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Page 8

Beleaf brand takes off

PAPYRUS AUSTRALIA, THE developer of a technology that uses fibre from waste trunks of banana plants to produce paper and timber products, is now able to produce commercial quantities of fibreboard and veneer products for export from its Walkamin factory in far North Queensland.

After 15 years of research and development, Papyrus commenced production of banana-based veneer and fibre for export in late November 2009.

The company has signed an export agreement for veneer products with a European company, and is looking at licensing the fibre-



Production of fibreboard and veneer products has come on stream at Papyrus Australia.

based technology for packaging applications (see *PKN* Nov/Dec 2009, page 45).

Papyrus said its world-first tech-

nology takes an otherwise unused waste material to produce high-value paper, cardboard, veneer and fibreboard products. The fibre, branded 'Beleaf', is both water-resistant and fire-retardant.

The Papyrus process uses a renewable fibre source that is fully sustainable, does not contribute to the destruction of natural or purpose-planted forests and does not consume any chemicals or water during manufacture, the company said.

The process also has significantly lower production costs when compared to traditional tree pulping technologies.