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### **BIODEGRADABLE PLANT POT FROM FLAX STRAW AND MANURE**

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**ABSTRACT** In recent times of increased environmental awareness several types of biodegradable plant pots are used in the nurseries or home gardens. These pots elicit numerous advantages over petroleum-based plastic plant pots. The later being non-biodegradable end up in municipal landfills, which itself is a major environmental hazard. Approximately 15%-20% plants grown in plastic pots have a stunted growth and when plants are transplanted to fields, they die due to the shock to their roots. Biodegradable plant pots can be planted along with the plant in the soil and they degrade with time to provide vital nutrients to the soil for plant growth, therefore eliminating environmental shock to roots increasing chances of enhanced plant growth. The objective of this research was to make biodegradable plant pot using flax straw as primary building material and manure mixed in appropriate proportions to act as binder for the flax straw matrix. Flax straw is expected to provide a firm unbreakable structure while being handled in nurseries and along with retaining moisture making it suitable for nurseries where seedlings are maintained in a moist environment. Manure binder will provide vital nutrients for the seedlings being grown in these pots. Water retaining capacity and firmness of the flax straw material will also be studied with an expected outcome which may suggest newer bio friendly opportunity to provide vital nutrients to seedlings being grown in these pots along with the convenience of easy handling.

**Keywords:** biodegradable; manure; flax straw; petroleum-based plastic pots