

# iGrip webinar series on GEOSTRUCTURES

## Road ahead for Jute Geotextiles (JGT) and its blends with other natural fibres

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**Dr. U.S. Sarma** is presently working as the Director of Indian Jute Industries' Research Association, Kolkata, an apex body under the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India.

He has obtained his Master of Science in Organic Chemistry from Jadavpur University, Kolkata and obtained Phd (Chemistry) by Thesis - "Studies on Fibre Hemicellulose" from Calcutta University, Kolkata. Thereafter, he was awarded Post Doctoral Fellowship from *Institut National de la Reserche Agronomique* (INRA), Nantes, France for one year.

He has undertaken a number of projects for DRDO, UNDP, international projects etc. and was also recognized research guide for Cochin University of Science & Technology, Cochin, Kerala and Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, Kerala. His research papers have been published in several National and International journals since 1982. He had also written chapters in different books. Among those the worth mentioning is his chapter written on "Eco Friendly & Versatile Coir Geotextiles" published in *Geosynthetics Asia'97*, Vol. I, Publishers Oxford and IBH Publishing Co. Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi.

He has been actively guiding various projects at IJIRA and undertaking collaborations with other organizations and institutes. He had also received 5 National Awards since 1999 for his different scientific and research achievements including the latest being received from NRDC on Societal Innovation, in the year 2018. He was also the former Director of Central Coir Research Institute, Coir Board for 21 years and has a vast experience on natural fibres. He has also done research works on Coir geotextiles and Jute geotextiles. It is worthy to mention that IJIRA has received the Centre of Excellence for the usage of Jute Geotextiles in rural roads in the North-Eastern region, from the Ministry of Textiles under his guidance.

### Outline of Webinar

- Jute is a fibre of high initial modulus with limited elongation providing dimensional stability to the JGT
- It is grown in India and the annual crop is ready for use within 4 months
- Besides, its use as a packaging material, there is sufficient spare capacity of jute available for its diversified uses like JGT
- A wide range of JGT have been developed for various end uses
- It has been used conventionally as soil saver for hill slope protection
- The newer uses for jute have been in construction of low volume roads
- Blending jute with other natural fibres like sisal/coir could open newer avenues in construction of National Highways also
- Blending jute with PP could provide longer life for the rural roads