About 15 MT of cotton plant stalks (CPS) are produced every year in India. To a limited extent, these stalks are utilized as domestic fuel in rural areas, while the bulk of it is disposed off by burning in the field itself. CPS is rich in cellulose and is much similar to hardwood in fibre dimensions. Hence, it can be a potential raw material for the preparation of pulp and paper.

Shaikh and others successfully tried out cotton plant stalk as a substitute for wood in the manufacture of corrugated fibreboard boxes for packaging of fruits. A process was standardized to prepare good quality kraft paper from cotton plant stalks. Uniform chipping of stalks and kraft liquor concentration of 18 per cent produced kraft paper with desired properties. The techno-economic feasibility worked out by conducting large-scale trial in a paper mill indicated that the box prepared from cotton plant stalk kraft would be cheaper than that of commercially available box. Corrugated boxes were lighter in weight than wooden boxes and hence more CFB boxes could be transported thus reducing freight per box. CFB boxes prepared from cotton plant stalk kraft paper possessed desirable bursting and compressive strength. Lamination of CPS box with polypropylene film from outer side further improved strength and ability of these boxes to withstand moisture during prolonged cool storage under high humid conditions. Results of the simulated and actual packaging and transportation trials demonstrated suitability of corrugated fibre board boxes for packaging, transportation and storage of Nagpur-mandarin oranges [Shaikh et al, J Sci Industr Res, 2003, 62(4), 311-318].

**Jarul seeds as chickens' feed**

Increasing cost of poultry feed has led to find out new sources especially by-products. *Lagerstroemia speciosa* is found every where in India mostly as an ornamental tree. Veterinary scientists at Assam Agricultural University assessed the dietary effect of seeds of the tree with or without multi-enzyme mixture supplementation on feed intake and nutrient digestibility.

During experiment *ajar* seed meal (ASM) containing 10.26% CP and 2574.3 Kcal ME per kg diet was incorporated in broiler diets replacing maize at 0, 5, 10 and 15% levels with or without enzyme supplementation. The voluntary feed intake was improved with increased ASM incorporation level (0-15% of maize) from 137.33g to 154.00g/bird/day but digestibility of dry matter as well as organic matter and retention of nitrogen, calcium and phosphorus showed decreasing trend. However, supplementation of enzyme reduced the voluntary feed intake, but improved the digestibility of various nutrients and retention of nitrogen, calcium and phosphorus at each level of ASM incorporation. Thus the seeds of *Jarul* can effectively be incorporated in broiler diets replacing maize up to 10% level with multi-enzyme preparation supplementation (Medhi et al, Indian Vet J, 2003, 80, 667-671).