

## **Renewable natural fibers – their classifications, morphology, physical and chemical properties, and new applications**

Jonathan Y. Chen  
Professor, School of Human Ecology  
The University of Texas  
Austin, Texas, USA

This presentation introduces various types of natural fibers with a focus on agricultural crop fibers. Current production capacity of crop fibers is overviewed and their chemical composition and morphological structures are described. Major properties of crop fibers corresponding to force, heat, water, and chemicals are discussed. As an insight of using natural fibers as a sustainable natural resource for developing biobased products, recent end uses of crop fibers in the production of composite materials are exhibited. The presentation ends at a brief summary of some limitations and future trends of the natural fiber applications.