

# THE GLOBAL MARKETS OF NATURAL FIBRES

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## THE WORLD NATURAL FIBRE PRODUCTION IN 2023 IS ESTIMATED AT 31.6 MILLION TONNES.

Production reached 32.0 million tonnes in 2021 and 32.4 million tonnes in 2022.

Natural fibres are heavily-traded commodities, and supply chain disruptions during the last two years are causing significant economic losses as freight costs remain high and deliveries are delayed.

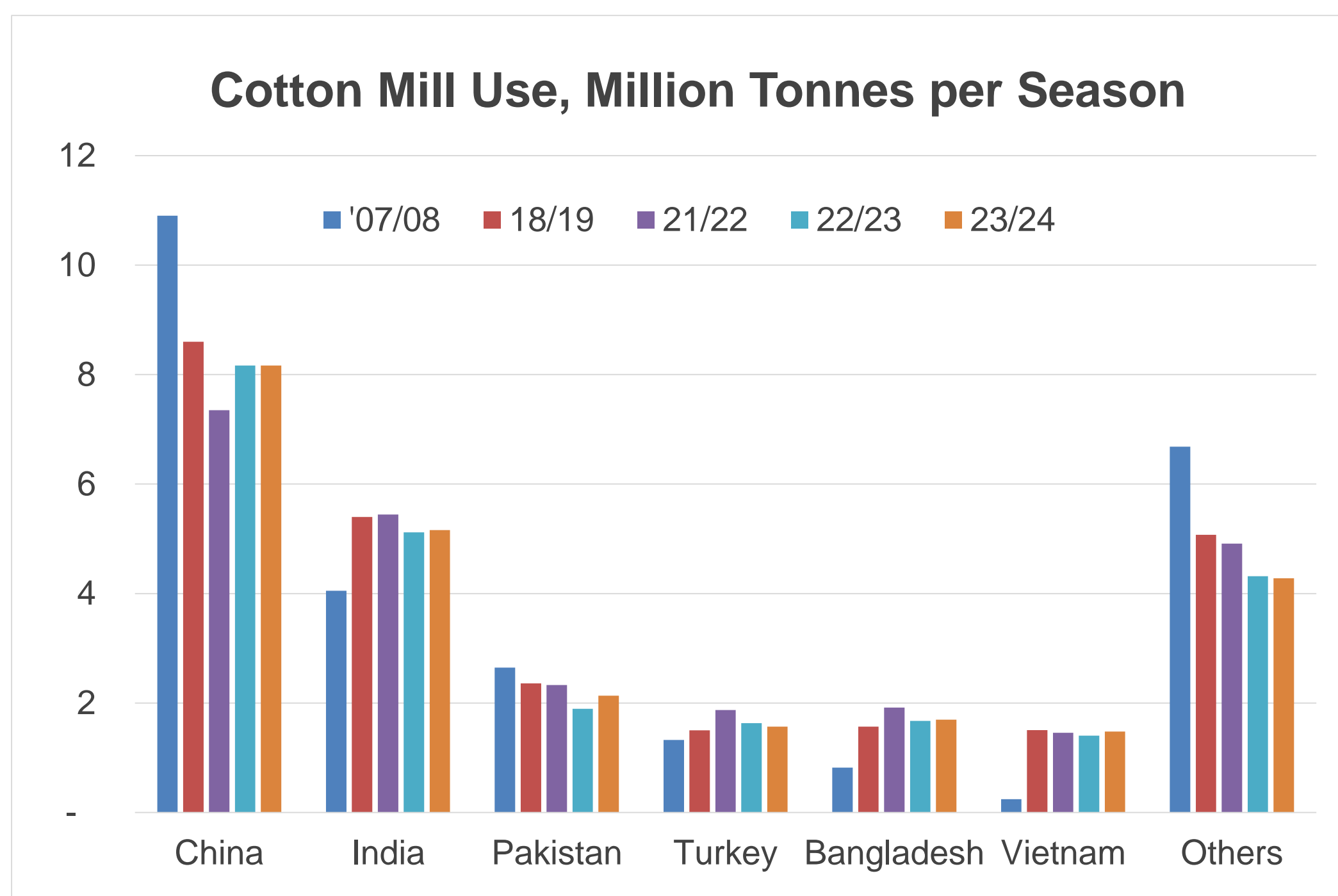
An estimated 40 million households (households vary in size from an average of 3 in China to 15 in some countries of Africa) were engaged in natural fibre production during 2023, including some 24 million households producing Cotton. The total employment in the agricultural segments of natural fibre value chains probably reaches about 200 million people per year, or between 2% and 3% of the world's population.

World Fibre Production March 2024	2021	2022	2023, pre. Metric Tonnes	Pct of total fibres in 2023	Pct of natural fibres in 2023
Abaca	83.700	76.900	62.000	0,05%	0,2%
Agave Fibres	40.656	40.639	41.000	0,04%	0,1%
Coir, without pith	1.113.000	1.133.000	1.163.000	1,00%	3,7%
Cotton Lint	24.927.063	25.312.432	24.641.846	21,23%	78,0%
Other Fibre Crops, raw, n.e.c.	572.945	554.146	622.000	0,54%	2,0%
Flax, Long Fibre	180.000	175.000	175.000	0,15%	0,6%
True Hemp, raw or retted	289.883	256.564	276.564	0,24%	0,9%
Jute, Kenaf & Allied Fibres	3.265.000	3.349.000	3.050.000	2,63%	9,7%
Kapok fibre	75.472	77.000	76.000	0,07%	0,2%
Ramie, raw or retted	8.166	7.625	8.000	0,01%	0,0%
Sisal, Henequen and similar hard fibers	299.200	279.000	288.000	0,25%	0,9%
Silk, raw	86.311	91.221	90.000	0,08%	0,3%
Wool, clean	1.037.933	1.053.000	1.053.000	0,91%	3,3%
Other animal fibres	26.460	27.000	27.000	0,02%	0,1%
<b>Total Natural Fibers</b>	<b>32.005.789</b>	<b>32.400.000</b>	<b>31.600.000</b>	<b>27,23%</b>	<b>100,0%</b>
Cellulosic	7.155.000	7.334.000	7.407.000	6,38%	
Synthetic Filament	53.029.000	53.981.000	56.641.000	48,80%	
Synthetic Staple	20.050.000	20.178.000	20.421.000	17,59%	
<b>Total Manmade Fibers</b>	<b>80.234.000</b>	<b>81.493.000</b>	<b>84.469.000</b>	<b>72,77%</b>	
<b>Total Fiber Production</b>	<b>112.239.789</b>	<b>113.893.000</b>	<b>116.069.000</b>	<b>100,00%</b>	

## Ocean Shipping Disruptions Threaten Natural Fibre Markets

Natural fibres are export-dependent commodities, with most processing and end-use consumption taking place outside countries of production. Approximately 40% of world cotton production is exported as fibre. Virtually all abaca is exported as fibre or pulp. Virtually all flax long fibre is grown in Europe and processed in East Asia. Exports of jute and jute products account for approximately three-fourths of all production in Bangladesh. Almost all sisal produced in Brazil and East Africa is consumed in the Middle East and East Asia. Virtually all Merino wool production is exported from Australia.

The UN's trade and development body, UNCTAD, says that disruptions to shipping in the Red Sea, the Black Sea and the Panama Canal are affecting key trade routes.



## NATURAL FIBRES ARE

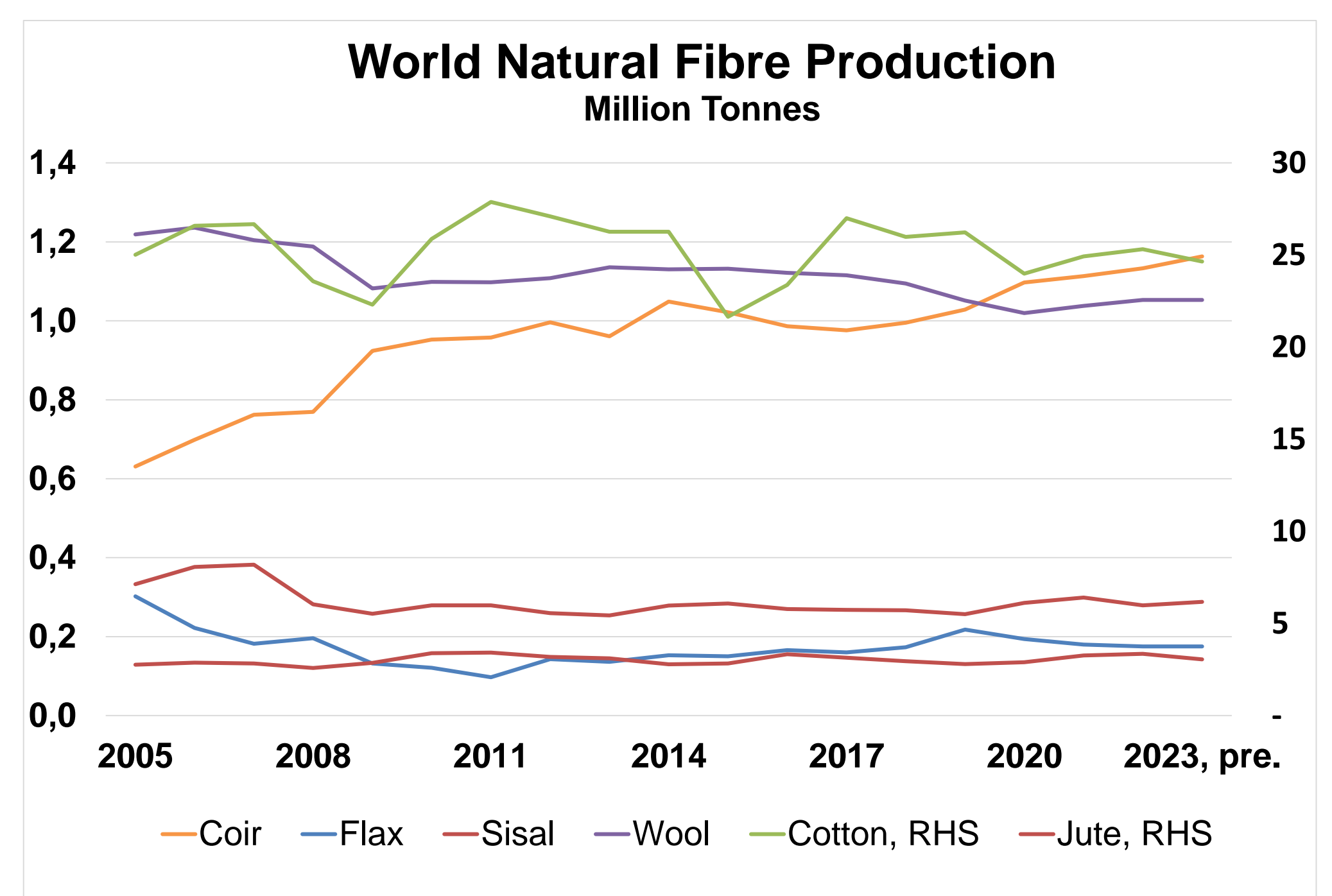
Sustainable and Biodegradable,  
Comfortable, Healthy, Responsible,  
Renewable, High-tech and Fashionable

DNFI facilitates the exchange of information and experiences and works to advance the common interests of all natural fibres in the face of competition with oil-based and wood-based manmade fibres. Representatives of natural fibre industries as diverse as **Abaca, Alpaca, Angora, Camel, Cashmere, Coir, Cotton, Flax, Hemp, Jute, Mohair, Ramie, Silk, Sisal and Wool** participate in DNFI.org

## UN General Assembly Recognizes Key Contributions of Natural Fibres

Resolution 78/169 adopted by the UN General Assembly on 19 December 2023 recognized that the sustainable production, consumption, and use of natural plant fibres can make a positive contribution towards efforts to achieve sustainable development, poverty alleviation, improved human well-being, while addressing environmental degradation and climate change.

The General Assembly encouraged Member States to foster political support, the mobilization of resources, capacity building and proper management and momentum for the sustainable production, consumption, and use of natural plant fibres at the global, regional, national and local levels.



## DNFI.org – Who we are:

The General Assembly of the United Nations declared 2009 to be the International Year of Natural Fibres (IYNF) in recognition of the benefits of natural fibre industries to the world economy, the environment, consumers and to producers around the world.

The Discover Natural Fibres Initiative is composed of individuals and organizations from around the world who voluntarily and independently share information about natural fibres. There are no membership dues, DNFI has no offices, no budget and does not conduct projects.

