
Vocabulary related to rattan materials and products

Vocabulaire relatif aux matériaux et produits en rotin



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Contents

Page

Foreword	iv
Introduction	v
1 Scope	1
2 Normative references	1
3 Terms and definitions	1
3.1 Terms for rattan harvesting.....	1
3.2 Terms for rattan cane.....	2
3.3 Terms for rattan intermediate products.....	2
3.4 Terms for rattan products.....	4
Bibliography	5

Foreword

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This document is prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 296, Bamboo and rattan.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

Introduction

Rattan, a term derived from the Malay word for climbing palms, 'rotan', is a specialised group of scaly-fruited, spiny, climbing palms which belong to the family Palmae or Arecaceae^{[1][2][3][4]}. Rattans are monocotyledons with flexible stem and are generally found in tropical humid forest. The slender stem of the rattan is often winding like a rope and armed with thorns or bristle. It has a diameter of less than 10 cm and reaches a length of about 30 m after ten years of growth. In rare cases some species can grow up to 200 m long.

About 620 species of rattan occur in the tropical and subtropical rainforest ecosystems of Australia (Queensland), India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Southeast Asia (Indonesia, Malaysia, Cambodia, Philippines, Laos, and Vietnam among others), the moist tropical forests of West and Central Africa (most especially Central Africa, Ghana, Cameroon, and Nigeria) and the Pacific (e.g., Fiji). However, South East Asian nations primarily the Philippines, Malaysia, and Indonesia are the top producers of rattan products and raw materials. Though a few species of rattan have been cultivated in Indonesia and a few other countries, the greatest proportion of production originates from natural forests.

Rattan is harvested for its cane, a versatile renewable material that has been used for making various products such as furniture, baskets, mats, walking sticks, handbags and crafts. Rattan cultivation, processing and utilisation constitute a major topic of interest in many parts of the globe in view of its role in poverty alleviation, employment generation and foreign exchange earnings. According to UN comtrade 2013, imports of rattan products globally neared USD 745 million. Global demand for rattan products is strong and new designs for rattan furniture and basketry products continue to appeal to modern consumers. Indonesia remains the major rattan product exporter, but China and Vietnam are increasing their share of the global rattan trade despite being short of raw rattan, whilst the Philippines, Myanmar, Malaysia, Thailand, Cambodia and Laos have plentiful resources but export is only relatively limited quantities.

Currently, the global trade of rattan and its products is hampered by presence of a confusing terminology in the rattan sector. Rattan materials and products trade names are often developed by rattan merchants and bear little or no relation to botanical origin. They differ from country to country and even regions to regions and thus it is impossible to ensure any degree of standardization. Usually commercial names are derived from the locality the cane comes from.

This document aims to standardize rattan materials and products terminologies as to improve the trading activities. Standardized terminologies of rattan will also allow for the standardized grading practices that will further improve international trade of rattan materials and the products.

Vocabulary related to rattan materials and products

1 Scope

This document defines terms relating to rattan source plants, materials, intermediate rattan products and rattan products.

This document is applicable to rattan materials and products in production and trade.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms and definitions

3.1 Terms for rattan harvesting

3.1.1 rattan

general term for the spiny climbing palms of sub-family Calamoideae with slender tough stems

Note 1 to entry: Calamoideae is one of the subfamilies of Arecaceae containing 21 genera and about 620 species including the rattan palms, whose stems are harvested for the production of cane furniture and many other products.

3.1.2 rattan stem

part of *rattan* (3.1.1) plant that is above ground and bears the leaves and the plant reproductive parts

3.1.3 rattan cane

part of the *rattan stem* (3.1.2) with leaf sheath and shoot tip removed

3.1.4 rattan cirrus

spiny, whip-like structure at the tip of leaf which serves as a climbing organ in some *rattan* (3.1.1) species

3.1.5 rattan flagellum

sterile inflorescence modified as climbing organ, in the form of a barbed whip, found in some *rattan* (3.1.1) species of the genus *Calamus*

Note 1 to entry: *Calamus* is a genus of the Calamoideae. There are an estimated 400 species in this genus, mostly leaf-climbing lianas with slender, reedy stems^[5].

3.1.6 rattan petiole

stalk of *rattan* (3.1.1) leaf

3.1.7 rattan leaf sheath

lower portion of *rattan* (3.1.1) leaf, located below the petiole, normally spiny and encircles the cane