

Comparison of technologies in the SADC region for suitability in spinning sisal fibres for rural women in Swaziland

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ABSTRACT

The aim of the project was to explore the utilization of alternative spinning frames used in the SADC region, in spinning sisal fibers in Swaziland. Sisal fibers were chemically treated at UNISWA using sodium hydroxide optimal concentration and sent to the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in Port Elizabeth for spinning trials. Another batch of treated sisal fibers was mailed to Viswabharathi Textiles in India when attempts to establish contacts in Tanzania were unsuccessful. The CSIR was unable to spin the treated fibers, as the quantity was too small to conduct trials. Viswabharathi Textiles contracted an SME in India to spin the fibers and was able to spin the treated fibers although not to the required linear density. The spinning parameters were not provided and the SME produced a cord as opposed to a yarn of about 100tex. In conclusion, the magnitude of the project was big and proper networking with spinning frame companies has to be done prior to embarking on such a project. There needs to be a large production of treated fibers for experimental runs or trials to be done even when using miniature spinning frames.

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