NATIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGISTER · [FIDA ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 19, S. 2004, SEPTEMBER 01, 2004] · JULY 27, 1981

DETERMINATION AND DESCRIPTION OF THE OFFICIAL STANDARDS FOR THE COMMERCIAL GRADES OF DECORTICATED BANANA FIBER (MUSA CAVENDISHI)

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Pursuant to the provisions of Executive Order 709 dated July 27, 1981 and Executive Order No. 116 dated January 30, 1987, the following rules and regulations governing the determination and description of the official standard for the commercial grades of decorticated banana fiber are hereby issued for the information and guidance of all concerned:

DEFINITION OF TERMS

1. Fiber - It shall mean the raw material only and not fibers partially or entirely manufactured. It shall be interpreted according to its common and commercial significance and not according to its scientific meaning.

2. Decorticated Banana - It shall mean banana fibers extracted through the use of a mechanical device or a decorticator.

OFFICIAL STANDARD GRADES

3. The following shall be the designation and names of the standard grades of decorticated banana:

Letter Designation

Name of Grade

a. DB -1

Decorticated Banana Good

b. DB -2

Decorticated Banana Fair

c. DB - Y

Decorticated Banana Residual

4. Qualities which Determine Grade - The Four qualities which determine a grade of decorticated banana fiber are (1) tensile strength (2) cleaning and (3) color and (4) length.

5. Tensile Strength - This is the basic quality for all normal grades, the fiber must possess the average strength considered normal for the grade in which it is included.

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Ordinarily, ocular observation and hand pulling tests are sufficient to indicate whether or not the fiber possesses normal tensile strength. However, tensile strength becomes weaker when it is damaged.

6. Cleaning - The cleaning of decorticated banana is determined by the clearance of the blade to the block of the decorticator. There are two kinds of cleaning for decorticated banana namely: Good and Fair:

a. Good Cleaning of Decorticated Banana - Decorticated banana is of good cleaning when the decorticating process is properly and carefully done. Decorticated banana is of good cleaning when it has very little pulp attached to the fiber. DB -1 belongs to this cleaning.

b. Fair Cleaning of Decorticated Banana - Decorticated banana is of fair cleaning when the decorticating process has been sufficiently carried out but has some pulp and scales attached to the fiber. DB-2 belong to this cleaning.

7. Color - Decorticated banana fiber has a color range from beige white to dark brown in normal grades. Fibers which depreciate in color due to improper drying and malpractices before, during and after decortication which causes fiber discoloration is graded DB-Y.

8. Length - The length of decorticated banana is affected by the farm practice in cutting the stalk after harvesting the fruit. Normally, the stalk is cut about one (1) meter above the ground. The normal length of the decorticated banana fiber is from .80 meter to 1.2 meters. Banana fiber less than 0.80m shall be graded as DB-Y.

DESCRIPTION OF THE STANDARD GRADES

9. Description of the Grades of Decorticated Banana

The following is a description of the standard grades of decorticated banana.

a. DB-1 (Decorticated Banana Good) - The fiber of this grade is of good cleaning. Its color ranges from beige white to light brown. It is free from any shade of streaks. The length is normal.

b. DB-2 (Decorticated Banana Fair) - The fiber of this grade is of fair cleaning. It has a color range from light brown to dark brown. Fibers may have light streaks. The length is normal.

c. DB-Y (Decorticated Banana Residual) - Fibers of this grade are discolored, weak in tensile strength, soiled or stained with dirt or mud which otherwise could have been graded as DB-1 or DB-2. This also includes fibers that are less than 0.80 m in length.

EFFECTIVITY

This Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation or official gazette.

Adopted: 1 Sept. 2004

Approved:

(SGD.) ARTHUR C. YAP
Secretary
Department of Agriculture

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