



For Immediate Release
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40 Million Households Produce Natural Fibres: Production Reached 33 Million Tonnes in 2019

An estimated 40 million households (households vary in size from an average of 3 in China to 15 in some countries of Africa) were engaged in natural fibre production during 2019, including some 29 million households producing cotton, 6 million producing jute, kenaf and allied fibres, about 5 million wool producers, 1 million involved in production of coir, and another one million involved in other natural fibres, such as abaca, hemp, sisal and silk. When family labour, hired workers and employees in associated service industries such as transportation and storage are considered, total employment in the agricultural segments of natural fibre value chains probably reaches about 200 million people per year, or between 2% and 3% of the world's population. (all estimates are rounded)

World Production, Value and Employment of Natural Fibres, 2019				
	Production Estimated Metric Tons	Households Millions	Employment Millions	Value of Production \$Billion
Natural Fibers				
Vegetable Origin				
Abaca	86,000	0.1	0.4	\$0.2
Bastfibres, other	220,000	0.2	1	\$0.1
Coir	1,000,000	1.0	5	\$0.3
Cotton lint	25,960,000	29	140	\$34
Fibre crops not specified elsewhere	280,000	0.3	1	\$0.2
Flax fibre and tow, ex scutching mill	790,000	0.01	0.05	\$0.3
Hemp fibre and tow	60,000	0.1	0.3	\$0.0
Jute, Kenaf & Allied Fibres	3,200,000	6	30	\$2
Kapok fibre	90,000	0.1	0.4	\$0.2
Ramie	100,000	0.1	0	\$0.1
Sisal, Henequen and similar hard fibers	260,000	0.1	0.3	\$0.4
Animal Origin				
Silk, raw	170,000	0.3	1.0	\$2
Wool, clean	1,100,000	5	10	\$13
Other, greasy weight*	30,000	0.1	0.3	\$0.7
Total Natural Fibers	33,400,000	40	200	\$50

World production of natural fibres was about 33 million tonnes in 2019, little changed from 2018. Natural fibre production has been in a range between 29 million tonnes and 34 million tonnes during the past decade.

The value of production at the farm level was between \$50 billion and \$60 billion during 2019, including some \$30 billion for cotton, \$10 billion for wool and approximately \$2 billion each for jute and silk. The

value of world production of natural fibres was about \$60 billion in 2018, but prices in the natural fibre complex declined in 2019 from above-average levels in 2018.

World production of all fibres is estimated to have reached 110 million tonnes in 2019. Natural fibres accounted for 30% of the total and manmade fibres the balance.

In 2019, oil-based fibres such as polyester, acrylic, and nylon accounted for an estimated 69 million tons of production, including 50 million tons of filament and 20 million tons of staple. Production of cellulosic manmade fibres reached 7 million tons.

World Fibre Production, Metric Tons							
	2008	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018, Prel.	2019, Est.
Natural Fibers							
Vegetable origin							
Abaca	91,300	70,100	78,200	86,900	84,200	86,800	86,000
Bastfibres, other	350,445	265,145	234,983	223,558	207,777	221,276	220,000
Coir	729,600	952,700	1,021,600	986,900	975,400	1,009,800	1,000,000
Cotton Lint	23,550,404	25,867,652	21,476,579	23,078,588	26,714,201	25,683,699	25,960,000
Fibre crops not specified elsewhere	272,548	275,414	284,624	282,887	283,305	283,378	280,000
Flax fibre and tow, ex scutching mill	977,827	604,181	749,842	815,000	781,000	797,000	790,000
Hemp fibre and tow	60,648	47,557	62,475	66,796	55,826	60,657	60,000
Jute, Kenaf & Allied Fibres	2,588,000	3,375,600	2,827,400	3,328,400	3,112,100	3,102,400	3,200,000
Kapok fibre	87,034	84,100	95,790	93,240	91,670	90,520	90,000
Ramie	253,768	192,521	111,205	106,622	102,662	106,753	100,000
Sisal, Henequen and similar hard fibers	295,400	279,500	284,000	268,500	259,800	258,100	260,000
Animal origin							
Silk, raw	164,377	164,767	169,000	169,000	170,000	170,000	170,000
Wool, clean	1,198,000	1,114,475	1,154,956	1,147,000	1,156,000	1,124,137	1,100,000
Other animal fibres*	27,541	27,808	31,400	30,014	30,014	30,014	30,000
Total Natural Fibers	30,646,891	33,321,520	28,582,055	30,683,405	34,000,000	33,000,000	33,400,000
Manmade Fibers							
Cellulosic Fibers	3,464,000	4,127,000	6,070,000	6,310,000	6,423,000	6,899,000	7,133,000
Synthetic Filament	25,750,000	30,513,000	42,251,000	45,038,000	46,439,000	48,361,000	49,936,000
Synthetic Staple	15,331,000	16,887,000	19,214,000	19,086,000	19,014,000	19,435,000	19,527,000
Total Manmade Fibers	44,545,000	51,527,000	67,535,000	70,434,000	71,876,000	74,695,000	76,596,000
Total Fiber Production	75,191,891	84,848,520	96,117,055	101,117,405	105,876,000	107,695,000	109,996,000
Sources							
Bastfibres, other, Fibre crops not specified elsewhere, Hemp tow waste, Kapok and Ramie (2008-2018): http://faostat3.fao.org/							
Abaca, Coir, Jute, Kenaf & Allied Fibres, and Sisal, Henequen and similar fibres (2008-2018): FAO, RAMHOT Products Team, Trade and Markets Division, Statistical Bulletin 2019,							
Flax re & Tow, 2008-2015, FAOSTat; 2016-2019, IWTO 2020							
Cotton: International Cotton Advisory Committee							
Silk 2008-2019: IWTO 2020							
Wool: International Wool Textile Organization							
All other Natural Fibres, Animal origin: Various sources as reported by the International Wool Textile Organization							
* Greasy converted to clean basis at a ratio of 0.54. (Includes: Alpaca, Angora Rabbit, Camelhair, Cashmere, Guanaco, Llama, Mohair, Vicuna, Yakhair)							
Manmade Fibres: CIRFS, published in IWTO Market Report 2020							

The Discover Natural Fibre Initiative (DNFI) was created in January 2010 as an outgrowth of the International Year of Natural Fibres 2009, declared by the United Nations General Assembly.

The purposes of DNFI are to advance the interests of all natural fibre industries and to encourage increased use of natural fibres in the world economy. DNFI is a voluntary association of individuals and organizations with interests in promoting natural fibres by serving as a platform for information exchange, by providing statistics on fibre production and use, and by raising awareness of the benefits of natural fibre industries to the world economy, environment and consumers.