

## Jute

## Local natural fibre

Bengal's jute was an indigenous crop.

The jute was exported by European countries from the 17th century. It began to develop with the building of large scale mills during the time of the East India Company around 1840, and at one time was the biggest industry in the region. Jute was a cheap option for the construction and military industries. The

most famous product is perhaps the jute coffee bag.

After sowing the seeds, jute takes around five months to harvest. The fiber is then collected by peeling the jute stick. After which, the famous bundles are made. Finally, they are kept under water to rest, which takes up to twelve days. Since the 1970s, jute cultivation in Bangladesh has heavily declined.

Exports have fallen as other countries grew jute and alternate products like plastic. As of 2018, Bangladesh produces 33 percent of the total worldwide production of jute.

REGION

Across Bangladesh

MATERIAL

Jute

CONTENT

Text: Goethe-Institut Samples: Folkdays

Photos: Simone Simonato (above) © Corr - The Jute Works (left)



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