

## **Training Program on Ramie: Harvesting and Processing**

Venue: Dattopant Thengadi Employment Generation Resource Centre, Tripura University

Organised by: Department of Microbiology / Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC)

Date: 09/06/2025

Time: 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM

A training program on Ramie: harvesting and processing was organized by Department of Microbiology and the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of Tripura University. The event was held at the Dattopant Thengadi Employment Generation Resource Centre, Tripura University.

The program was attended by Mr. Kishaloy Chakraborty, founder of Neo Fences, along with his team, as well as two summer interns of Indian National Academy. The session was conducted by the Microbial Technology team under the guidance of Prof. Shaon Ray Chaudhuri.

The session included welcoming the participants, emphasizing the objective of communicating the processes developed within the university to the broader society. This was the second program in the training series conducted during the year, aimed at training the attendees, who would in turn train Ramie growers at Tripura. The training was imparted by Mr Abinash Debbarma (Cultivation), Ms Chaitali Chanda (harvesting and preparation for retting), Ms Soumya Samal (decortication) and Ms Espita Palwan (water retting and waste valorization through mushroom cultivation and handmade paper making).

The Microbial Technology group has been working on Ramie cultivation, optimization using bacterial biofertilizer formulations, propagation, and processing since 2015. Over the years, the team successfully optimized the process to enhance Ramie fiber yield in the climate and soil conditions of Tripura. They also obtained a patent for a biochemical degumming process of Ramie fiber.

Although the university had already applied for funding to support large-scale Ramie cultivation as a joint initiative with the local community, the team did not wait for approval. Instead, they began distributing Ramie rhizomes cultivated within Tripura to farmers and landowners. Ramie cultivation outside the university officially began on 7th May 2025.

The training also included a display of various clothes made from Ramie fiber. This was followed by a live demonstration of Ramie stem harvesting from the university field. The fiber extraction process was then demonstrated using a Ramie decorticator machine. Participants were also shown the water retting process of Ramie stems in the university lake, along with a display of the water-retted fiber. The participants carried back with them the fibers processed during the training. These activities are part of the outreach programs conducted by the University.











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Report has been prepared by Mr Abinash Debbarma, Department of Microbiology, Tripura University.