

Fibre Position in the Stem Tissue

Structurally the Jute and Allied Fibre (JAF) stems are composed of epidermis, cortex, large phloem, cambium, wide xylem or wood and central pith tissues. The tissue, phloem, is most important as it is connected with fibre development. It forms a wide zone and is arranged in wedge shaped masses consisting of alternating bands of thick-walled fibres and thin walled tissues of sieve tubes, companion cells and phloem parenchyma. The thick walled fibres of phloem tissue are the fibres which are actually extracted after disintegration of the other associated tissues through retting for commercial use. Since the fibres originate from the phloem tissue, they are also known as phloem or bast fibres. Bast is another name of phloem tissue.