REPORT

Industry Interaction on “Jute Geotextiles – A Sustainable Geotechnical Solution”

Textiles Department of BIS in association with ICAR-NINFET, Kolkata and National Jute Board (NJB), Kolkata organized an Industry Interaction on “Jute Geotextiles – A sustainable geotechnical solution” at ICAR-NINFET, Kolkata on 01 December 2021. Around 130 delegates from jute industry, research institutions/associations, academia, regulatory bodies, testing laboratories, Government & important users attended the aforementioned interaction through hybrid mode.

The above-mentioned interaction was inaugurated by Shri Moloy Chandan Chakraborty, IDAS, Jute Commissioner (in additional charge - Secretary, NJB). In his inaugural address, he stressed upon role of Jute based geotextiles in soil erosion control, river embankment and hill slope management and invited industry for moving forward to establish manufacturing unit under the scheme of diversified jute products. He also appreciated work done by BIS for standardization in the field of JGT and mentioned about the important 5 standards formulated so far on the subject.

Shri Jayanta Roy Chowdhury, Scientist-G & DDG (Standardization-I), BIS, in his key note address, emphasized the role and importance of Jute being a biodegradable product. During his address, he explained the direct and indirect linkage of jute sector with various sustainable development goals (SDGs). He also appealed the jute industry to follow, adopt and implement the Indian standards so as to gain the confidence of the consumer after getting their products certified from BIS. In his address, he also told the august gathering that the whole ecosystem of standardization at BIS has been shifted to online mode and urged stakeholders to actively associate with BIS. Shri Chowdhury also explained the various initiatives by BIS like: MoUs with eminent institutes to work collectively in the field of standardization, integration of standardization in educational curriculum and creation of standardization cells to enhance stakeholder’s involvement etc.

Dr D B Shakyawar, Director, ICAR-NINFET welcomed the distinguished guests on the dais and delegates present in the industry interaction. During his welcome address, he briefed about the recent developments by NINFET in the field of Jute. He also detailed the gathering about the development of digital equipment for the grading of jute by NINFET.

Shri J K Gupta, Scientist-E, Textiles, BIS proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the distinguished guests on the dais and the delegates in the interaction for furthering the national cause of standardization in the field of Jute geotextiles.

In the Technical Session, the following papers were presented:

1) A paper on ‘Standardization in the field of Jute geotextiles’ was presented by Shri J K Gupta, Scientist-E, Textiles. In his presentation, Shri Gupta briefed about salient technical features of various Indian standards formulated by BIS in the field of Jute geotextiles. He also explicated the process of formulation of Indian standards and requested
for active participation of all the stakeholders in the standardization activities. New initiatives taken by BIS were also shared with the audience during the event.

2) A paper on ‘Case studies on various end uses of Jute geotextiles’ was presented by Shri P K Choudhury, Advisor (Technical), NJB. He shared salient research findings for the use of Jute geotextiles and said that till now more than 860 field applications have been undertaken successfully with use of JGT. Various schemes and support provided by National Jute Board (NJB) was also shared by him during his presentation.

3) A paper on ‘User perspective on the use of jute geotextiles’ was presented by Shri Sabyasachi Ojha, Executive Engineer, WBSRDA, Govt. of WB. Shri Ojha briefed about the actual user experience of Jute geotextiles (JGT) for separation, filtration and drainage applications. He also shared the applications of JGT used in the PMGSY works in West Bengal.

4) A paper on ‘Roadmap for creating JTT Ecosystem’ was presented by Shri Debasish Roy, Director General, IJMA. During his presentation, he urged the stakeholders involved in the supply chain of Jute to create a resource/knowledge bank for creating an effective ecosystem for growth and development of JGT.

5) A paper on ‘Potential of Jute based geotextiles’ was presented by Dr Sanjoy Debnath, Principal Scientist, ICAR-NINFET. He covered various aspects on materials used, testing evaluation, instrumentation methods developed by NINFET for grading of Jute, and also some field trials on Jute-synthetic blended materials.

Takeaways/ Way forward:

i) IS 14986:2001 ‘Guidelines for application of Jute geotextile for rain water erosion control in road and railway embankments and hill slopes’ be published in two parts, one for covering the guidelines and the other for covering the product requirements for Open Weave JGT for rain water erosion control in road and railway embankment and hill slopes.

ii) Tolerance on elongation at break in MD×CD direction for JGT standards to be reviewed in next meeting of TXD 30.

iii) Specific requirement for water-based eco-friendly additives for treatment of JGT for control of erosion in rivers and waterways may be incorporated in IS 14715 (Part 2):2016

iv) Similar type of interactions/workshops/seminars should be organized to enhance stakeholder engagement.

v) Jute industry to follow, adopt and implement the Indian standards on JGT so as to gain the confidence of the consumer after getting their products certified from BIS.

vi) Training program on effective use of Standardization Portal to be organized by BIS for JGT stakeholders.
vii) Letter to the user department like State Road development authorities, Irrigation and PWD departments be sent by BIS for implementing Indian Standards on JGT in their respective areas.
Glimpse of JGTs viz. woven, nonwoven & open weave etc. for use in various civil engineering applications