

# STUDY ON JUTE AND MESTA IN INDIA



सत्यमेव जयते.

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES  
PLANNING COMMISSION  
NEW DELHI

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## FOREWORD

Among the cash crops, jute occupies the foremost place being the largest earner of foreign exchange for the country. The jute industry employs about 2 lakh workers which form a significant proportion of the total factory labour in India. The cultivation of this crop being confined to the Eastern Zone, the economy of this region in particular is closely linked with the development of this fibre. The immediate need is to step up yield per acre and improve the quality of the fibre through intensification of development measures and provision of adequate retting facilities. Stabilization of prices and the assurance of minimum remunerative prices for the growers are, however, essential pre-conditions for the achievement of this objective. These aspects of the jute problem have been emphasised in the successive Five Year Plans. Along with jute, attention has also to be devoted to the development of mesta which is being increasingly used by the mills in the production of jute manufactures.

The present study focusses attention on the various problems connected with the development of jute and mesta. It contains useful recommendations which merit close consideration of the concerned State Governments. As far as possible, these recommendations deserve to be implemented in the Third Plan. Those which cannot be put into effect during this Plan may be formulated as schemes for implementation during the Fourth Plan period.

M. S. THACKER

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*Member (Education)*

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