

Time: 2018.08.15

Location: Chuzhou Cigarette Factory

E(Expert): There are three ways to make tobacco slices, papermaking, rolling and beating. We gather the tobacco crumb, cut tobacco and tobacco stems to make slices, and we collect the tobacco dust through pipeline to pressed into a tobacco bar.

Q(Question): What is tobacco slices? Why we need to make them and ... emm ... What kinds of treatments do they have to go through?

E: Well, the slices will undergo a series of processing, so they can be recycled as the raw material for tobacco. Although the amount of slices are few, single slices need to be cut, evaporated and further processing, same as the general treatment process of tobacco. Our factory deal with a large quantity of tobacco raw materials here, and the machine scale of tobacco slices processing is relatively smaller.

Q: So, cigarette is a composite material?

E: Yes.

Q: Well, what is the proportion of tobacco slices in raw materials?

E: Just a little waste material. We would feel trouble if it's too much. (laughing) Our cigarette factory don't produce slices and don't deal with tobacco. We send the materials to the factory in Bengbu.

Q: So can they treat all the materials you send?

E: Even not enough.

Q: They can process more?

E: Yes.

(It made us a little surprised that the tobacco industry really do well in tobacco waste recycling.)

E: There are more tobacco waste before the semi mechanization of tobacco production. But now the tax for cigarette is higher, so we have to improve raw material utilization to reduce costs. We need to recycle the raw as much as possible, just like cloth.

Q: Can you show us more about tobaccos raw materials?

E: Emm, something interesting? In history, tobacco used to be called “七夜还魂草” (a magic grass to save life). Tobacco has been used in medicine since very early. According to records, in 225 A.D., Zhuge Liang used it to deal the pains in the famous battle to catch Huo Meng. And in diary life, tobacco water can be used to dehumidify in human body.