

Lesson 15
MESTA
Hibiscus cannabinus
H. sabdariffa var. altissima

***H. cannabinus* (HC)-**

- Also called Kenaf

***H. Sabdariffa* (HS)**

- Roselle, Roselle hemp, Java jute, Thailand mesta

- In India both are called as Mesta
- Both are long vegetable fibre
- Closely allied to jute fibre
- HC Mesta
 - Yields better quality fibre
 - Sown in May
- HS Mesta
 - Rainfed sown in June to July middle
 - Sown in AP, Maharastra,, Karnataka & TN

Crop Management

- Almost same as that of jute
- Seed rate 18-20kg
- Spacing 30 cm between rows
- Broadcast application and laddering after sowing
- Thinning and removing the weeds by intercultural operations
- Can tolerate drought but not flood
- N may be up to 40 kg in 2 splits
- Harvest at 50% flowering for quality
- 1.5 to 2.2 t / ha of fibre yields

AGVAVE

- Sisal is an aloe-like plant from the Agaves family
- The plant grows semi-arid regions
- provides a substantial source of income to the local communities
- The fibre is strong, rough, yet smooth
 - weave directly into baskets,
 - hat, sisal mat, sisal wall-hanging, sisal lampshade
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