

COLOMBIA

WORLDWIDE FIRST PRODUCER OF FIQUE

The fique is a plant native to Tropical America, its cultivation is very common in the Andean areas of Colombia, Venezuela and Ecuador. Specifically in Colombia, the fique is found in all regions, mainly in the departments of Antioquia, Cauca, Nariño, Guajira and Santander, these territories being very favorable in terms of agroclimatic issues for the development of the plant.

This vegetable fiber has been worked manually since the time of the conquest in 1499, being mostly used by the indignant Guanes who lived throughout the Colombian territory. The use of fiber at that time was used for the manufacture of ruanas, blankets, other clothing products, ties and the famous cargo backpacks or mesh backpacks to carry the market. At that time, the production of fique in Colombia was 20% since most of the crops were tobacco and other agricultural products for human consumption.



Furcraea Andina

Since 1980, the fique has taken an industrial course and begins to use the fiber for the elaboration of various products. The highest percentage of fiber consumption was destined for the manufacture of thin sacks, which were made in rustic looms, with obsolete technologies of very low performance, which implied a long time for large productions.

The elaboration of sacks to wrap agricultural products such as coffee, potatoes, carrots, onions, among other products, was what raised the fique industry in 1995. This forced the producers to extend the planting of the fiber and see the fique as a promising crop. It was so much so, that by 2013 fique crops increased by 45% and by 2019 by 83% according to information from the Ministry of Agriculture.

Currently, Colombia is the first producer of fique fiber worldwide. The fique or better known in other regions as cabuya that was only used for the manufacture of sacks today also has a fairly strong artisan use and for a couple of years this fiber has been transformed by artisan hands for the elaboration of utilitarian products and decoration, mainly at the head of the Santander Natural Fiber Company - ECOFIBRAS. A cooperative that 27 years ago bet on believing in innovation and in the industry of natural fibers, fibers that today come to life and are strengthened in the conscience of human beings in favor of protecting the environment.

