

## ELIMINATION OF NON-TOBACCO RELATED MATERIALS (NTRM)

**NTRMs** are anything that are **NOT** tobacco. It is an important issue because its presence may jeopardize the **integrity** and **quality** of tobacco. NTRM is major industry concern and must be addressed effectively.

Most of the NTRM originate at the farm level and, therefore, this is where most of the efforts should be concentrated. NTRMs are categorized as follows:

CATEGORIES					
1A	1B	2A	2B	3	4
ARTIFICIAL - "Controllable"	NATURAL - "Limited Control"	ORGANIC - "Man made"	ORGANIC - "Natural"	METALS	ROCKS / MULTI- MATERIALS
Foams (Styrofoam)	Feathers	Cigarette Papers	Grass	Nails	Rocks
Nylon strings / netting	Cocoons	Cotton	Herbs	Clips	Stones
Rubber	Insects	Cotton strings	Natural Woods	Metal shavings	Multi- Materials
Plastics		Burlap	Fruits	Bolts	
Leathers		Burlap strings		Nuts	
Unknown materials		Manufactured Woods		Blades (knife , razor)	
Cigarette Butts		Papers			
		Metallic papers			

### Examples of Sources of Common Non-Tobacco Related Materials



From this material

To this in the tobacco leaves

## Other Non-Tobacco Related Materials



**Feathers**



**Cocoons**



**Jute sack strings**



**Stones**



**Metals**



**Grasses**

We must ensure that an effective NTRM elimination program is implemented and it should cover all the activities from the field until the cured tobacco leaves are delivered to the buying stations.

**NTRM can be eliminated from tobacco by practicing the following at different stages of the crop:**

### **Growing period**

- Always keep the field weed-free and free from synthetic and non-biodegradable wastes especially plastics and rubber materials.
- Never dispose of garbage into the field or near the field especially plastic wastes.

### **Harvesting and hauling**

- Use cheesecloth or jute sacks and other non-fibrous, non-treated biodegradable materials as leaf wraps during harvesting, hauling and transport.
- Never use woven plastic sacks as leaf wrap during hauling and transport of leaves.

### **Sticking, sorting and baling**

- Never eat and smoke should at all times in the work area.
- Buri mat, bamboo slats, C-48 cartons, cheese cloth and jute sacks can be used as matting during sticking, stripping, sorting and baling.
- Farmers must use natural, non-treated materials for stringing and baling.
- Do not allow any fowl or domestic animals to roam around the curing sheds and work areas during the tobacco season to prevent introduction of feathers and waste matters to the tobacco.

- Never use polypropylene fabrics as temporary roofing as the material disintegrates once it gets brittle due to exposure to weather elements.
- Remove all bio and non-biodegradable materials like animal manure, weeds and other plant debris, feathers, plastic wrapper, etc. in the work area.
- Put all garbage/trash bins very far away from the work area.