



INTERNATIONAL COTTON ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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From the Secretariat

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Industrial Applications for Natural Fibers

The United Nations General Assembly declared 2009 to be the International Year of Natural Fibers. Events were organized around the world to enhance awareness of the benefits to workers, consumers and the environment of using natural fibers and to bring natural fiber organizations together to promote common interests. Accordingly, natural fiber organizations will continue working together beyond 2009 under the auspices of the 'Discover Natural Fiber Initiative.'

Natural fibers are being used increasingly in industrial applications, especially as reinforcement for plastics. A new book, 'Industrial Application of Natural Fibers,' will be available in April 2010. This essential resource brings detailed information about natural fibers, including information about agricultural production, fiber separation, fiber processing and manufacturing of final products. The book focuses on important materials such as emerging applications in polymer composites, non-woven or felted products and textiles.

The book has 20 chapters spread over 576 pages and covers structure, properties and technical applications of most natural fibers, including coir, cotton, flax, hemp, jute, silk, sisal and wool. Additional information can be found on the John Wiley & Sons web page at <http://www.wiley-vch.de/publish/en/books/bySubjectCH00/bySubSubjectCH30/0-470-69508-0/?sID=bkdf28291a95bp3lrguqti1bc6>

ICAC is actively participating in the 'Discover Natural Fiber Initiative' and has created link to the book page from its web page at www.icac.org.

(Press releases are available via e-mail. To register for this free service, send your contact information to publications@icac.org)

The Secretariat of the Committee publishes information related to world cotton production, supply, demand and prices, and provides technical information on cotton production technology. Detailed statistics are found bimonthly in *COTTON: Review of the World Situation*, \$185 per year via email, \$225 per year in hard copy. A monthly outlook is available by email for \$295 per year. Access to the latest weekly estimates of world cotton supply and use by the Secretariat is available on the Internet for \$460 per year. Access Secretariat reports at www.icac.org.