

COIR



Coir is the fibrous material found between the hard, internal shell and the outer coat of a coconut. Its used to make Door mats, Rugs, Erosion Control Geo Fabrics, Upholstry Material and Mattresses. A more modern usage is to manufacture Sound Proofing Boards. When Coir fibre is extracted from the husk of the Coconut, Coir Pith, the material that holds the coir fibre together drops out,. This is compressed and used as a growing medium replacing Spaghnum Moss because of its high water retention capacity. India is the biggest exporter of Coir Products. India exports US \$ 480 Million worth of Coir Products to 104 countries every year and Japan figures somewhere between 20th and 25th in the list of Coir product importing countries. Japan buys around 2000 tons of coir products every year valued at a modest US \$ 1.25 Million annually. There are 80 Manufacturers exporting Coir Products and another 200 traders dealing in Coir Products.



There is vast scope for the use of advanced research in making use of this renewable source of Natural Material in the following spheres.

- Acoustic Sound Proofing Boards made of Coir Fibre. National Coir Research and Management Institute (NCRMI) has developed technology to make Sound proofing Boards with better NRC (Noise Reduction Co-efficient) at half the price of competing materials in international market. Japan can invest in developing this technology meaningfully and usefully as thin boards are used in building partition walls in Japanese Homes.
- Development of binder-less boards using coconut husk and coir pith to replace Plywood.
- Development of a thin and even coir yarn to weave finer Natural Coir Rugs: The short length of the coir fibre makes it impossible to spin fine coir yarn. Osaka, the Manchester of Japan can invest and develop a new technologically advanced spinning machines to make this possible.
- Erosion Control Material: Geo Textiles, The most eco friendly method of erosion control is through revegetation using a natural geo-textile like Woven Coir Mesh. Coir Geotextiles are available in woven or nonwoven form as meshes, needled felt, pads, erosion control blankets, anti-weed blankets, geo rolls etc.
- Coir Pith as a growing Medium is better than Peat and Spaghnum Moss as it is renewable and has 10% higher water holding capacity than sphagnum peat. Peat moss is more acidic, with a pH balance ranging between 3.0 and 4.5, so Suppliers add Lime stone to make it neutral whereas Coco Pith with a pH between 5.8 and 6.9, can be straight away used as a growing medium without adding Lime stone.
- Coir Door Mats are the best entrance Mats to keep dirt away.
- Coir Matting Mats with Rubber Backing is quite popular in Japan