

6th National Conference on “Innovation in Natural Fibers in the Context of Industry and Agriculture 5.0”

January 05, 2026, Kolkata

6th National Conference on “**Innovation in Natural Fibers in the Context of Industry and Agriculture 5.0**” was held at ICAR-NINFET, Kolkata during January 3-4, 2026. The conference was jointly organized by ‘The Indian Natural Fibre Society (TINFS)’, ‘National Jute Board, Ministry of Textile’, ‘Central Wool Development Board-Jodhpur’, ‘ICAR-NINFET’, and ‘ICAR-CRIJAF, Barrackpore’.

The conference was inaugurated by Prof. (Dr.) B. C. Deka, Vice Chancellor, Assam Agricultural University, as Chief Guest. In his deliberation, he pointed out that research organizations, academic institutes, industry and government bodies should work together to frame the policy on new age fibre to support the government for successful implementation of **Mini mission III -New Age Fibre**.

Shri G. S Bhati, Executive Director, CWDB, Shri Hemant Bangur, Executive Chairman, Gloster Ltd., and Dr. Mahadeb Datta, Joint Director, NJB graced the inaugural session as Guest-of-Honour. Shri Bhati emphasized on collaborative research between the ICAR-NINFET and CWDB to cater the national and international market on wool and natural fibre based value-added products. While Shri Bangur stressed that industry-institute linkage for joint R&D works in the natural fibre sector is the need of the hour. He praised the various technologies developed by ICAR-NINFET and came forward for venturing the new dimension of research on jute-based products for the future global market. Dr. Mahadeb showed his gratitude towards the NINFET and CRIJAF for joining hand with NJB for organizing 6th National Conference in a befitting manner.

Dr. G. Kar, Director, CRIJAF highlighted the various achievement of CRIJAF, specially, in the sector of varietal development, improvement, and protection of jute and allied fibres through this forum. He also urged to develop the climate resilient varieties of jute and allied fibre for sustainable environment

Dr. Shakyawar, Director, NINFET and Convenor of Conference welcomed all the esteemed dignitaries, learned delegates, teachers, students, industry representatives and all the participants for attending the conference. He discussed about the importance of new age fibres in the context of the sustainable environment and adverse impact of synthetic counterpart. He also pointed out the implementation of latest technologies like AI, IoT, Big data, Cloud computing and 3D printing are very much needed in the era of industry and agriculture 5.0.

In this conference, more than 250 delegates from the esteemed organizations like, IIT Kharagpur, IIT Delhi, NIT-Raipur, NIFT-Kolkata, NIFT-Shilong, NID-Assam, BCKV-West Bengal, CSTR (Cuttack), CAU-Assam, AAU-Jorhat, University of Calcutta, IJIRA, IJMA, NITRA Ghaziabad, and many more participated. The conference was also attended/supported by the industry partners like Gloster Ltd, M. P. Birla Corporation Ltd., R B Electronic, Namrata Hemp Co., etc.

In the conference four main themes viz., (i) “advancement and future strategies on natural fibre production, improvement and protection”, (ii) “processing and value-addition of plant and animal fibre, (iii) “mechanization in natural fibre production and processing technologies, (iv) “supply chain processing and value-chain management of natural fibre of north east’ were discussed in details. All

such research papers were documented in the form of Souvenir and Book of Abstracts with ISBN number.

The programmed was coordinated by Dr. D. P. Ray, Dr. J. Mitra and Dr. M. Datta, as organizing secretaries. Conference was concluded by Dr. K. K. Satapathy, former Director-NINFET and Chief Guest of valedictory session with the concluding remarks that Indian has a vast potential to be a global leader on new age fibres.

