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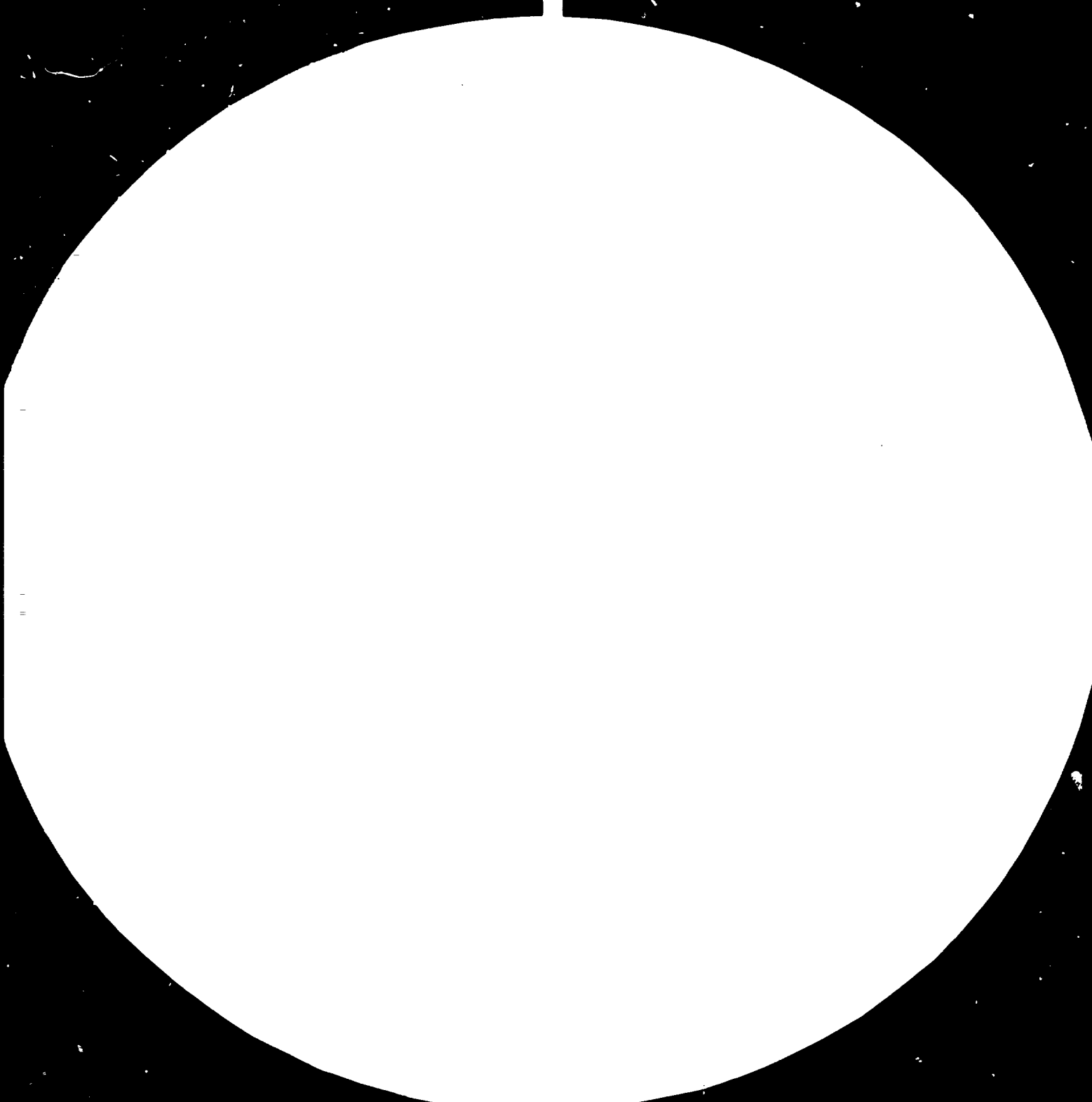
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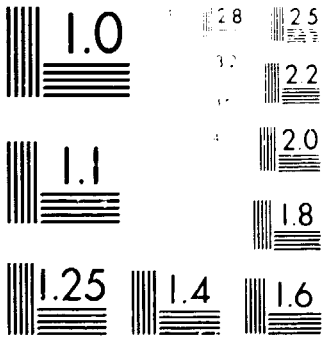


Figure 1. Resolution test chart. The resolution of the system is the highest number that can be read. The resolution of the system is 2.5 lines/mm.



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COUNTRY PAPER ON PULP AND PAPER RESEARCH IN THE PHILIPPINES*

by

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INTRODUCTION

The Forest Products Laboratory, the predecessor of the Forest Products Research and Industries Development Commission (FORPRIDECOM), was established in 1954 out of a felt need to develop the wood and other forest products industries of the Philippines. At that time, most of the products of our forests were exported in the form of raw materials as extracted from the forests such as logs, rattan, resins, etc.

At the time FORPRIDECOM was organized, there was only one integrated pulp and paper mill in the country, producing printing and writing paper from sugar-cane bagasse. The two other existing paper mills and others, which were eventually put up, used imported pulp and waste papers for the production of different types of paper products although a wide variety of raw materials are available for the industry.

There were several constraints at that time for the reluctance of capitalists to invest in integrated pulp and paper mills. Some of these constraints include the following: (a) the pulp and paper industry requires high capital investments compared to other industries; (b) the dearth of available data and information on the pulping and papermaking characteristics of local materials; (c) the risks involved due to the lack of highly trained technical manpower to operate and maintain integrated pulp and paper mills; and (d) it was deemed more profitable and less risky to import pulp than to produce it from local materials.

As originally envisioned, one of the major functions of FORPRIDECOM was to conduct research/investigations to determine the suitability of indigenous materials for the production of pulp and paper products. As such, FORPRIDECOM since its inception has been actively engaged in research along this area. Results of such studies have shown that it is technically feasible to produce almost all the paper requirements of the country from local fibrous materials and with the potential of exporting excess of these products to neighboring countries in Southeast Asia.

AREAS OF RESEARCH

The major areas of research, being conducted at FORPRIDECOM, may be grouped into three main categories. These include: (a) fiber morphological studies; (b) proximate chemical analysis of the fibrous raw materials; and (c) actual pulp and papermaking evaluation. The first two areas provide the necessary basic information from which the characteristics, the behavior, and the quality of the pulp to be produced can be predicted.

A. Fiber Morphology

It has been established that the physical properties of paper sheets are highly dependent on fiber characteristics (1-4^{3/}). In view of this, FORPRIDECOM has emphasized the importance of this phase of research. This has been a continuing activity and results of such investigations have indicated the potential raw materials for pulp and paper production (5-10).

^{3/} Underscored numbers in parentheses refer to literature cited.

Generally, long-fibered materials produce paper with high tearing strength. However, in the case of hardwoods, it is not necessarily the absolute value of fiber length which affects tearing resistance but more often the slenderness ratio (the ratio of fiber length to fiber diameter). The higher this ratio, the higher is the tearing strength (2).

The Runkel ratio, which is expressed as twice the cell wall thickness over the lumen diameter, also gives an indication of the papermaking qualities of a raw material. Materials with a Runkel ratio of one or less is considered good for papermaking (3). Fibers with thin cell walls (in relation to fiber diameter) collapse on drying and give denser sheets compared to stiffer thick-walled fibers. The higher the sheet density, the higher are the bursting and tensile strengths but the opacity is lower compared to low density sheets. Furthermore, the higher the flexibility of the fiber, the greater is the folding endurance (2).

B. Chemical Analysis

The determination of the proximate chemical composition of fibrous materials is a continuing project of FCRFRIDECOM as this gives an indication of the expected behavior of the material during the pulping process and some quality aspects of the pulp to be produced. Results of the chemical analysis of various fibrous materials such as hardwoods, softwoods, bamboos, agricultural fibrous materials, etc. have been published (11-20).

Fibrous materials with high holocellulose, alphacellulose and hemicellulose contents but with low lignin, extractives, ash, and silica are desirable for paper pulp production. However, for dissolving pulp production, high hemicellulose content is undesirable. Materials with high lignin content would require more chemicals for pulping compared to those with low lignin. Those with high silica content are undesirable as these will give trouble in the chemical recovery system of a pulp mill. Chemical pulp fibers with high hemicellulose content produce papers with high sheet density and, consequently, give high folding, bursting and tensile strengths.

C. Pulping and Papermaking

In the evaluation of the different fibrous materials, the chemical, semi-chemical and chemic-mechanical pulping processes were used. The kraft or sulfate process has been used extensively since this process is suitable for most materials and the pulps produced have relatively high strength. As such, kraft pulps have more flexibility as to end-use as these can be used for almost all grades of paper and paperboard. Studies at FORPRIDECOM have proven the versatility of this process for the various materials tested (21-32).

The alkaline-sulfite and soda have been used successfully in the pulping of agricultural fibrous materials and grasses (33-41). Results show that the strength properties of the pulps produced were, in most instances, comparable to those obtained from the kraft process.

Encouraging results were obtained using the neutral sulfite semi-chemical (NSSC) process (42-44). This is particularly suitable for hardwoods and produces pulp with high yield and pulp strength properties approaching those of the kraft pulp from the same species. The principal use of this pulp is for corrugating medium due to its hard and dense sheets. Bleached pulps are also used for good-quality glassine and greaseproof papers. Printing and fine papers can also be made from this pulp when blended with softer pulps (2).

The soda process has also been tried at FORPRIDECOM (45-52). This is a simple pulping method which is normally carried out under ordinary temperature and atmospheric pressure. This involves the soaking or impregnating of the chips with caustic soda followed by mechanical fiberization in a disk mill. The pulp from this process is used in the production of corrugating medium, printing, tissue and towelling papers, and molded pulp products.

Chemi-mechanical pulping trials on some hardwoods were also conducted at FORPRIDECOM (53-55). This process consists of mild chemical treatment of the wood chips followed by disk refining of the softened chips. A high pulp yield (about 90%) is obtained from this process and the pulp produced can be used for newsprint, magazine and some grades of book paper.

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RESEARCH THRUSTS OF FORFRIDECCOM

In its desire to serve the local pulp and paper industry, FORFRIDECCOM has included in its development program research thrusts which are relevant to the needs of the industry. These fields of researches cover: (a) search for long-fibered materials; (b) utilization of mixed hardwoods; (c) plantation and fast-growing hardwoods; (d) lesser-known or non-commercial species; and (e) development of fiber extraction machine.

A. Search for Long-Fibered Materials

The Philippines, like most developing countries, lacks the desirable softwood species which are the principal raw materials being used in temperate countries for the production of the various types of pulp and paper products. In view of this, FORFRIDECCOM initiated studies to determine what indigenous materials with long fibers would be suitable substitutes for imported softwood pulps. Encouraging results were obtained in studies on local softwoods, long-fibered hardwoods, bamboos, and agricultural fibrous materials.

Based on the classification of the International Association of Wood Anatomist (56) fibers with length of 1.60-2.20 mm are considered long fibers; 2.21-3.00 mm as very long fibers; and above 3.00 mm as extremely long fibers.

Below is the list of the materials investigated which have good potential for utilization or are now utilized by the industry with corresponding fiber lengths:

<u>Materials</u>	<u>Fiber Length</u> mm
1. <u>Softwoods</u> (15, 23, 24, 32, 57)	
a. Almaciga / <u>Azathis darrara</u> (Lam.) Rich. 4/	5.31
b. Benguet pine (<u>Pinus insularis</u> Endl.)	4.38
c. Mindoro pine (<u>Pinus merkusii</u> Jungh & de Vr.)	4.00

<u>Materials</u>	<u>Fiber length</u> mm
2. <u>Long-Fibered Hardwoods</u> (5, 10, 27, 29, 30)	
a. Agoho (<u>Casuarina equisetifolia</u> Forst.)	1.67
b. Antipolo [<u>Artocarpus blancoi</u> (Elm.) Merr.]	1.74
c. Apanit (<u>Mastixia philippinensis</u> Wang.)	3.40
d. Balsa [<u>Ochroma pyramidale</u> (Gav.) Ulbr.]	1.73
e. Dita [<u>Alstonia scholaris</u> (L.) R.Br.]	1.71
f. Gubas (<u>Endospermum peltatum</u> Merr.)	1.64
g. Kapok [<u>Ceiba pentandra</u> (L.) Gaertn.]	1.61
h. Katmon (<u>Dillenia philippinensis</u> Rolfe)	2.75
i. Nato [<u>Palacium luzoniense</u> (F. Vill.) Vid.]	1.65
j. Palosapis [<u>Anisoptera thurifera</u> (Blanco) Blume]	1.65
k. Red lauan (<u>Shorea negrosensis</u> Merr.)	1.72
l. Toog [<u>Combretodendron quadrialatum</u> (Merr.) Merr.]	2.38
m. Tuai (<u>Sischofia javanica</u> Blume)	2.14
3. <u>Bamboos</u> (24, 25, 31, 58)	
a. Bayog [<u>Dendrocalamus merrillanus</u> (Elm.) Elm.]	2.16
b. Bolo [<u>Gigantochloa levis</u> (Blanco)]	1.80
c. Buho [<u>Schizostachyum lumampao</u> (Blume) Merr.]	2.42
d. Giant Bamboo (<u>Gigantochloa aspera</u> Kurz.)	3.36
e. Kauayan kiling (<u>Bambusa vulgaris</u> Schrad.)	2.33
f. Kauayan tinik (<u>Bambusa blumeana</u> Schultes f.)	1.95
g. Pole-vault bamboos (<u>Phyllostachys nigra</u> Monro.)	1.86
h. Yellow bamboo [<u>Bambusa vulgaris</u> var. <u>striata</u> (Lodd.) Gamble]	1.66
4. <u>Agricultural fibrous materials</u> (12, 20, 35-39, 41, 51, 59, 60, 61)	
a. Abaca (<u>Musa textilis</u> Nee)	3.15 - 5.43
b. Alinsanay (<u>Musa</u> sp.)	4.88
c. Banana, Butuhan (<u>Musa balbisiana</u> Colla)	4.56

<u>Materials</u>	<u>Fiber Length</u> mm
d. Banana, Giant Cavendish (<u>Musa Cavendishii</u> Lamb Var. <u>Hawaiiensis</u> Teodoro)	4.10
e. Banana, Latundan [<u>Musa sapientum</u> L. var. <u>cinerea</u> (Blco.) Teodoro]	5.42
f. " , Matsing (<u>Musa banksii</u> f.v. Muel)	4.40
g. " , Fakol (<u>Musa balbisiana</u> Colla)	3.99
h. " , Saba (<u>Musa paradisiaca</u> var. <u>Cocoyessa Blanco</u>)	4.95
i. Kenaf (<u>Hibiscus cannabinus</u> Linn.)	3.22
j. Maguey (<u>Agave cantala</u> Roxl.)	2.55
k. Sabahon (<u>Musa</u> sp.)	4.94

B. Utilization of Mixed Tropical Hardwoods

Since the early sixties, FORPRIDECOM has been actively engaged in investigations to determine the pulping characteristics of naturally-occurring mixtures of Philippine hardwoods and other wood mixtures. Studies were also conducted on the production of newsprint, kraft wrapping, and other grades of paper from pulps of mixed hardwoods and/or mixtures of other materials (21, 22, 43, 54, 57, 62). These studies have shown the feasibility of using mixed hardwoods for pulp and paper. In fact, there are now three integrated pulp and paper mills in this country, using mixed hardwoods in their production.

C. Plantation and Fast-Growing Hardwoods

Realizing the importance of fast-growing species to the pulp and paper industry, FORPRIDECOM started preliminary investigations on the potentials of these species for the industry. These studies have indicated the feasibility of using the following species for pulp and paper production (16, 28, 30, 42, 46, 48, 49, 63-67):

1. African tulip (Spathodea cambranulata Beauv.)
2. Anabiong (Trema orientalis L. Blume)
3. Bagras (Eucalyptus dealucta Blume)

4. Balsa [Ochroma pyramidale (Cav.) Urb.]
5. Binuang (Octomeles sumatrana Miq.)
6. Giant ipil-ipil [Leucaena leucocephala (Lamk.) de Wit]
7. Gubas (Erdospermum peltatum Merr.)
8. Ilang-Ilang [Cananga odorata (Lam.) Hook f. & Thoms.]
9. Kaatoan bangkal [Anthocephalus chinensis (Lamk.) Rich. ex Walp.]
10. Lumbang [Aleurites moluccana (L.)]
11. Moluccan sau [Albizia falcataria (L.) Fosb.]
12. Yemana (Gmelina arborea Roxb.)

There is now an on-going project on the further evaluation of bagras, Kaatoan bangkal, giant ipil-ipil, Moluccan sau, and yemana for pulp and paper. Upon completion of this project, it is expected that more complete information on these species will be obtained.

D. Lesser-Known or Non-Commercial Hardwoods

This group of species, also sometimes known as lesser-used or secondary species, have not been left out in FORPRIDECOM's pulp and paper development program. Studies along this area have shown the potentials of the following species for pulp and paper production (27, 30, 47, 48, 68):

1. Agoho (Casuarina equisetifolia L.)
2. Anabiong [Trema orientalis (L.) Blume]
3. Apanit (Mastixia philippinensis Wang.)
4. Balakat-gubat [Sapium luzonicum (Vid.) Merr.]
5. Balanti [Homalanthus populseus (Gaisel.) Pax.]
6. Balsa [Ochroma pyramidale (Cav.) Urb.]
7. Basikong (Ficus botryocarpa Miq.)
8. Binuang (Octomeles sumatrana Miq.)
9. Buntan (Engelhardia rigida Blume)
10. Daba (Macaranga caudatifolia Elm.)
11. Dulit [Canarium hirsutum Willd. ssp. hirsutum var.
hirsutum forma (Bl.) Leenh.]
12. Hagimit [Ficus minahasae (Teijsm. and de Vr.) Miq.]
13. Katmon (Dillenia philippinensis Kolfe)

14. Kupang (Parkia roxburghii G. Don)
15. Malakalumpang (Sterculia ceramica R. Br.)
16. Malapapaya [Polyscias nodosa (Blume) Seem.]
17. Rarang [Erythrina subumbrans (Hassk.) Merr.]
18. Tan-ag (Kleinhovia hospita L.)
19. Tangisang-bayawak (Ficus variegata Blume)
20. Toog (Combretodron quadrialatum (Merr.) Merr.)
21. Tuai (Bischofia javanica Blume)

2. Development of Fiber Extraction Machine

A new, efficient, and economical method of fiber extraction, developed by FORFRIDECCOM researchers, was awarded Letters Patent No. 9200 by the Philippines Patent Office (69). This invention is expected to revolutionize the abaca industry as this can continuously extract abaca fibers with a fiber yield higher by 50-60% compared to the other fiber extraction processes.

Due to its novelty, importance and relevance to countryside development, this invention won the top Presidential Award (First Prize) during the "Best Invention of the Year Contest" held in 1978.

TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY

FORFRIDECCOM has not been contented with just conducting researches and confining its work to the laboratories. This agency has been actively involved in the transfer of appropriate technology not only for the pulp and paper industry but also for the other forest products and allied industries. This has been carried out by working in close collaboration with the industry through cooperative and/or technical assistance projects, consultancy, and in manpower/training/development for the industry.

Available technologies at FORFRIDECCOM are also delivered to end-users through publications in scientific and technical journals, popular articles for laymen, releases in local and national newspapers, radio and television, and local and international conferences.

It is worth mentioning here that the Philippine pulp and Paper Industry is represented in the FORPRIDECCOM Council. As such, we have a continuing dialogue with the industry and our research program has always been geared to or is guided by the needs of the industry.

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