250,000- 300,000 tons of jute.

Pulp made by jute has got a huge demand for making papers from jute pulp. An estimate showed that world demand for paper and paperboard will be 490 million tons by the year 2020. Based on the current technology, jute-made paper products, to some extent, are expected to replace wood/bamboo paper products in the near future. All these sectors have huge potential to grow.

Jute Yarn, Carpet and floor covering, Jute shopping bag, Jute geo textiles, Food grade jute bag, Jute composites, Jute pulp and paper are the high potential jute products in coming years.

So, analyzing past and present market for jute, it can be summarized that some Asian and African countries will be the top importers of jute in coming years. And along with traditional jute products, some diversified items like jute shopping bag, jute composites, jute pulp and paper etc. will share the world market of jute.

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Raw jute production and primary marketing at a glance



Harvesting



Retting



Drying of raw jute



Transport to the local market



Local market



Drying of Jute

Courtesy: Traidcraft



Coordination meeting of the CFC funded project (Bangladesh part) held at IJSG Conference Hall



A coordination meeting of the CFC funded project (Bangladesh part) “Development and Application of Potentially Important Jute Geo-Textile” (CFC/IJSG/21) was held on September 30, 2013 at IJSG conference Hall, Dhaka, Bangladesh. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Khandaker Mokhlesur Rahman, Executive Director, Jute Diversification Promotion Centre (JDPC). Professor Dr. Abdul Jabbar Khan shared his experi-

ences through comparing the implementation status of the project in Bangladesh and India and also briefed the status of the project, Bangladesh part. Among others, Dr. Kamal Uddin, DG, BJRI mentioned about the production and usages of treated geo-textiles in the project areas.

Mr. Jati Das Kundu, Chief Engineer- design, Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) claimed the BWDB require around 200-250 thousand square meter of geo-textile per year. He also informed about satisfactory performance of jute geo-textile in the Pahtraz River in Boda upazila of Panchagahr district under this project. On behalf of IJSG Dr. Chandan Kumar Saha thanked the facilitating agencies for imple-

menting the project in achieving the targets. He also mentioned to take necessary initiatives for organizing the upcoming national seminar successfully on jute geo-textile scheduled to be held in December 2013. He also urged to invite all the concerns (manufacturers to users) in the national seminar for the development and to create awareness regarding uses of jute geo-textiles in Bangladesh.

Among others, the meeting was attended by the representatives of BJRI, BWDB, BUET, LGED, Special Works Organization, Soil Resources Development Institute (SRDI), Roads and Highways Department, BJMC, Janata Jute Mills Ltd., Dhaka University of Engineering and Technology etc.

Weeklong Jute fair held at Varanasi, India

A weeklong Jute Fair of diversified jute products organised by National Jute Board (NJB) was inaugurated at Sanatan Gaudiya Muth, Sonarpura area on September 26, 2013. A total of 19 jute entrepreneurs from different parts of the India have participated in this fair. The fair exhibited huge variety of environment friendly consumer products. Several lifestyle jute products such as handicrafts and handloom materials, dolls, fancy jute bags, shopping bags, gift articles, wall hangings, footwear, floor coverings and artificial jewel-

leries were on the display cum sale in the fair. Meanwhile, heavy rush of buyers reached the fair on the first day of the fair. Women and girls were seen splurging upon fancy handbags and shopping bags. Hand purse, wallets, pen stand and several handicraft products were purchased on the first day. According to NJB officials, the Indian Jute sector, comprising jute mills and a large number of small and tiny units is the world's largest and biggest producer of raw jute and jute goods.

[Source: Times of India, Sept 27, 2013]

Jute geo-textiles to protect railway tracks



The problem of tracks getting washed away because of rain, brimming natural basins, floods and coastal disturbances may be a thing of the past if the Railways' new experiment of using jute to hold soil together succeeds. The

Eastern Railways has undertaken a pioneering exercise to give a boost to the sagging jute industry. Minister of State for Railways Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury inaugurated the works on the 6.61-km Bultikuri-Dankuni section and the 4.67-km Balighat-Dankuni section under the Howrah Division in West Bengal. The Railways intend to use jute geo-synthetics not only as a blanketing layer on the formation of the tracks, but also along the slopes of the formation for arresting erosion of soil.

[Source: The Hindu, Sept 23, 2013]

Jute bags mandatory for rice and wheat in Bangladesh



To promote the use of jute bags for packaging foodstuff and agricultural produce, the Ministry of Textiles and Jute, Bangladesh

issued a circular on September 26, 2013 mentioning that it is mandatory for private rice mill owners to use 100 per cent jute bags for packaging under the Jute Packaging Law.

The circular also instructed the Ministry of Food (MOF) for 100 per cent use of jute bags for packaging paddy, rice and wheat. Fertiliser factories, the Sugar and Food Corporation, as well as private sugar mills were directed to

use jute bags for 50 per cent of their products. The ministry issued the circular following submission of a set of recommendations made by a committee formed by the ministry to find ways to implement the Mandatory Jute Packaging Act 2010. The circular is to be notified in the official gazette. In October, 2010, Parliament passed the Mandatory Jute Packaging Act to help promoting use of jute bags. The gazette notification on the rules

related to the Act was published on June 3. A circular said that the rules would be implemented within 60 days of the gazette notification. According to the Act, jute bags will have to be used for packaging paddy, rice, wheat, maize, fertiliser and sugar. The committee also recommended bringing private food grains traders under the Act gradually.

[Source: the independent, Sept 28,



Natural Fibre News

Speaker cone made of flax fibres composites



and K2 technologies. F cones are made of high-quality flax fibers enclosed by two thin layers of glass fiber. Made in France, Flax cones are oriented towards acoustic performance, high-tech and give an original design to the brand's speaker drivers. They satisfy the key criteria of a high performance diaphragm : high internal damping, high velocity of sound and high flexural rigidity.

After more than five years of research and development, engineers at Focal can now reveal the flax cones, a new generation of sandwich cone, which adds to W

[Source:

Upcoming International Events

- The thirty- ninth session of the intergovernmental group on jute, kenaf and allied fibres, November 05-07, 2013, Negombo, Srilanka
- Coir Kerala 2014, An International event on Coir and Natural Fibre , Alappuzha, Keral India, February 01-05, 2014 [Source: <http://coirkeralafair.com/>]

Upcoming IJSG Events

- International Training of Trainers (ToT) for Supervisors and Technologists of Jute Mills on "Spinning Preparatory & Spinning" October 27-31, 2013, IJSG Secretariat, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- Training on Design and Product Development of Jute Diversified Products, November 17-23, 2013, IJSG Secretariat, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- 14th meeting of the Private Sector Consultative Board (PSCB), November 18-20, 2013 Zhoushan city, Zhejiang Province, China

Plastic News

Gray whale dies with stomach full of plastic trash



A sperm whale was stranded on Tershelling, a northern island in the Netherlands. A rescue attempt was attempted, but unfortunately the whale died. A young adult at 13.5 meters was taken for a necropsy at the port of Harlington. The sperm whale had plastic in its stomach, an increasing common phenomenon say researchers at the Biodiversity Centre Naturalis. In March of this year, a 10 meter long sperm whale washed up on Spain's South Coast. This whale had swallowed 59 different plastic items totaling over 37 pounds. Most of this plastic consisted of transparent sheeting the rest was

plastic bags, nine meters of rope, two stretches of hosepipe, two small flower pots, and a plastic spray canister. Cause of death was intestinal blockage. These are not uncommon incidents. In 1989, a stranded sperm whale in the Lavezzi Islands in the Tyrrhenian Sea died of a stomach obstruction after accidentally ingesting plastic bags and 100 feet of plastic sheeting. In 1990, a sperm whale examined for pathology in Iceland died of an obstruction of the gut with plastic marine debris. In August of 2008, a sperm whale washed up in Point Reyes, California with 450 pounds of fishing net, rope, and plastic

bags in its stomach. The California Marine Mammal Stranding Database tells of another sperm whale stranded in 2008 with stomach contents that included an extensive amount of netting from discarded fishing gear. [Source: Nature News, September 30, 2013]

"Inside the whale's unusually bloated stomach, they find 100 plastic bags"

Gulf News marks 35th anniversary by rewarding 100,000 jute bags

To mark its commitment in preserving the environment and in celebration of its 35th anniversary, Gulf News has rewarded its subscribers with 100,000 jute bags on September 30, 2013. After completing its 35 years of existence and still going strong, Gulf News has celebrated its anniversary with those who would have otherwise not made it possible.

This year's jute bags come along with a slightly more beneficial twist, equipped with a zipper. The jute bags are not only environmentally friendly but also embody the characteristics of high quality, durability and use. The jute bags were produced over a period of 60 days with 100 people involved in the manufacturing process.



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