

# THE COIR ASSOCIATION

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## Brush Fibre Report 2011

The scarcity of brush fibre has continued through 2011 for both Coco fibre and Bassine fibre, this is due to a number of reasons but has had one major conclusion, higher prices.

Traditionally in Sri Lanka Coco fibre was produced when the coir fibre from husk was separated into long fibre (for brushes) and short fibre (for the mattress industry). However these days with huge demand for mixed fibre from China, there is less separation of the long and short fibres and as such less fibre available for hackling and waxing. As a result prices have increased considerably and availability of fibre is greatly reduced, the situation is exacerbated by delays in production caused by religious holidays and monsoon rains etc This in turn causes more confusion and urgency with the buyers which of course pushes prices higher still. For the time being most shippers are full with orders (on reduced capacity) and not willing to offer material further forward than two months anyway due to volatility in the market. That said, only this week we have seen some softness in prices with buyers accepting bids on their increased price offers.

The market for Bassine fibre continues to be difficult with fewer suppliers, poor yields and challenging labour markets. Demand has increased while availability has reduced and we have seen considerable price increases when fibre becomes available. Most suppliers are generally sold out for positions 2-3 months forward and not willing to risk price movements further forward than that, of course this is proving very challenging for manufacturers that need to plan purchases of such raw materials.

*Matthew Ralph  
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08.06.11*

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## Coir Yarn Report 2011

The availability of Coir Yarn has improved during 2011 following the poor yield of fibre during 2010 when shipments were delayed due to poor availability and huge demand for fibre from China.

This year we have seen punctual shipments and some easing on the price as more yarn is made available, that said demand remains strong from both domestic Indian tufters and the well-established European tufters.

We expect prices to remain steady for the time being with the main pressures on the price of fibre being continuing demand for Coir from China, reduced yield of fibre from Coconut crop and the migration of labour from the traditional Coir industry to better paid employment opportunities that are becoming more readily available in the traditional regions of the Coir Industry.

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## Mattress & Twisted Fibre Report 2011

The past year has proved to be very difficult once more for Mattress and Twisted Fibre in view of yet more periods of unseasonal rains. That, coupled with continuing high demand from China has resulted in fibre prices escalating to the highest recorded levels for some time.

It is felt that the strong demand from the Far East will continue although the uncertainties of supply over the past year will prompt some users to seek alternatives for the future.

*Terry Keeping  
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