During the last decade, the increasing demand for cellulose fibers has driven the expansion of dissolving wood pulp production on all continents. The new capacities have introduced new wood sources and new production process solutions into the market and challenged the cellulose fiber industry adapting to raw material properties related to those changes.

Södra is a Swedish producer of dissolving wood pulp and entered the market in 2011. Since that 150 k t/y short fiber pulp produced from northern hard wood from certified sustainable forest management has been delivered to staple fiber production.

An overview on the variety of standard properties and some hidden properties of a large number of standard market pulps is given and connected to consequences on the first refining step within viscose fiber production – the steeping in alkali.