Proceedings of Workshop on Development and Application of Potentially Important Jute Geotextile in the area of Road Construction and Slope Stabilization

Inaugural Session:

The workshop was held on 15th September 2014 at 10.30 AM in the Wenlocks Hall of Hotel Gem Park, Udhagamandalam. Dr.O.P.S.Khola, Principal Scientist & Head, CSWCRTI Research Centre, Udhagamandalam welcomed the dignitaries and participants.

Dr. S. Manivannan, Senior Scientist and Principal Investigator of prototype field study, CSWCRTI Research Centre, Udhagamandalam stated that this workshop aims to bring awareness among the practicing engineers about use of JGT for road construction and slope stabilization. He appealed to the participants of four southern states (Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh) to encourage the application of JGT for slope management and road construction and insisted for its large-scale application. He informed the gathering that application of JGT on slope stabilization research work has been taken up in Dehradun, Chandigarh and Udhagamandalam centres under CSWCRTI where various types of JGT were put to trial.

Mr. A. Bhagat, Deputy Chairman, Indian Jute Mills Association (IJMA), Kolkata appreciated the efforts in conducting workshop and popularizing the JGT for road construction, slope stabilization and river bank protection among the user groups. He mentioned that though the efficacy of JGT is well established its application is not well practiced. He informed that Indian Jute mills Association is ensuring the availability of JGT in time and quality. The quality of the JGT would be evaluated by two well equipped laboratories set up by IJIRA and DJFT, IJT, CU.

Dr. P.K. Mishra, Director, CSWCRTI, Dehradun spoke about the importance on application of JGT for soil and water conservation. He informed that ICAR is involved in research work on jute production and product development under Central Research Institute on Jute and allied Fibers, Barrackpore (CRIJAF) and National Institute of Research on Jute and Allied Fibre Technology (NIRJAFT), Kolkata, respectively. CSWCRTI is involved in the research on application of JGT for erosion control and will continue to work on various aspects of application of JGT for soil and water conservation. The institute is also planning to utilize the JGT for reclaiming ravine area through our research centers located at Kota, Rajasthan, Agra, UP and Vasad, Gujarat. Similar research work can be extended to Tribal areas from our research centre located at Koraput, Odhisa for use of jute for the advancement of Tribal community by linking Tribal Sub Plan (TSP). JGT can also be used for stabilizing of mine spoils through research work by our research centre, Bellary, Karnataka and control the landslides and slips through research work of our research centre at Chandigarh. He opined that there are many advantages in JGT, which has to be popularized in the field of soil and water conservation with the efforts of National Jute Board and CSWCRTI.

Mr. K. Ambalavanan, Executive Director, Tea Board, remarked that the India is rich with natural resources and wide variation in climatic conditions. Apart from the natural resources, after independence, human resources have also increased in terms of population. At the same time, pressure on natural resources has increased which is very much visible in recent years with climate change and natural disasters. He emphasized that application of Jute Geotextiles in the area of soil conservation and slope stabilization is very important to promote the vegetation in landslide / mass eroded areas. He also stated that National Jute Board and Tea Board should work together for enhancement of Tea Growth by application jute geotextiles.

Dr. Subrata Gupta, IAS, Jute commissioner, Ministry of Textile, Government of India inaugurated the workshop and delivered the inaugural speech. He said that JGT have been found to be highly effective in slope management and road construction. JGT have been approved by agencies like Central Road Research Institute (CRRI), Indian Road Congress (IRC) and the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). Ever since their introduction, JGT have been used in more than 150 projects in the area of road construction and slope stabilization in various part of the country. Good response was received towards use of JGT from various States and a special project is being implemented in the flood prone areas of North Eastern States.

Technical Session - I:

The first speaker of this session was Mr. A. K. Khasthagir, Project Manager, National Jute Board who presented a paper titled Introduction to Jute Geotextiles and over view on the activities of the project "Development and application of potentially important Jute Geotextiles". For strengthening of road Woven 724 gsm JGT, for slope management Open Weave 500, 600 and 700 gsm JGT and for riverbank stabilization Open Weave 627 gsm JGT is used. He mentioned that PwC has projected that the growth of JGT in 2018 will be around 10% out of the total geotextiles market. The project covers 27 trials out of which 17 in India and 10 in Bangladesh. He also informed that BIS has approved the JGT specifications for road construction, riverbank protection and slope management purposes.

The second speaker of this session was Mr. P.K. Choudhury, Project Coordinator, NJB who made presentation on use of JGT for road construction and dealt with some case studies on application of JGT in various application areas. He explained the properties, types and advantages of JGT. He said that JGT reduces the kinetic energy of raindrop when it is falling on the land; thereby, velocity of runoff is reduced and it acts as check dam. He clarified the various doubts raised by participants on application of JGT.

Dr. G.P. Juyal, Head (Retd.), Division of Hydrology and Engineering, CSWCRTI, Dehradun presented on Landslide rehabilitation and control in agricultural watershed. He explained that JGT can be used for stabilization of steep slopes (> 70%) and open mesh JGT or Soil Saver (density 500,600,700 gm/m², mesh size – 16 mm x 22 mm) were found suitable for erosion control. The cost of application of jute soil saver including minor SWC measures is around Rs.27, 000/ha. He informed that farmers can bring additional area under cultivation which was earlier abandoned and the farmer's participation in protecting the planted vegetation is also necessary. There is need for awareness and training of user agencies like Soil Conservation and Watershed Management, Roads, Railways, Forest, Mining and Irrigation departments especially for hilly terrains. Woven type JGT (soil saver) of 500-600 GSM is recommended for stabilization of steep degraded slopes for quick establishment of vegetation. However, in exceptional cases JGT of 700 GSM may be used.

Fourth speaker, Dr. S. Manivannan, Senior Scientist, CSWCRTI, RC, Udhagamandalam presented on Application of jute geo-textile for hill slope stabilization using tea and grass as test crops. He presented the results and findings of prototype field study conducted at CSWCRTI Research Centre, Udhagamandalam. He stated that jute geo-textiles out performed over control plot in all the cases. Even though, there was difference in the performance of JGT on reduction runoff and soil loss, there was no significant difference within different types of JGT on crop growth. However, keeping in view of economical benefit, 500 gsm open weave JGT is better for Tea establishments.

Interim results of the prototype type field study on use of JGT for slope stabilization with 60 and 90 % slopes, showed that the 500 gsm open weave jute geo-textiles and non woven JGT outperformed synthetic geo-textiles and control. The root growth and soil binding characters of the grass were better under open weave jute geo-textiles.

Technical Session - II:

Ms. Rumki Saha, Junior Executive, National Jute Board, Kolkata presented the topic on Economical and environmental advantages of using JGT in roads and hill slope management. She narrated the environmental advantages of JGT, vegetation growth and enhancement of hydraulic conductivity of soil, which improves soil quality. JGT can absorb water about 5 times its dry weight creating congenial microclimate ensuring quick growth of dense vegetation. It acts as mulch for increasing soil fertility, improves the root system of vegetation and improve the soil binding capacity.

Dr. V. K. Bhatt, Principal Scientist, CSWCRTI Research Centre, Chandigarh presented the paper entitled "Effectiveness of JGT in rehabilitation of severely degraded hill slope of Punjab Shivaliks". His experience showed that mass erosion was completely controlled by application 700 gsm JGT with vegetation establishment. He also stated that where ever grass slips and other plants were planted, a huge growth of vegetation was seen. Impact of treatment was more pronounced after three years of laying JGT. Soil erosion and landslide may drastically be reduced if applied in road sides of hill region, stream banks and on embankments.

At the end of Technical Session II, a brief Interactive Session was held where NJB representatives replied all the verbal queries expressed by the participants. The literatures provided to the participants of the workshop contained a feedback form to assess the acceptability of JGT among the participating engineers. Mr. A. K. Khastagir, Project Manager, NJB thanked all the participants for their keen interest on the subject and mentioned that out of the 74 feed-back forms received from the participants, in 57 cases, the participating engineers have evinced interest on use of JGT for road construction and slope management purpose. He further mentioned that specific queries raised in the 17 feedback forms would be duly replied by NJB and the same would be sent to the respective persons raising the query. A summary of the feedback received from the participants can be seen at Annexure – I.

Valedictory Session:

Mr. A. Bhagat, Deputy Chairman, Indian Jute Mills Association (IJMA), Kolkata stated that the IJMA will take all necessary steps to bring down cost of the jute geo-textiles and will provide all support to disseminate the application technologies of JGT. Smt. S. Kavitha, Project Director, District Rural Development Agency, The Nilgiris informed that slope stabilization is more important in Nilgiris as soil resources are degrading day by day. There is also need for technical clarification on advantages of jute geo-textiles over coir geo-textiles as coir is easily available in South India.

Dr. P. K. Mishra, Director, CSWCRTI Dehradun in his remarks mentioned that this seminar is an eye opener programme from which we got some recipe to think on geo textile materials for soil and water conservation. Apart from slope stabilization, JGT has to be focused for other production activities of agriculture. It should be user specific for whether the jute or coir has to be used in the field. Future research work has to be done with public-private partnership with cooperation of NJB. Recommendations from research work are needed much for land, soil and crop specific so that the policy can be made for implementation in the field. Capacity building programme also needed for application of JGT to the public more specifically to hilly areas. We have to address the fire, theft and termite attack problems before up scaling these technologies in larger scale.

Mr. Srinivas R Reddy, Project Director, HADP, The Nilgiris stressed the importance of application jute geotextiles in Nilgiris hills as landslides, poor land management and urbanization in steep slopes and faulty agricultural practices along the steep slopes are the major problems in the region. He mentioned that research is needed as to whether jute or coir to suit the local conditions as jute degrades early than coir. He informed that soil conservation and disaster mitigation are the two components of HADP and any research work related to this aspect, HADP is will fund for those studies.

Dr. Subrata Gupta, IAS, Jute commissioner concluded the workshop and stated that either jute or coir can be used for slope stabilization or road construction depending on suitability but we should avoid using synthetic material which is not fit for the ecosystem. He said that for any clarification regarding use of JGT, National Jute Board can be contacted and Indian Jute Mill Association can be contacted for requirement of JGT. He also expressed that there should be continuous collaboration between National Jute Board and CSWCRTI in research and capacity building in the area of application of jute geo-textiles for slope stabilization.

There were 166 participants were attended from Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala including 25 participants from press and media. Out of 166 delegates, 98 were engineers working in the areas of road construction and slope stabilization.

One special session was organized to interact with press and media and 25 reporters from various Newspapers and Audio-Visual Medias were present during the press meet. Dr. Subrata Gupta, IAS, Jute Commissioner, NJB, Kolkata, Dr. P. K. Mishra, Director, CSWCRTI, Dehradun. Mr. R. Ambalavanan, IA&AS, Executive Director, Tea Board, Mr. A. K. Khastagir, Project Manager NJB, Mr. P. K. Choudhury, Project Coordinator, NJB, Dr. O. P. S. Khola, Head, CSWCRTI RC and Dr. S. Manivannan, Senior Scientist and Organizing secretary were present at the press meet.

Recommendations:

A few recommendations that emerged out of the discussions and deliberations held in the Workshop are as under:

- 1. Future research work has to be done with public-private partnership with cooperation of NJB. Recommendations from research work are needed much for land, soil and crop specific so that the policy can be made for implementation in the field.
- 2. Soil conservation and disaster mitigation are the two components of HADP and any research work related to this aspect, HADP is will fund for those studies.
- 3. There should be continuous collaboration between National Jute Board and CSWCRTI in research and capacity building in the area of application of jute geo-textiles for slope stabilization.
- 4. There is need for awareness and training of user agencies like Soil Conservation and Watershed Management, Roads, Railways, Forest, Mining and Irrigation departments especially for hilly terrains.
- 5. CSWCRTI is planning to utilize the JGT for reclaiming ravine area through our research centers located at Kota, Rajasthan, Agra, UP and Vasad, Gujarat. Similar research work can be extended to Tribal areas from our research centre located at Koraput, Odhisa for use of jute for the advancement of Tribal community by linking Tribal Sub Plan (TSP).
- 6. JGT can also be used for stabilizing of mine spoils through research work by CSWCRTI Research Centres like Bellary, Karnataka and control the landslides and slips through research work of our research centre at Chandigarh.
- 7. National Jute Board and Tea Board should work together for enhancement of Tea Growth by application jute geo-textiles.
- 8. IJMA will take all necessary steps to bring down cost of the jute geo-textiles and will provide all support to disseminate the application technologies of JGT.
- More Awareness Workshop is needed in the southern States to promote use of JGT and such Awareness Workshop should be followed by visit to field sites where JGT has been applied to address soil related problems.

The workshop ended with vote of thanks proposed by Dr. K. Kannan, Senior Scientist, CSWCRTI RC, Udhagamandalam.

Field visit:

A visit was arranged to inspect the field trial sites under the CFC project by Jute Commissioner, Director, CSWCRTI and the representatives of NJB and CSWCRTI on 16th September, 2014. A wrap-up meeting was taken by Jute Commissioner to discuss on the future activities under the project and various aspects on application of JGT to address soil related problems in the southern States.

Summary of the Feedback received

Participants who are convinced about efficacy of JGT and interested in giving trials

SI.	Name	Designation & Department	Contact details	
No.		represented		
1.	UmeshBhaty	Assistant Executive Engineer PWD, Govt. of Karnataka	Email- umeshbhaty@gmail.com Ph - 09448844028	
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20.	M Sanjay Sarkar	Factory Advisory Officer Tea Board of India	Email- sanjaysarkarm@gmail.com Ph - 07373524843	
21.	Devaraj K	Junior Engineer Panchayat Union, Kotagiri, Nilgiris	Ph - 09442367565	
22.	M Ram Deepak Reddy	Assistant Executive Engineer Panchayati Raj Engineering Department		
23.	S Poorani	Assistant Executive Engineer PWD/ WRO, TN	Email- pourani_200@yahoo.com Ph - 09840470720	

SI. No.	Name	Designation & Department represented	Contact details
24.	ErPremanand B	Assistant Professor	Email- premanand34@gmail.com
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		Raichur, Karnataka	
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SHORESIN	Scott at the second Section Section 1	UPASI - KVK, Coonoor	Ph - 09442792298
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		Control of the Control of Control	Ph - 09894870483
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	,	Sri Avinashilingam KVK	Ph - 09952339747
		Coimbatore	2007
34.	Dr R. M.	Assistant Professor (Environmental	Email-
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		DRDA, Kottagiri	
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		Andhra Pradesh	
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		Rural development &Panchayat Raj	Ph - 09842270136
		Dept, TN, The Nilgiris	
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		Rural Development Dept., Chennai	Activities of the second secon

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No.		represented		
47.	G Balachandran	Assistant Project Officer	Ph - 09843506193	
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48.	Er T. Arul	Assistant Executive Engineer	Email- arulshreehaa@gmail.com	
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49.	S Anitha	Assistant Engineer	Email- anithasundar2004@yahoo.co.in	
-000		Udhagamandalam Municipality	Ph - 09442144888	
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	0.000000000000000000000000000000000000	PWD, Go Karnataka	Ph - 09686599666	

NB: Participants at SI. No. 41 - 50 are convinced about the efficacy of JGT and recommended for a two-day Workshop – one day for technical presentations and another day for field visit.

SI. No	Name	Designation & Department represented	Contact details	Comment/Queries
51.	V Selvi	Scholar CSWCRTI, Ooty	Email:sel-121968@yahoo.co.in Ph – 09486712450	Should be tried for bench terrace stabilization in Nilgiri
52.	Er R Rangasamy	Executive Engineer PWD, TN	Email: rangsugu59@gmail.com Ph – 09894627316	New technology & interested in using
53.	G Krishna Kumar	Assistant Executive Engineer Planning Formulation, PWD/WRO, Chennai	Email: cepf2007@yahoo.com Ph – 09444312448	Good exposure of various applications with JGT
54.	A Murugesan	Assistant Executive Engineer Town Panchayats, Udhagamandalam	Ph – 09442397327	Fruitful Workshop. One more workshop to be arranged for base level engineering staffs in mother language
55.	G Arumugam	Assistant Divisional Engineer Highways Dept, Go TN	Email: adehanaimalai@gmail.com Ph – 09443436663	Useful for soil erosion control and can easily be adapted for rural roads other than SH, NH, ODR's.
56.	Er D LowrduAruckia Kumar	Executive Engineer Agricultural Engineering Department	Email: dlakumar@gmail.com Ph – 09443857005	Essential to keep this technology
57.	M K R Veerabhadrachary	Assistant Executive Engineer PWD, Karnataka	Email: vchary1956@gmail.com Ph – 09480280570	To be included in SoR

NB: Participants at Sl. No. 51 - 57 are convinced about the efficacy of JGT and recommended its use in some specific fields.

Feedback from Participants with some specific comments/queries

SI. No	Name	Designation & Department represented	Contact details	Comment/Queries
58.	T. M. Kumar	Assistant Engineer Rural Department	Email: t.m.kumar2015@gmail.com Ph – 09443091678, 7402608708	Need some practical experiment at site
59.	G Prameela	Assistant Divisional Engineer Highways Dept.	Email: pramilakarthigeyan@gmail.co m Ph – 09443653908	Application of JGT is limited to certain conditions of soil. But it is economical & eco-friendly
60.	R Chandrasekhar	Executive Engineer, DRDA, Coimbatore	Email: chandra.arunafeb16@gmail.co m Ph – 09443381271	May be introduced in Building construction materials, to increase strength & longevity
61.	T Rajasukar	Assistant Executive Engineer Rural Development	Email: aeegobi@gmail.com Ph – 07708288775	Jute may be cheaper in Kolkata but not in TN. Banana fibre or coconut leaves may be preferred
62.	S. Jayanthi	Assistant Engineer DRDA	Email: aeegobi@gmail.com Ph – 07402608705	Need brief information of using OW JGT due to prone land sliding area
63.	R Parthiban	Assistant Executive Engineer Rural Development, DRDA Coimbatore	Email: parkavi58@gmail.com Ph – 09443363262	To be studied for any other building material
64.	Dr Abdul Hakkim V M	Head, Dept of LWCRE, Kerela College of Agricultural Engg	Email: abdulhakkim19@gmail.com Ph – 09446279626	More awareness to be organised in Kerala as it is landslide prone area. Extensive research activities to be done here
65.	P Kartaikeyan	Assistant Engineer Highway Dept, TN	Email: karthec_avn@yahoo.com Ph – 09842018357	Subgrade Stabilization may not be suitable for heavy traffic roads. Applicable for rural roads
66.	M H Reddy	Assistant Executive Engineer Rural&PanchayatDept AP	Email: hm_marreddy@yahoo.com Ph - 09866257902	-Suitability for BC soil be encouraged -use of JGT in any road layer to be encouraged -Selection of 1 BC soil treatment with JGT at Guntur, AP is suggested
67.	Dr H V Ramanna	Associate Dean College of Agricultural Engg	Email: caemdkr@gmail.com Ph – 09440168633	Can be used to conserve water in dryland for agricultural use
68.	B.V. Jagadeesh	Executive Engineer KRRDA, davangere	Email: kn-dav 1 pmailnic.in Ph- 09449599459	Field tests are conducted with conventional method but not with other innovative technologies. Simulations are to be exposed to engineers before implement.
69.	Banumathi Ganesh	Asst. C.E, Nabard & RR Highways Dept. GOTN		Raw jute can be used or not? Is CBR value increased after immediate application of JGT? Whether thickness of base & other layer reduced? How JGT reduce the cost of construction?
70.	M.G. Suresh Naik	Asst. Engineer PMGSY, KRRDA	Email: sureshnaik1978 @gmail.com Ph- 9964503641	For CBR-4, GSB reduced to 50mm, but did not mention about 50 mm sand layer- please clarify.

SI.	Name	Designation &	Contact details	Comment/Queries
No		Department represented		
71.	R.S.Kaaviyakannan	Asst. Engineer HADP, The Project Director, OOTY	Email:rskkannan@gmail.com Ph-9443274576	Some suggestions – a) At least 1 trial plot in each panchayat level. b) Experimental results may be made known to justify the efficacy c) Modalities may be devised for implementation of JGT
72.	K.R.Bharathi	Asst.Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engg.Dept, AP	Email: bharathi_k_r@yahoo.co.in Ph- 9441246882	Introduction of JGT should be encouraged. Action to be taken to the JGT rate analysis in SSR of AP & Standard Datas. Usage of JGT in BC soils should be explained in detail, since in AP Coastal Districts dealing with BC soils
73.	R.Sathiya	Asst.Engineer Highways Dept	Email: sathiya77@yahoo.co.in	Whether JGT can be used in clayey, Black cotton and highly cohesive soils for road construction. How the CBR value is increased using JGT either by layer theory or interactive theory. Where the Bitumen modified woven jute can be used?
74.	Dr. P.Selvarambi	Asst. C.E (N & RR) Highways Deptt. Govt. Of Karnataka	Email: sundariselvam@yahoo.com Ph-09840724052	More research on Plastic coated jutes and Impact of jute degradation with respect to type of soil etc.

NB: All these queries are being replied by the Project Management Unit of National Jute Board.