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Cotton Statistics And News

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Edited & Published by Amar Singh

North Cotton Zone - Area Down But Production and Yield Up

(A close look at the cotton situation in each zone for the last ten years may perhaps help the cotton fraternity to have a greater insight into the growth of Indian cotton as a whole. The weekly thus proposes to take the initiative in this regard and the first in the series dealing with North Zone is given below)

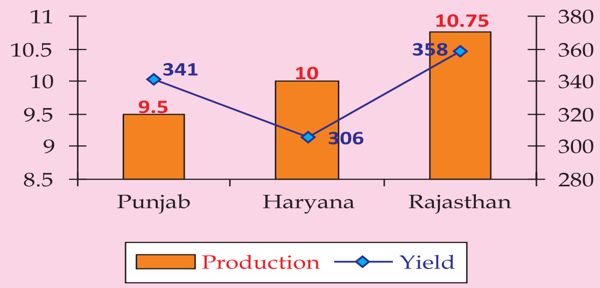
The North Cotton Zone, comprising the States of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan is the major irrigated zone in the country. While around 95 per cent of the crop is under assured irrigation in Punjab and Haryana, Rajasthan, particularly the Southern districts of the State, has sizable area under rainfed cotton. The earliest sowing of cotton in the country takes place in this zone commencing from April-May and sometimes extending upto the first week of June. Soils are sandy to clayey alluvial soils which are low in drainage. Hence, over irrigation leads to water logging affecting the plant growth, especially as cotton, being basically a xerophytic plant, does not need, nor can tolerate, excess moisture in the soil. In fact, some years ago this problem had prevented farmers from getting good yields from cotton since the water table rose in parts of the region.

In some years, late unseasonal rains in the zone interfere in the timely and proper drying and opening of bolls. Cotton picking usually commences in September-October and may go upto November. Harvest is completed before the onset of severe winter. Cotton is usually followed by wheat. In the past, when long duration varieties like 320F used to be grown, it was often difficult to take up wheat sowing at the optimum period and farmers could not always resort to double cropping. However, with the advent of shorter duration varieties like J-34 and now Bt cottons, double cropping is feasible and is practised universally.

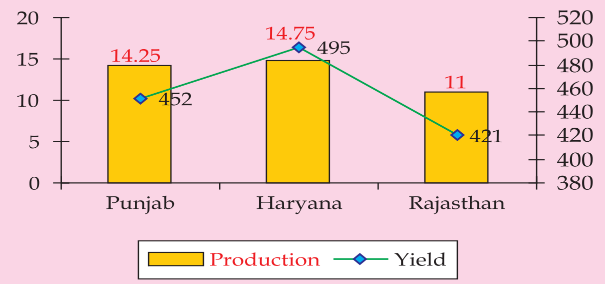
The data on area, production and yield of cotton in this zone during the last decade are presented in the following table:

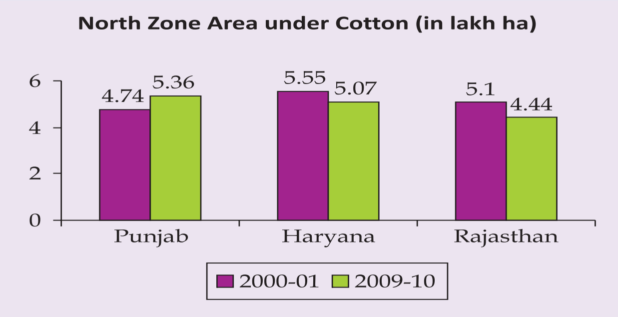
State	Area (lakh ha)		Production (lakh bales)		Yield (kg/ha)	
	2000-01	2009-10	2000-01	2009-10	2000-01	2009-10
Punjab	4.74	5.36	9.50	14.25	341	452
Haryana	5.55	5.07	10.00	14.75	306	495
Rajasthan	5.10	4.44	10.75	11.00	358	421
Total/Av.	15.39	14.87	30.25	40.00	334	457

North Zone (Production & Yield)
2000-01



North Zone (Production & Yield)
2009-10



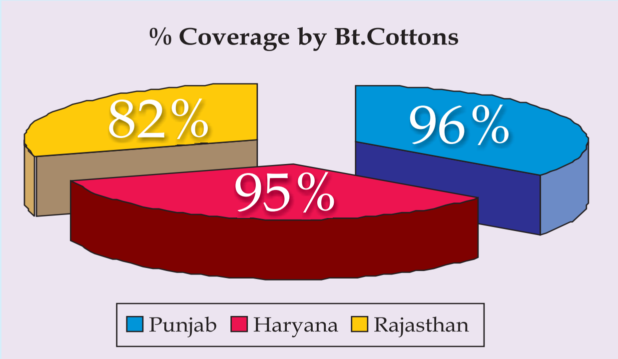


It will be seen that despite a 3.5 per cent decline in area from 15.39 lakh hectares in 2000-01 to 14.87 lakh hectares in 2009-10, production went up by 32 per cent from 30.25 lakh bales to 40 lakh bales owing to an appreciable rise of 37 per cent in per hectare yield from 334 kg to 457 kg. It, however, needs to be stated that even with this increase, the current yield level is far below the world average yield of 733 kg per hectare in 2010-11, not to speak of such high yields as 1422 kg in Australia, 1226 kg in China and 1495 kg in Brazil. Since the north cotton zone has a high percentage of irrigated cotton, it appears necessary to further intensify efforts to raise the yield level to atleast the world average.

Apart from other factors, extensive spread of high yielding Bt cottons has contributed to the rise in cotton yield in the North zone. The coverage by Bt cottons in the zone during 2010-11 was as high as 92 per cent of the total area under the crop. The State-wise coverage by Bt cotton in 2010-11 was as under:

State	Total Cotton Area (lakh ha)	Bt Cotton Area (lakh ha)	% coverage by Bt cottons
Punjab	5.30	5.10	96
Haryana	4.95	4.70	95
Rajasthan	3.34	2.75	82

It may be noted that both Punjab and Haryana are almost saturated with Bt cottons while the coverage in Rajasthan is also high at 82 percent.



India May Harvest Record Cotton at 35 mn. Bales this year

India is likely to achieve a record cotton output in the 2011-12 season at 35 million bales as farmers are expected to put more area under the crop, buoyed by higher prices, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) has said. India's cotton production is forecast to increase to a record 25 million bales on expected record planting, the USDA said in its latest report.

The area under cotton may rise by 12% this year at 12.5 million hectares due to record cotton prices. Bt cotton area is expected to reach 90% of the total area this year, but share of unapproved Bt seeds may also rise, it said. Currently, cotton appears to be the most remunerative major crop in the country and few, if any, summer crops can match its potential returns for farmers given current expectations, the USDA noted. For instance, prices of Shankar-6 cotton have more than doubled to Rs 1,67,880 per tonne in the last one year.

Similarly, prices of popular cotton varieties H-4 and DCH-32 have also increased to record levels, it said. Cotton, a major cash crop, is planted from the end of April and harvested from October onwards. The USDA report said while even larger area is certainly possible, especially if weather conditions at planting are favourable, then most farmers' traditional tendency is to diversify their plantings as a hedge against risk. Concerns about the availability of seeds are expected to constrain significant area expansion. Seed companies have already expressed concern about seed supplies, it said.

It further pointed out that cotton yields are expected to be lower at 476 kg per hectare on the expectation of increased planting of lower quality seeds. The report also observed that most of the Bt hybrids are of medium and long staple cotton (26-32 millimeters), which is resulting in declining production of short staple (below 22 mm) and extra long staple (35 mm and above).

The US body also said that India's production is likely to oustrip demand this year. The domestic consumption is forecast at 29 million bales, buoyed by economic growth and rise in population. However, current higher cotton prices may eventually reflect in higher cotton textile products prices for consumers and likely to dampen demand for cotton clothing and textiles or cause consumers to shift to man-made fibre, it said. On India's overseas sales of cotton, the USDA has pegged exports at 5.1 million bales despite record domestic production.

(Source: Economic Times - 18.04.2011)

COTTON INDUSTRY AND YOU (Story of Cotton)

The cotton industry is constantly striving to develop new and improved methods for producing quality products at a reasonable price. The cotton industry continues to look toward the future at further improving their product while providing employment opportunities for millions of people in a variety of related areas.

Cotton related job opportunities can be found from the farm where the cotton is produced to the department store where the garments are sold. Cotton supports the dairy industry by providing a source of food for the milk cows.

Cotton seed can be processed to produce oil for cooking and blending with food products. Jobs can be found in the trucking and transportation industry as it is often transported thousands of miles from the cotton gins to the cotton mills, and then again to the distribution outlets.

Transforming the cotton boll through the processes of delinting and cleaning at the gin to processing at the mill for spinning and weaving fabric requires a trained labour force. The dying of fabric and the assembly of clothing and other products can provide employment for many. High quality papers requiring cotton and paper mills employ thousands annually. The fashion industry needs trained individuals to select the proper combination of fabrics and design to market them to the public. Fashion models rely on these products in their profession. The cotton industry continues to find new and improved uses for cotton worldwide and the public fuels continuous demand for this important commodity. With cotton having all these uses and benefits, it has certainly lived up to the name it was given years ago...."White Gold."

(Source: Cottons Journey.com)

World Cotton Prices

Monthly average Cotlook A Index (FE) from 2005-06 onwards

(Cotlook Index in US Cents per lb.)

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
August	53.23	59.88	66.62	78.04	64.14	90.35
September	53.94	58.82	68.12	77.09	63.99	104.73
October	57.74	57.03	68.93	62.30	66.82	126.55
November	55.87	57.39	69.68	54.96	71.78	155.47
December	56.09	59.43	69.52	55.47	76.78	168.22
January	58.36	59.06	73.21	57.71	77.39	178.93
February	59.66	57.86	75.05	55.21	80.05	213.18
March	57.59	58.42	80.18	51.50	85.80	229.67
April	56.23	57.13	75.44	56.78	88.08	
May	54.35	55.57	74.12	61.95	90.07	
June	55.14	60.61	77.04	61.39	93.04	
July	55.42	67.84	77.29	64.80	--	

UPCOUNTRY SPOT RATES

(Rs./Qtl)

Official quotations for standard descriptions with basic grade and staple in Millimetres based on Upper Half mean Length under By-law 66 (A)(a)(4)						SPOT RATES (UPCOUNTRY) 2010-11 CROP April 2011					
						16th	18th	19th	20th	21st	22nd
01.	ICS-101	Below 22mm	Bengal Deshi (RG)	5.0-7.0	15	M	13554 (48200)	13469 (47900)	13329 (47400)	13610 (48400)	M
02.	ICS-201	Below 22mm	Bengal Deshi (SG)	5.0-7.0	15	A	13835 (49200)	13638 (48500)	13554 (48200)	13779 (49000)	A
03.	ICS-102	22mm	V-797	4.5-5.9	19	R	11248 (40000)	10967 (39000)	10686 (38000)	10264 (36500)	R
04.	ICS-103	23mm	Jayadhar	4.0-5	19	K	12766 (45400)	12204 (43400)	12092 (43000)	12092 (43000)	K
05.	ICS-104	24mm	Y-1	4.0-5.5	20	E	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	E
06.	ICS-202	25mm	J-34	3.5-4.9	23	T	15522 (55200)	15241 (54200)	15297 (54400)	15353 (54600)	T
07.	ICS-105	25mm	NHH-44	3.5-4.9	22		N.A.	N.A	N.A.	N.A	
08.	ICS-105	27mm	LRA-5166	3.5-4.9	24	C	14341 (51000)	13919 (49500)	13919 (49500)	13638 (48500)	C
09.	ICS-105	28mm	H-4/ MECH-1	3.5-4.9	25	L	15044 (53500)	14622 (52000)	14622 (52000)	14341 (51000)	L
10.	ICS-105	29mm	S-6	3.5-4.9	26	O	15832 (56300)	15747 (56000)	15747 (56000)	15466 (55000)	O
11.	ICS-105	31mm	Bunny/ Brahma	3.5-4.9	27	S	16450 (58500)	16450 (58500)	16450 (58500)	16169 (57500)	S
12.	ICS-106	33mm	MCU-5/ Surabhi	3.3-4.5	28	E	17153 (61000)	17153 (61000)	17153 (61000)	16872 (60000)	E
13.	ICS-107	35mm	DCH-32	2.8-3.6	31	D	22496 (80000)	22074 (78500)	21371 (76000)	21090 (75000)	D

Note: Figures in bracket indicate prices in Rs./candy