

# fique

noun | fi-que | \ 'fē(,)kā\

## Definition of FIQUE

: a strong durable fiber obtained from the leaves of a succulent tropical American plant of the genus  
: CABUYA; also : any of several plants that yield fique (such as *Furcraea macrophylla*, *F. andina*, *F. foetida* synonym *F. gigantea*)  
: SISAL



Santander Region, Colombia



“Curiti” - knitting village



Fique plant



Fique fiber



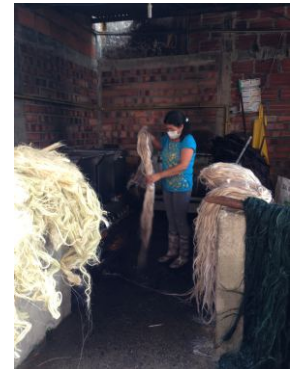
Fique fiber pack



brushing process



dyeing



boiling and drying



modified fiber pack



spinning fibers



Hand weaving loom



Fique processed

**Sustainability** - Fique is a biodegradable natural fiber that has ecological and environmental advantages

**Versatility** - Fique is very strong, is durable and can take different forms and uses.

**Social factor** - This crop has been a way of life in Curiti, Colombia for hundreds of years. Cultivating and processing this fiber is the main economic activity in the region and therefore has allowed several employment opportunities, mainly for women head of household. Also helps the community building and maintaining their craftsmanship culture.

**Innovation** - Used in former times primarily for the production of coffee bags and agricultural yarns, the demand declined with the use of plastic fibers and new materials. Nowadays the fique is still spun by hand and then knitted into uniquely beautiful fabrics using big knitting needles and hand weaving looms.

One of the initiatives to remain on the market is to come up with innovative products throughout a creative design process driven by cultural exchange; maintaining their authentic woven patterns but giving new ideas.

**Goal** - empowering artisans through design.