

Table of Contents

Preface

1 About Fiber Crops	IX
1.1 Introduction	1
1.2 History of fiber	1
1.2.1 History of natural fibers	1
1.2.2 Natural fibers versus synthetic fibers	1
1.3 Importance	2
1.4 Constrains of vegetable fibers	3
1.4.1 Edapho-climatic and abiotic constraints	3
1.4.2 Yield estimation constraints	4
1.4.3 Extraction of fiber by retting or decortication	4
1.4.4 Economic constrains and changing scenario	5
1.5 Fiber development	5
1.6 Classification of the vegetable fibers	6
1.7 Crop improvement strategies	8
1.7.1 General strategies	8
1.7.2 Percentage of fiber and proportion of fiber and wood	9
1.7.3 Other criteria of improvement	9
1.7.4 Fiber anatomy as selection criteria	9
1.7.4.1 <i>The development of fiber filament and its anatomical structure</i>	10
1.7.4.2 <i>Parameters of selection</i>	11
1.7.4.3 <i>Technique for rapid screening of breeding material for fiber anatomy</i>	12
1.8 Research needs	12
2 Jute (<i>Corchorus capsularis</i> and <i>C. olitorius</i>)	13
2.1 Introduction	13
2.1.1 Area and production	13
2.1.2 Socioeconomic significance	14
2.2 Taxonomy, origin and distribution	14
2.3 Genetic resources and genetic diversity	16
2.4 Morphology of plant and fiber anatomy	17
2.4.1 Plant morphology	17
2.4.2 Fiber anatomy and development of fiber	18
2.5 Phenology and ecology	21
2.5.1 Phenology	21
2.5.2 Ecological conditions	22
2.6 Physiology	22
2.6.1 Seed germination and vigor	22
2.6.2 Leaf growth	22
2.6.3 Growth characteristics and pattern	23
2.6.4 Photoperiod sensibility	24
2.7 Cultural practices	25
2.7.1 Sowing and seedling establishment	25
2.7.2 Nutrient management	25
2.7.3 Weed management	26
2.7.4 Pest and diseases and their management	27
2.7.4.1 <i>Major insect pests and diseases</i>	27
2.7.4.2 <i>Management of pests and diseases</i>	28
2.7.4.2.1 <i>Management through resistant varieties</i>	28

2.7.4.2.2	<i>Pest and disease control by cultural practices and chemicals</i>	29
2.7.4.2.3	<i>Biological control of pest and diseases</i>	30
2.7.5	Harvesting	30
2.7.5.1	<i>Harvesting for fiber extraction</i>	30
2.7.5.2	<i>Harvesting for seed production</i>	30
2.7.6	Retting and fiber extraction	30
2.8	Genetics of qualitative and quantitative characters in jute	32
2.8.1	Genetics of qualitative characters	32
2.8.2	Genetics of quantitative characters	33
2.8.2.1	<i>Inheritance of morpho-physiological characters</i>	33
2.8.2.2	<i>Inheritance of yield and yield components</i>	34
2.8.3	Genetics of fiber quality characters	35
2.8.4	Association and variability of characters related to fiber yield and quality	35
2.9	Crop improvement	37
2.9.1	Karyotype and cytology of <i>Corchorus</i> species	38
2.9.2	Natural outcrossing and crossing techniques in jute	38
2.9.3	Emasculation techniques	38
2.9.4	Extent of heterosis	39
2.9.5	Combining ability	39
2.9.6	Varietal improvement	40
2.9.7	Hybrid breeding	41
2.9.8	Interspecific hybridization	41
2.9.8.1	<i>Interspecific hybridization of C. capsularis and C. olitorius</i>	41
2.9.8.2	<i>Interspecific hybridization with wild species</i>	42
2.10	Biotechnology in jute improvement	42
2.10.1	Plant regeneration and tissue culture	42
2.10.2	Biochemical and molecular markers	43
2.10.3	Genomics and transgenic approaches	44
2.11	Fiber quality	45
2.11.1	Quality parameters	45
2.11.1.1	<i>Fiber strength</i>	45
2.11.1.2	<i>Fiber fineness</i>	45
2.11.1.3	<i>Root content</i>	45
2.11.1.4	<i>Fiber color and luster</i>	45
2.11.1.5	<i>Fiber cell length</i>	46
2.11.2	Grading system of <i>C. capsularis</i> and <i>C. olitorius</i>	46
2.11.3	Chemical composition of jute fiber and its effect on quality	47
2.11.4	Factors affecting fiber quality	47
2.12	Future research needs	49
3	Kenaf (<i>Hibiscus cannabinus</i> and <i>H. sabdariffa</i>)	51
3.1	Introduction	51
3.1.1	Area and production	51
3.1.2	Socioeconomic significance	52
3.2	Taxonomy, origin and distribution	52
3.3	Germplasm and genetic diversity	53
3.4	Morphology of plant and fiber anatomy	53
3.4.1	Morphology	53
3.4.2	Pollination and fertilization	55
3.4.3	Fiber anatomy	55
3.5	Phenology and ecology	56

3.5.1 Phenology	56
3.5.2 Ecology	57
3.6 Physiology	57
3.6.1 Vegetative phase	57
3.6.2 Reproductive phase	58
3.7 Cultural practices	58
3.7.1 Soil and seedling establishment	58
3.7.2 Nutrient management	59
3.7.3 Weed and water management	60
3.7.4 Pest and diseases and their management	61
3.7.4.1 <i>Major insect pests and diseases</i>	61
3.7.4.2 <i>Management of pests and diseases</i>	61
3.7.4.2.1 <i>Management through resistant varieties</i>	61
3.7.4.2.2 <i>Pest and disease control by cultural practices and chemicals</i>	62
3.7.5 Harvesting	62
3.7.6 Retting and fiber extraction	62
3.8 Genetics and breeding	63
3.8.1 Genetics	63
3.8.2 Karyotype and cytology	64
3.8.3 Crop Improvement	65
3.8.3.1 <i>Crossing techniques</i>	65
3.8.3.2 <i>Heterosis, hybrid development and combining ability</i>	66
3.8.3.3 <i>Varietal improvement</i>	66
3.8.3.4 <i>Interspecific hybridization</i>	67
3.9 Biotechnology in kenaf improvement	68
3.9.1 Plant regeneration and tissue culture	68
3.9.1.1 <i>Plant regeneration</i>	68
3.9.1.2 <i>Somaclonal variation and anther culture</i>	68
3.9.2 Biochemical and molecular markers	69
3.9.3 Genomics and transgenic approaches	69
3.10 Fiber quality	70
3.10.1 Quality parameters	70
3.10.2 Grading system	70
3.10.3 Chemical composition of kenaf fiber	70
3.10.4 Quality for paper pulp production	71
3.10.5 Factors affecting fiber quality	71
3.11 Future research needs	72
4 Flax (<i>Linum usitatissimum</i>)	73
4.1 Introduction	73
4.1.1 Area and production	73
4.1.2 Socioeconomic significance	73
4.2 Taxonomy, origin and distribution	74
4.3 Germplasm and genetic diversity	75
4.4 Morphology of plant and fiber anatomy	76
4.4.1 Morphology	76
4.4.2 Fiber anatomy	76
4.4.2.1 <i>Anatomical features of the fiber cells</i>	76
4.4.2.2 <i>Lignification and other depositions in fiber cell</i>	77
4.5 Phenology and ecology	78
4.6 Physiology	78

4.6.1 Vegetative phase	78
4.6.1.1 Germination and seedling establishment	78
4.6.1.2 Growth and development	79
4.6.2 Reproductive phase	79
4.6.3 Effect of growth regulators on growth and physiology	79
4.6.4 Effect of abiotic stresses on physiology	80
4.7 Cultural practices	81
4.7.1 Soil and seedling establishment	81
4.7.2 Nutrient management	81
4.7.3 Weed and water management	82
4.7.4 Pest and diseases and their management	83
4.7.5 Harvesting	83
4.7.6 Fiber extraction	84
4.7.6.1 Post-harvest retting	84
4.7.6.2 Pre-harvest retting	86
4.8 Genetics and breeding	86
4.8.1 Genetics	86
4.8.2 Association of characters and yield components	87
4.8.3 Karyotype and cytology	88
4.8.4 Crop improvement	88
4.8.4.1 Crossing techniques	89
4.8.4.1.1 Heterosis and combining ability	89
4.8.4.1.2 Varietal improvement	89
4.8.4.1.3 Interspecific hybridization	89
4.9 Biotechnology in flax improvement	90
4.9.1 Plant regeneration and tissue culture	90
4.9.2 Molecular markers	91
4.9.3 Genomics and transgenic approaches	91
4.10 Fiber quality	92
4.10.1 Quality parameters	92
4.10.2 Chemical composition of flax fiber	93
4.10.3 Factors affecting fiber quality	93
5 Ramie (<i>Boehmeria nivea</i>)	94
5.1 Introduction	94
5.2 Taxonomy, origin and distribution	94
5.3 Germplasm and genetic diversity	95
5.4 Morphology	95
5.5 Anatomy	95
5.6 Climate	96
5.7 Growth	96
5.8 Agronomy	97
5.9 Insects and diseases	99
5.10 Harvest	99
5.11 Fiber extraction	99
5.12 Genetics, breeding and biotechnology	100
5.13 Cytology and karyotype	100
5.14 Breeding and variety development	101
5.15 Biotechnology	101
5.16 Fiber quality	102
5.16.1 Physical properties	102

5.16.2 Chemical properties	102
5.16.3 Factors affecting fiber quality	102
6 Hemp (<i>Cannabis sativa</i>)	104
6.1 Introduction	104
6.2 Distribution	104
6.3 Morphology	104
6.4 Anatomy	104
6.5 Ecological conditions	105
6.6 Agronomy	105
6.7 Growth	106
6.8 Harvest and fiber extraction	106
6.9 Quality	106
6.10 Fiber extraction	107
6.11 Improvement	107
7 Urena (<i>Urena lobata</i> and <i>U. sinuata</i>)	109
7.1 Introduction	109
7.2 Distribution	109
7.3 Growth	109
7.4 Quality	109
7.5 Morphology	109
7.6 Anatomy	109
7.7 Ecological conditions	110
7.8 Agronomy	110
7.9 Growth	110
7.10 Harvest	110
7.11 Fiber extraction	110
7.12 Yield	110
7.13 Fiber quality	111
8 Sunnhemp (<i>Crotalaria juncea</i>)	112
8.1 Introduction	112
8.2 Classification	112
8.3 Distribution	112
8.4 Morphology	112
8.5 Anatomy	112
8.6 Growth and flowering	113
8.7 Agronomy	113
8.8 Harvest and fiber extraction	113
8.9 Quality	114
9 Abaca (<i>Musa textilis</i>)	115
9.1 Introduction	115
9.2 Classification	115
9.3 Distribution	115
9.4 Morphology	115
9.5 Anatomy	115
9.6 Agronomy	116
9.7 Propagation	116
9.8 Harvest	116
9.9 Fiber extraction	116
9.10 Quality	117
10 Yucca (<i>Yucca</i> spp.)	118

10.1 Introduction	118
10.2 Classification	118
10.3 Uses	118
10.4 Distribution	119
10.5 Exploitation for fiber	119
10.6 Morphology	120
10.6.1 <i>Yucca carnerosana</i>	120
10.6.2 <i>Yucca filifera</i>	120
10.7 Anatomy	120
10.8 Pollination and reproduction	121
10.9 Growth and development	122
10.10 Ecology	122
10.11 Harvest and fiber extraction	122
10.12 Fiber processing	123
10.13 Quality	123
10.14 Research needs	123
11 Lecheguilla (<i>Agave lecheguilla</i>)	124
11.1 Introduction	124
11.2 Distribution	124
11.3 Ecological conditions	124
11.4 Classification	125
11.5 Anatomy	126
11.6 Agronomic characters	127
11.7 Exploitation	127
11.8 Harvest and extraction	128
11.9 Quality, application and industrialization of fiber	128
11.10 Machine processing of fiber	129
11.11 Conclusions	129
12 Sisal (<i>Agave sisalana</i>)	130
12.1 Introduction	130
12.2 Classification	130
12.3 Distribution	130
12.4 Morphology	130
12.5 Anatomy	130
12.6 Climate and soil	131
12.7 Agronomy	131
12.8 Tissue culture	132
12.9 Harvest	132
12.10 Quality	132
13 Henequen (<i>Agave fourcroyodes</i>)	134
13.1 Introduction	134
13.2 Classification	134
13.3 Distribution	134
13.4 Morphology	134
13.5 Anatomy	134
13.6 Ecological conditions	136
13.7 Tissue culture	136
13.8 Agronomy	136
13.9 Diseases	136
13.10 Harvest	136

13.11 Fiber extraction	136
13.12 Fiber quality	137
13.13 General comments	137
14 Cabuya (<i>Furcraea cabuya</i>)	138
14.1 Introduction	138
14.2 Morphology	138
14.3 Environment	138
14.4 Crop establishment	138
14.5 Crop management and fiber harvest	138
15 Zacaton (<i>Muhlenbergia macroura</i>)	139
15.1 Introduction	139
15.2 Classification	139
15.3 Morphology of the <i>Muhlenbergia</i> genus	139
15.4 Anatomy	139
15.5 Ecological conditions	140
15.6 Exploitation	141
16. Minor fibers	141
16.1 Coir (<i>Cocos nucifera</i>)	141
16.2 Sida	141
16.3 <i>Abutilon</i>	142
16.4 <i>Malacra capitata</i>	142
16.5 Other <i>Hibiscus</i> spp.	143
16.5.1 <i>Hibiscus surratensis</i>	143
16.5.2 <i>Hibiscus radiatus</i>	143
16.5.3 <i>Hibiscus panduriformis</i>	144
16.5.4 <i>Hibiscus acetosella</i>	144
16.5.5 <i>Hibiscus ficulneus</i>	144
16.5.6 <i>Hibiscus pungens</i>	144
16.5.7 <i>Hibiscus tetrafolius</i>	144
16.5.8 <i>Hibiscus vitifolius</i>	145
16.6 <i>Abelmoschus esculentus</i>	146
16.7 <i>Helicteres isor</i>	147
16.8 <i>Pentapets phoenicea</i>	147
16.9 <i>Abroma augusta</i>	147
16.10 <i>Sansevieria</i> spp.	147
16.11 <i>Phormium tenax</i>	148
16.12 <i>Ananas comosus</i>	148
17 Histo-chemical method for studying cell wall of vegetable fibers	149
17.1 Introduction	149
17.2 Cellulose	149
17.3 Lignin	149
17.4 Suberin and cutin	149
17.5 Pectin	149
17.6 Some special histo-chemical test for wall structure	149
17.6.1 Phloroglucinol-HCl test	150
17.6.2 Bial's orcinol test	150
17.6.3 Aniline hydrochloride test	150
17.6.4 Stains for submicroscopic structure	150
17.6.5 Cellulose orientation	151
17.6.6 Some reagents used in histo-chemical test and identification of vegetable fibers (Stove)	151

17.7	Some simple technique for maceration of fibers	152
17.7.1	Some special methods for studying the structure of cell wall	153
17.7.2	Detection of damage	154
17.7.3	Investigation of damaged fiber	154
17.7.4	Chemical nature of constituents of cell wall	155
17.7.4.1	<i>Cellulose</i>	155
17.7.4.2	<i>Hemicelluloses and pectic substance</i>	156
17.7.4.3	<i>Polyuronides</i>	156
17.7.4.4	<i>Cellulosans</i>	156
17.7.4.5	<i>Staining reaction</i>	156
17.7.5	Swelling reaction of vegetable fibers	157
17.7.6	Methodology	158
17.8	Results and conclusions	159
18	Fiber microscopy and fiber quality	160
18.1	Orientation and structure of fiber bundles and adaptability to standard textile machinery	160
18.2	Studies on the ultimate fiber cells in connection with the indexes of several groups of fibers	160
18.3	Morphology and dimensions of cells in connection with the fiber quality	161
18.4	Fibers used mainly for textiles	161
18.5	Fibers for burlap bag	161
18.6	Fibers for cordage	162
18.7	Fibers for brushes	162
18.8	Fibers for papers	162
18.9	Conclusions	162
18.9.1	Potential lines of anatomical research	162
19	Fiber ultra structure	164
19.1	Introduction	164
19.2	Ultra structure of vegetable fibers	164
19.3	The incrusting substances	165
19.4	Structure of the primary wall	165
19.5	Structure of the secondary wall	166
19.6	Helical structure	166
Bibliography		167-179