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# Cotton Statistics And News

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## ***Inadequate Monsoon Rains Slow Down Cotton Plantings***

The South-West Monsoon has been playing truant this year with rains being delayed and inadequate in several States. Cotton plantings in the rain-dependent tracts have therefore been adversely affected. It was earlier expected that cotton area will go up in 2009-10 since farmers had realised higher net returns from the crop this year owing to the steep hike in support prices and the massive price support operations undertaken by the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) and the National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation (NAFED). The information given by the seed companies also indicated that the area will be higher as there was reportedly heavy demand for seed from farmers.

The delay and inadequacy of rains have, however, put a question mark over the area that may actually be finally covered by cotton in the ensuing season. According to information gathered from official sources, the area covered by cotton by the first week

of July has been around 48 lakh hectares as against 60 lakh hectares planted by the same period last year.

The State-wise comparative planted area is stated to be as under :

State	(In Lakh ha.)	
	2008-09	2009-10
Punjab	5.27	5.36
Haryana	4.55	5.20
Rajasthan	3.55	3.65
Gujarat	18.19	10.86
Maharashtra	17.10	11.56
Madhya Pradesh	3.50	3.12
Andhra Pradesh	5.92	5.79
Karnataka	1.32	2.25
Tamil Nadu	0.06	0.06
All India	59.72	48.07

### **Cotton Arrivals**

The Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) has placed market arrivals of cotton by the third week of July at 286 lakh bales, 27 lakh bales lower than last year's arrivals of 313 lakh bales by the same period. The major short fall is in Gujarat where the current year's arrivals have been 87 lakh bales against last year's 112 lakh bales. The only State where arrivals have been higher this year compared to last year is Andhra Pradesh with arrivals placed at 53 lakh bales as against 46 lakh bales last year.

It will be seen that most of the fall in planted area is in Gujarat and Maharashtra, the two States where there are large areas of rainfed cotton. Interestingly, in all the three States of North Zone, where irrigated cotton predominates, cotton plantings upto first week of July this year have marginally exceeded that of last year. Recently, there have been reports of a revival of monsoon rains in Maharashtra and Gujarat and it is expected that cotton plantings will pick up now.

The information gathered from official sources also goes to show that the share of Bt cottons has exceeded even that of last year and their coverage works out to nearly 83 per cent of the area planted so far.

## March of Indian Cotton

Cotton in India has made giant strides during the last six decades. Independent India assigned high priority to the development of cotton since it sustained the largest industry, and the domestic production after partition was quite short of the requirements. The initial strategy was to expand the area to raise production quickly. Later, after the tether in area expansion was reached, the emphasis shifted to the raising of productivity per hectare through the development of modern production technologies and their rapid promotion.

These strategies did pay good dividends but the cotton deficit continued to persist since the industry was steadily expanding for catering to the rising domestic demand due to the rise in population. The scientists responded to this situation by exploiting the hybrid technology which had not succeeded in cotton before. The first commercial hybrid cotton, not only in India but in the world as well, was released in 1971-72 and it spread rapidly and extensively because of its high yield combined with superior quality. Subsequently, a few more hybrids were developed and the production registered a substantial rise. The chronically deficient situation came to an end and the country could even export some long staple cotton in which it became surplus.

The first decade of the current century saw another significant development which gave a further boost to production. This was the introduction of genetically modified Bt cottons from US by a reputed seed company. They were hybrids incorporating gene for resistance to bollworms, the most pernicious pest of cotton. The advantages were two : one, the yield was significantly higher and two, the production cost was lower since the farmers could

avoid four or five costly chemical sprays which were required to check the bollworm infestation and prevent the yield loss atleast to some extent. Subsequently, several more Bt cottons were released and the demand for their seed multiplied. In response, more seed companies entered the market and farmers' demand could be fully met. During 2008-09, Bt cottons occupied about 73 per cent of the total area under cotton, a spectacular achievement in a short span of seven years.

Consequent to these developments, cotton production in the country zoomed and reached an all-time high of 315 lakh bales in 2007-08, although there was a slight decline in 2008-09. More significantly, the yield per hectare took a quantum jump and the wide gap between the average yield in India and the world was narrowed to a large extent. The production of long staple cotton particularly far exceeded the requirement and because of the large surplus, the country could export sizable quantities of long staple cotton, in which it had been chronically deficient and sizable imports were regular feature. In fact, the imports touched as high a level as 24.70 lakh bales in 2001-02. The situation underwent a radical change with exports soaring to 85 lakh bales in 2007-08, and emerging as the second largest exporter of the commodity in the world. Currently, the country is not only self-sufficient but also surplus in cotton except for a small deficit in extra long staple cotton. This deficit is also expected to be wiped out in the near future as scientists are developing new high yielding ELS cottons.

Thus, the development of cotton in India has been a remarkable success story. The following figures will vouch for this statement.

March of Indian Cotton				
	1947-48	1950-51	2007-08	2008-09
	Base year			
1. Area (lakh ha)	44.27	58.82	94.39	93.73
2. Irrigated Area (lakh ha)	1.80	2.10	34.80	35.00
3. Lint Production (lakh bales)	22.83	32.80	315.00	290.00
4. Seed Production (lakh tonnes)	7.76	11.15	107.00	99.00
5. Average Lint Yield (Kg/ha)	88	95	567	526
6. Yield Potential of the Best Variety (Kg lint/ha)	310	320	1270	1270
7. 2.8% Span Length of the Best Variety	24.8	24.8	36.8	36.8
8. Spinning Potential of the Best Variety (Counts)	30-34	30-34	100-120	100-120
9. Imports (lakh bales)	-	8.50	6.50*	7.00
10. Exports (lakh bales)	-	1.90	85.00	50.00
11. Apprx. No. of Persons Dependent on Cotton Farming and Cotton Industry (Million)	10	12	75	75

\* Imports touched 24.70 lakh bales in 2001-02.

## GROWTH OF THE COTTON/MAN-MADE FIBRE TEXTILE MILLS (NON-SSI & SSI)

ITEM	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
<b>No. of Spg. Mills</b>							
Non SSI	1599	1564	1566	1570	1808	1597	1653
SSI	1146	1135	1161	1173	1236	1219	1247
<b>Total</b>	<b>2745</b>	<b>2699</b>	<b>2727</b>	<b>2743</b>	<b>3044</b>	<b>2816</b>	<b>2900</b>
<b>No. of Wvg. Mills (Non-SSI)</b>							
Composite	276	223	223	210	200	176	177
Exclusive	209	206	202	204	204	179	184
<b>Total</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>361</b>
<b>Installed Capacity Spindles (Mn. No.)</b>							
Non SSI	36.10	34.02	34.24	34.14	35.61	35.01	37.03
SSI	2.93	3.01	3.22	3.37	3.89	4.06	4.31
<b>Total</b>	<b>39.03</b>	<b>37.03</b>	<b>37.46</b>	<b>37.51</b>	<b>39.50</b>	<b>39.07</b>	<b>41.34</b>
<b>Installed Capacity Rotors (000' No.)</b>							
Non SSI	379	383	385	395	448	461	485
SSI	89	99	115	125	153	160	175
<b>Total</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>482</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>520</b>	<b>601</b>	<b>621</b>	<b>660</b>
<b>Installed Capacity Looms (000'No.)</b>							
Composite	119	88	86	73	69	56	57
Exclusive	18	17	18	19	19	15	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>71</b>
<b>Employment (000 Nos.)</b>							
Spinning – Non SSI	608	580	576	580	585	570	585
Composite	395	308	301	283	268	223	221
<b>Total (Spg. + Comp) Non SSI</b>	<b>1003</b>	<b>888</b>	<b>877</b>	<b>863</b>	<b>853</b>	<b>793</b>	<b>806</b>
Spinning –SSI	41	40	41	42	47	48	50
Weaving	31	31	30	34	33	31	32
<b>Total</b>	<b>1075</b>	<b>959</b>	<b>948</b>	<b>939</b>	<b>933</b>	<b>872</b>	<b>888</b>

**Note :** Non SSI Spinning, Composite and Exclusive weaving units mentioned above is inclusive of 94, 100% EOU units.

**Source:** Office of the Textile Commissioner

