Editor's Note

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An ideal raw material for pulp and paper

In many developing regions, fiber supply lags the growing demand for paper and paperboard products. In India, for example, forest cover is 67.8 million ha, which translates into a per capita forest area of only 0.8 ha/person – one of the lowest in the world. While total fiber consumption for paper and paperboard is predicted to double between 2006 and 2016 in India, the country's wood fiber deficit is forecast to increase at an annual rate of 11.3% by 2016.

In this issue of *TAPPI Journal*, authors Mohan Lal, Dharm Dutt, C.H. Tyagi, J.S. Upadhyay, and Siddhartha Upadhyay examine *Anthocephalus cadamba*, commonly known as kadam, as a potential source of kraft pulp in south Asian countries with a scarcity of wood fibers. Shown on this month's cover of *TAPPI Journal*, *A. cadamba* is a moderate-sized deciduous tree of the *Rubiaceae* family.

To determine the optimal mechanical strength for kraft pulping, the authors examined the anatomical, morphological, and chemical characteristics of *A. cadamba* and variations in physicochemical characteristics. Results from this study showed it to be an ideal cellulosic raw material for the pulp and paper industry.

Top-rated coating topics at PaperCon 2010

For the first time at PaperCon 2010, TAPPI's Coating & Graphic Arts Division has created a session for Best Coating Papers. This session features the most highly rated papers on coating as ranked by the C&GA Division's Technical Program Committee. To give *TJ* readers an idea of the important technical information presented at PaperCon this year, here's a look at the top-rated coating papers.

■ **Nanofibrillated Cellulose with Fine Clay as a Coating Agent to Improve Print Quality.** Among other findings, this paper describes how print quality such as ink density and ink-dot shape was especially improved on coatings with fine clay as a pigment and nanofibrillated cellulose as a binder for ink-jet printing applications. *Authors: Hitomi Hamada, Douglas W. Bousfield, and Jacqueline Beckvermit of the University of Maine.*

■ **The Influence of Kaolin Aspect Ratio on Offset Printability.** The impact of kaolin on ink setting rates, ink transfer, and ink holdout is well documented. However, relatively little work has examined how kaolin type and level in a pigment recipe affect printability and press runnability. This paper focuses on the kaolin aspect ratio and reviews its impact in controlling porosity and print quality in offset applications. New studies showing how kaolin aspect ratio can influence press runnability factors like stiffness and ink piling are discussed. *Authors: Chris Nutbeem, Janet Preston, Anthony Hiorn, and John Husband of Imerys Minerals Ltd.*

■ **Innovative Approaches Improve Competitiveness in an Industry Full of Challenges.** Spray sizing overcomes many roadblocks to sufficient strength properties in recycled test liner and corrugated medium. Starch spraying on the size-press has been practiced by Dongil in South Korea for many years, and the latest developments of this spray application technology have resulted in a commercial device. This spray device applies a large amount of starch and provides an exceptional transfer rate to the web, maintaining a clean operation with no starch contamination of the machine surroundings. *Authors: Stig Renvall and Topi Tynkkynen, Metso Paper; Jin-Doo Kim, Dongil Paper Manufacturing; and Pekka Salminen of Dow Chemical.*

PaperCon 2010 is May 2-5, 2010, in Atlanta, GA. For more information, visit www.papercon.org.

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