

Chapter 02

ANIMAL FIBERS - WOOL:-

- **WOOL** - We get wool from hair of sheep, goat, rabbit, yak or camel.
- Hair of these animals along with thin layer of skin are removed to get wool fibre. The process is called as shearing.

USES OF WOOL:-

- Wool is used for making warm clothes such as sweaters, caps, shawls, gloves and blankets etc as shown in figure below.



Figure: Shows Wool from sheep used in different clothing.

WOOL PRODUCTION:-

Processing of fibre into wool involves 6 steps which is shown in figure below. Shearing, Scouring, Grading and Sorting, Dyeing and Drying, Making of yarn.

- 1) Shearing:-Process of removing fleece (hair) and the thin layer of skin from the sheep body.
- 2) Scouring:-The sheared skin along with hairs is washed thoroughly to remove dirt is called Scouring.
- 3) Grading and Sorting:- The cleaned fibres are separated as per the texture, length and colour. The fine hairs are used to make clothes and small fluffy fibres to make burrs on sweaters.
- 4) Dyeing and drying:-The natural fibres, which are brown, white and black are dyed with other colours and dried using rollers.
- 5) Making of Yarn:-The coloured fibres are combed, straightened and rolled into yarn.

ANIMALS THAT YIELD WOOL:-

- Wool commonly available in the market is sheep wool.
- Several breeds of sheep are found in different parts of our country.
- However, the fleece of sheep is not the only source of wool, there are other sources of wool also.

OTHER SOURCES OF WOOL ARE-

- Yak wool is common in Tibet and Ladakh.
- Angora wool is obtained from angora goats in hilly regions such as Jammu and Kashmir.
- The underfur of Kashmiri goat is soft and it is woven into fine shawls called pashmina shawls.
- The fur (hair) on the body of camels is used as wool.
- Llama and Alpaca found in South America are also yielding wool.

SOME INDIAN BREEDS OF SHEEP, WHICH PROVIDE WOOL, ARE-

Name of the Breed of Sheep		Quality of wool	Name of the state where found
Lohi		Good Quality Wool	Rajasthan, Punjab
Rampur Bushier		Brown Fleece	Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh
Nail		Carpet Wool	Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab
Bakharwal		For Wollen Shawls	Jammu And Kashmir
Marwari		Coarse Wool	Gujarat
Patanwadi		For Hosiery	Gujarat

Figure: Different Indian breeds of sheep's.