

# RoLanka Celebrates 25 Successful Years of Providing True Green Solutions for Erosion and Sediment Problems

Since 1993, RoLanka International, Inc. has been the most reliable supplier of high quality GeoNatural™ products for erosion & sediment control and soil bioengineering in the USA. When RoLanka opened its doors to supply GeoNatural erosion control products, most of the restoration was done using synthetic materials, rock and concrete. Very little information was available on the advantages of using strong natural coir products for environmental restoration or on the possible damages to the ecosystem from using synthetic materials in environmental restorations. For the past 25 years, RoLanka's natural coir products have gained a significant acceptance from the erosion and sediment control industry for consistency in product quality, availability and excellent customer service. Rapid growth of RoLanka over the years has been the direct proof of this, and RoLanka now has a significantly large satisfied customer base.

RoLanka's GeoNatural™ products are made from coconut fiber (coir), which is an abundant renewable natural resource. These products do not contain any synthetic materials that can interfere with wildlife or other natural resources. Coir fiber is one of the most durable and readily available natural fibers. Its tensile strength and durability exceed that of straw, excelsior (wood fiber), and jute. Coir fiber is unpalatable to wildlife, which makes it a more suitable green resource for environmental restorations and wildlife habitat improvements. With skilled processing of coconut husks, coir fiber can be separated into different grades depending on the thickness of the fiber. Thick coir fibers in general are longer and called bristle coir fiber.

In our perfected manufacturing process, we use bristle coir fiber to make all coir twine which results in high strength and durability in the final products. The initial product introduced was the BioD-Mat woven bristle coir mat. It remains the toughest natural fiber blanket in the market. This blanket is available in 4 different unit weights (BioD-Mat 40, BioD-Mat 60, BioD-Mat 70 and BioD-Mat 90).



Figure 1. Illustration of different weave types of BioD-Mat blankets.

Coir fiber is also an excellent sediment filter medium. As a fiber medium in coir sediment control products, coir fiber provides better filtration than straw, wood fiber and other non-degradable products. EPA field studies have shown that coir fiber not only removes sediment, but also phosphorous and heavy metals from runoff water. RoLanka's strong, durable natural sediment control products not only perform better, but are also more cost effective than the traditional non-degradable GeoSynthetic sediment control products.



Figure 2: Field experiment showing the superior performance of RoLanka's BioD-Wattl coir wattles than straw wattles with synthetic netting.

RoLanka's GeoNatural coir products are made in Sri Lanka in a central facility with strict quality control measures to assure that all the products are made according to their specifications. RoLanka guarantees that all RoLanka's coir products do not contain or come with live or dead invasive species.

RoLanka excel in innovations in developing new products for successful environmental restoration applications. We have also introduced several patented products to the market. They are BioD-Block system with invisible planting holes, BioD-SiltCheck and circular and rectangular coir logs with invisible planting holes (BioD-SuperRoll and BioD-SuperLog). These products continue to gain popularity in the USA. Our patented products are manufactured to provide solutions for specific needs in the erosion and sediment control industry. RoLanka is proud to be the industry's leader in innovations in natural products for erosion and sediment control.



Figure 3. Improved coir block system with planting holes.



Figure 4. BioD-SuperRoll 12 with invisible planting holes.

Coir fiber products are growing in popularity due to their natural advantages and have proved to be a great competitor to manufacturers of synthetic erosion and sediment control products. Some competitors have promoted false information about the coconut fiber industry in order to reduce the use of these natural solutions. However, the coconut fiber industry in Sri Lanka dates back to the 1800's, and there have been no records of any negative effects on the environment. The fiber processing machines require very skilled operators and therefore can never use child labor in the coir fiber mills. The use of coconut fiber products in erosion & sediment control and restoration is very recent (less than 50 years), but continues to grow as the natural advantages prove themselves and become known.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all designers, distributors, and customers, who trusted our products and techniques, for their support during the last 25 years and looking forward for many more successful years. RoLanka products are readily available in Stockbridge, GA. More information about RoLanka products is available at [www.rolanka.com](http://www.rolanka.com), or call 1-800-760-3215.

