

Geo textiles in Pakistan – The way Forward

Prof. S Anbhan Ariadurai, Textile Research & Innovation Centre, Textile Institute of Pakistan delivered a comprehensive lecture on "Geo-Textiles in Pakistan – The way forward."

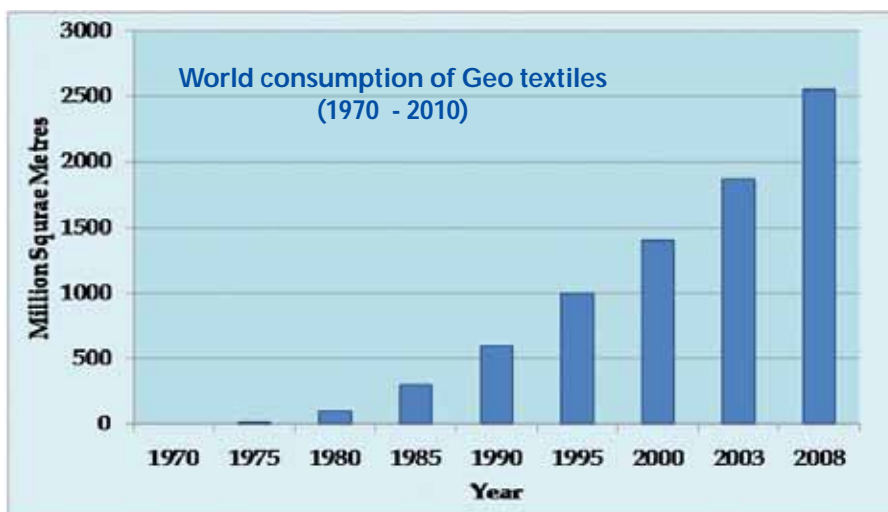
Geo-Textiles have proven to be versatile and cost-effective ground modification materials. Their use expanded rapidly into nearly all areas of civil engineering, geo technical, environmental, coastal and hydraulic engineering. According to David Rigby Associates, Geo-Textiles is forecasted to achieve the highest growth rates among the twelve technical textile application areas.

The rate of 4.6% per annum between 2000 and 2005 is set to increase to 5.3% per annum during 2005 to 2010. The world demand for Geo-Textiles is projected at about 4715 million square metres by 2014 mostly from China and India.

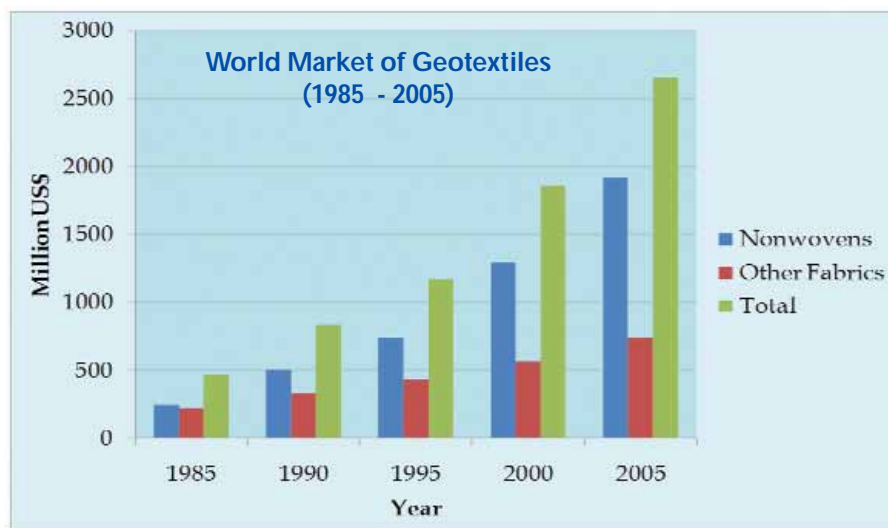
The main growth sectors for Geo-Tex are construction of roads and buildings in which drainage layer is protected by Geo-Textiles as use of geosynthetics make roads more durable, improve drainage and prevent erosion.

Another important area is the Landfill market, even though there is a high cost of geo-membranes in landfills, this market will advance at a below-average pace due to increased interest in recycling and reducing wastes, and the durable nature of geosynthetics used in landfills.

Other markets of niche opportunities include agriculture and mining, due to increase awareness and interest in increasing crop yields to make bio-fuels and in sustained expansion in the US mining industry.



Source: Geosynthetics – David Cook (2003), Freedonia Group (2009)



Sources: David Rigby Associates.

Demand growth for Geotextiles		
Technical Textile Type	2000 – 2005 (%)	2005 – 2010 (%)
Geotextiles	4.6	5.3
Building Textiles	4.3	5.0
Medical Textiles	4.6	4.3
Industrial Textiles	3.5	4.4
Protective Textiles	3.3	4.0
Agriculture Textiles	3.2	3.9
Packing Textiles	3.2	3.8
Sports Textiles	3.1	3.7
Automobile Textiles	2.7	3.4
Clothing Textiles	2.7	3.2
Hometextiles	2.7	2.7
Total	3.3	3.8

Source: David Rigby Associates.

Textile Trade Indicators

Textile Trade Indicators between India, China and Pakistan pertaining to 2008 is reported as follows:

- ❖ Export Growth: India 10%, China 18%, Pakistan 4%.
- ❖ Share in National Exports: India 6% China 5%, Pakistan 60%
- ❖ Competitiveness Rank: India 30, China 22, Pakistan 49 (Source: International Trade Centre).

The requirements of way forward for Pakistan are as follows.

- ❖ Continue to create awareness among all stakeholders.
- ❖ Include in the curriculum of the universities.
- ❖ Establish research and advisory centers with testing and standardization. ♦



Areas of applications

