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Judgement, Knowledge and Civility During a Century of Service

With a Ph.D. in Agricultural and Resource Economics from Oregon State University in the USA, Dr. Terry Townsend is a consultant on commodity issues. He is currently working on a project funded by The World Bank to develop market information systems for rice growers in Assam and apple produces in Himachal Pradesh.

He was a cotton analyst with USDA in the 1980s. He moved to the International Cotton Advisory Committee in 1987 and served as Statistician for 12 years. He was promoted to Executive Director in 1999 and retired at the end of 2013. He remains active in several organisations related to cotton and natural fibres, including the Discover Natural Fibres Initiative (www.DNFL.org).

It has been my great pleasure to have interacted with the East India Cotton Association/Cotton Association of India for fully a third of its 100-year history. Throughout

EXPERT'S Column



Dr. Terry Townsend
Cotton Analytics

the three decades during which I have known the leaders, observed the activities and been educated personally by its members, I have been impressed by the good judgement, encyclopedic knowledge of cotton and civility of spirit that has always been demonstrated.

As a new statistician just hired by the International Cotton Advisory Committee, and with no practical experience understanding the cotton industry in India, I first visited Mumbai (still commonly called Bombay) in 1988. Leaders of

EICA, including C.H. Mirani, Suresh Kotak, D.V. Shah, Kantilal Shah, Narendra Sheth, Pravin Thakkar, and others, graciously and patiently received me with great courtesy. Those leaders answered questions about cotton in India, government policies and statistics, their sources, their meaning, units of measure, procedures for estimation, ranges of uncertainty, time periods covered and other matters that must have been mind-numbingly boring to those men, but were crucial to my understanding. Beyond the pragmatic information conveyed, the leaders of EICA demonstrated a degree of sophistication, hospitality, commitment to cotton and courtesy that I remember 34 years later.

Expansion Reflects Growth

Established when all of what was then India, including what are today Pakistan and Bangladesh, produced only about one million tons of cotton, the EICA was primarily an organisation for the determination of spot rates, preparation of standards boxes and providing domestic arbitration services. It is hard to imagine today, but India produced only one million tons of cotton lint in the 1970s, and only 2 million by the end of the 1980s. Laws in those days still required a physical separation between ginning and pressing factories, and marketing was still heavily distorted with export quotas and interventions by state governments. As late as the mid-1990s, the main role of EICA and its officers was to travel to New Delhi to lobby government to increase export quotas or avoid some new tax or regulation.

By the late 1990s and early 2000s, as production in India started to climb, the role of EICA began to expand and diversify. Under the leadership of Suresh Kotak, K.F. Jhunjhunwala and others, EICA began to advocate for greater unification within the Indian cotton industry, and to provide an expanded range of services. As production in India rose to approximately 6 million tons in the 2000s, the effectiveness and expansion of CAI as an organisation increased under the leadership of Dhiren Sheth, Nayan Mirani and other board members. Today, under the strong leadership of Atul Ganatra, CAI is the recognised Voice of Indian Cotton in India and around the world, and the CAI Newsletter, Cotton Statistics and News is read around the world and serves as the newspaper of record for Indian cotton.

EICA/CAI has achieved much in its first century of service. How will CAI serve in the century to come?

Speaking with One Voice

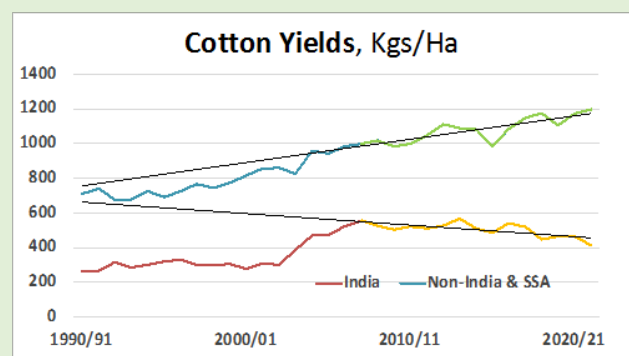
Many challenges face the cotton industry of India. As the apex industry organisation in one of the largest cotton producing countries, CAI represents more than just another cotton association, and the success of CAI in contributing to improvement in the efficiency and productivity of the Indian cotton industry will have international impacts.

A crucial task for the CAI is to foster a sense of shared purpose around common objectives so that all segments and regional organisations in India “speak with one voice” to the government. The current welter of associations and organisations representing producers and ginners, merchants and textile mills in different regions, serves to fragment the industry and foster inefficiency.

As the apex cotton industry body, CAI must lead in harmonisation of interests and organisations so as to promote industry efficiency. From the development of permanent bale identification tags with bar codes for every bale, to 100% HVI testing, to standardised bale packaging, to improved statistical capacities, to rationalised regulation of cotton varieties, there is much work to be done in India. CAI is the organisation with the historical legacy and current capability to lead India into another century of growth and efficiency.

Averting a Cotton Crisis.

In 2007/08, the cotton yield in India reached approximately 550 kilograms of lint per hectare, while the yield in the rest of the world outside India and sub-Saharan Africa was approximately 1,000. Since 2007/08, the yield in India has trended downward by approximately 6 kilograms per hectare per year, while the yield in the world other than India and sub-Saharan Africa has trended upward by approximately 13 kilograms per hectare per year.



In the three years ending in 2021/22, the average yield in India was approximately 450 kilograms per hectare, a full 100 kilograms lower than in 2007/08. In contrast, the three-year average yield outside of India and sub-Saharan Africa from 2019/20 to 2021/22 rose to 1,160

kilograms, approximately 160 kilograms higher than it had been 15 seasons earlier. Because of the divergence in average yields, farmers in India are less competitive relative to producers in other countries. Accordingly, prices paid to farmers to sustain production must be higher than they would be otherwise, and the entire value chain in India is facing a crisis of reduced competitiveness.

The reasons for the declining trend in cotton yields in India have been much discussed and range from changes in weather to bollworm resistance to proteins in Bt seed varieties. This is a problem that India must tackle, and CAI has an indispensable role to play as a bridge between producers and spinners, between government and the private sector, in marshalling resources and coordinating efforts in a national campaign to address the challenges represented by declining yields.

Reverse Demand Enhancement

For two centuries, governments around the world have been supportive of cotton. Some have actively supported demand enhancement, while most merely treat cotton the same as any other commodity in the economy and let consumer preference determine demand outcomes. However, there is a real possibility that some

governments will actively begin discouraging consumption of cotton in a form of reverse demand enhancement.

Critics allege that cotton is inherently environmentally damaging and socially exploitative, and from the state legislature of New York in the United States, to regulatory agencies within the European Commission (EC), efforts are underway to restrict sales of cotton. As one example, the EC is proposing that all products sold at retail in Europe must carry point-of-sale labels that identify the product's environmental footprint (PEF). As currently proposed, the PEF for cotton would be red.

These efforts seem crazy, but they are real, and they represent direct threats to the economy of India and the wellbeing of millions of Indian cotton households.

As the Voice of Indian Cotton, CAI can play a positive role in these international debates during the decades ahead. With membership including all segments of the cotton value chain, CAI can answer the critics and raise awareness authentically of the positive impacts of cotton on the environment and the economies of India and other developing countries.

Continuity of Judgement, Knowledge and Civility

Even as CAI changes and grows, certain characteristics will continue. The subjects of debate will change and techniques of efficiency will improve, but with new vision and energy, the work of CAI will continue. The traditions of judgement, knowledge, and civility, combined with a commitment to cotton, that have characterised CAI for the past century will continue during the century ahead.

Source : CAI Centenary Special 2022

(The views expressed in this column are of the author and not that of Cotton Association of India)



Sr. No.	Parameters	Grade				Staple				Micronaire	
		Premium		Discounts		Premium		Discounts		Micronaire	Discount
		Grade	Premium Amount	Grade	Discount Amount	Staple	Premium Amount	Staple	Discount Amount		
8	P/H/R (U)	Superfine	+1200	Fully Good	-1000			26	-1000	3.0 - 3.2	-800
	ICS-105										
	(Staple length 27mm)		(1.87)		(1.56)				(1.56)		(1.25)
	Micronaire 3.5 - 4.9	Extra S. Fine	N.A.	Good	-1300					3.3 - 3.4	-400
	(Grade : Fine) Trash - 4% Strength/GPT 26				(2.03)						(0.62)
9	M/M(P)/SA/TL/G ICS-105	Superfine	+500	Fully Good	-500	28	+700			2.7 - 2.9	-500
	(Staple length 27mm)										
	Micronaire 3.0 - 3.4		(0.78)		(0.78)		(1.09)				(0.78)
	(Grade: Fine)	Extra S. Fine	N.A.	Good	-700						
	Trash - 4% Strength/GPT 25				(1.09)						
10	M/M(P)/SA/TL	Superfine	+500	Fully Good	-600						
	ICS-105										
	(Staple length 27mm)		(0.78)		(0.94)						
	Micronaire 3.5 - 4.9	Extra S. Fine	N.A.	Good	-800						
	(Grade:Fine) Trash - 3.5% Strength/GPT 26				(1.25)						
11	P/H/R (U)	Superfine	+1200	Fully Good	-1000	29	+1000			3.0 - 3.2	-800
	ICS-105										
	(Staple length 28mm)		(1.87)		(1.56)		(1.56)			(1.25)	
	Micronaire 3.5 - 4.9	Extra S. Fine	N.A.	Good	-1300					3.3 - 3.4	-400
	(Grade:Fine)				(2.03)						(0.62)
	Trash - 4% Strength/GPT 27										
12	M/M(P)	Superfine	+1000	Fully Good	-1000					3.0 - 3.2	-1200
	ICS-105										
	(Staple length 28mm)		(1.56)		(1.56)					(1.87)	
	Micronaire 3.7 - 4.5	Extra S. Fine	N.A.	Good	-1300					3.3 - 3.4	-800
	(Grade:Fine) Trash - 3.5% Strength/GPT 27				(2.03)						-400
									3.5 - 3.6	(0.62)	
13	SA/TL/K	Superfine	+1000	Fully Good	-1000					3.0 - 3.2	-1200
	ICS-105										
	(Staple length 28mm)		(1.56)		(1.56)					(1.87)	
	Micronaire 3.7 - 4.5	Extra S. Fine	N.A.	Good	-1300					3.3 - 3.4	-800
	(Grade:Fine) Trash - 3.5% Strength/GPT 27				(2.03)						-400
									3.5 - 3.6	(0.62)	
14	GUJ	Superfine	+1000	Fully Good	-1000			27	-1500	3.0 - 3.2	-1200
	ICS-105										
	(Staple length 28mm)		(1.56)		(1.56)				(2.34)	(1.87)	
	Micronaire 3.7 - 4.5	Extra S. Fine	N.A.	Good	-1300					3.3 - 3.4	-800
	(Grade:Fine)				(2.03)						-400
	Trash - 3% Strength/GPT 27										(0.62)
									3.5 - 3.6		
15	R (L)	Superfine	+1000	Fully Good	-1000			28	-1000	3.0 - 3.2	-1000
	ICS-105										
	(Staple length 29mm)		(1.56)		(1.56)				(1.56)	(1.56)	
	Micronaire 3.7 - 4.5									3.3 - 3.4	-600
	(Grade:Fine)	Extra S. Fine	N.A.	Good	-1200						(0.94)
	Trash - 3.5% Strength/GPT 28				(1.87)						-300
									3.5 - 3.6	(0.47)	

Sr. No.	Parameters	Grade				Staple				Micronaire	
		Premium		Discounts		Premium		Discounts		Micronaire	Discount
		Grade	Premium Amount	Grade	Discount Amount	Staple	Premium Amount	Staple	Discount Amount		
23	SA/TL/K/TN/O	Superfine	N.A,	Fully Good	N.A,			31	N.A,	3.0 - 3.2	N.A,
	ICS-106										
	(Staple length 32mm)										
	Micronaire 3.5 - 4.2	Extra S. Fine	N.A,	Good	N.A,					3.3 - 3.4	N.A,
	(Grade : Fine) Trash - 3% Strength/GPT 31										
24	M/M(P)	Superfine	+1000	Fully Good	-1500	35	+2000	33	-2000	2.5 - 2.7	-700
	ICS-107										
	(Staple length 34mm)		(1.56)		(2.34)		(3.12)		(3.12)		(1.09)
	Micronaire 2.8 - 3.7	Extra S. Fine	N.A.	Good	-2000	36	+3000				
	(Grade : Fine) Trash - 4% Strength/GPT 33				(3.12)	(4.68)					
25	K/TN	Superfine	+1000	Fully Good	-1500	35	+1000	33	-2000	2.5 - 2.7	-700
	ICS-107										
	(Staple length 34mm)		(1.56)		(2.34)		(1.56)		(3.12)		(1.09)
	Micronaire 2.8 - 3.7	Extra S. Fine	N.A.	Good	-2000	36	+2500				
	(Grade : Fine) Trash - 3.5% Strength/GPT 34				(3.12)	(3.90)					
26	M/M(P)	Superfine	+1000	Fully Good	-1500	36	+2000	34	-2000	2.5 - 2.7	-700
	ICS-107										
	(Staple length 35mm)		(1.56)		(2.34)		(3.12)		(3.12)		(1.09)
	Micronaire 2.8 - 3.7	Extra S. Fine	N.A.	Good	-2000						
	(Grade : Fine) Trash - 4% Strength/GPT 35				(3.12)						
27	K/TN	Superfine	+1000	Fully Good	-1500	36	+1500	34	-1000	2.5 - 2.7	-700
	ICS-107										
	(Staple length 35mm)		(1.56)		(2.34)		(2.34)		(1.56)		(1.09)
	Micronaire 2.8 - 3.7	Extra S. Fine	N.A.	Good	-2000						
	(Grade : Fine) Trash - 3.5% Strength/GPT 35				(3.12)						

Conversion factor – 641.70 based on the RBI closing exchange rate of 1 US \$ = Rs.81.85 prevailing on 26th April 2023

Figures in bracket denotes value difference in Cents per Lb.

Note :

- (1) These Value Differences are applicable to domestic trade.
- (2) The above differences are merely indicative in nature. Cotton Association of India gives no warranty as to the accuracy or completeness of information contained herein and accepts no legal responsibility howsoever arising in relation to such information.
- (3) Premium and Discount mentioned in Indian Rupees above will remain constant for one month whereas the same mentioned in Cents per Lb. will vary as per the exchange rate fixed by the Reserve Bank of India.

UPCOUNTRY SPOT RATES								(Rs./Qtl)					
Standard Descriptions with Basic Grade & Staple in Millimetres based on Upper Half Mean Length [By law 66 (A) (a) (4)]								Spot Rate (Upcountry) 2022-23 Crop May 2023					
Sr. No.	Growth	Grade Standard	Grade	Staple	Micronaire	Gravimetric Trash	Strength /GPT	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th
1	P/H/R	ICS-101	Fine	Below 22mm	5.0 – 7.0	4%	15		18531 (65900)	18390 (65400)	18390 (65400)	18390 (65400)	18531 (65900)
2	P/H/R (SG)	ICS-201	Fine	Below 22mm	5.0 – 7.0	4.5%	15		18672 (66400)	18531 (65900)	18531 (65900)	18531 (65900)	18672 (66400)
3	GUJ	ICS-102	Fine	22mm	4.0 – 6.0	13%	20	H	13723 (48800)	13723 (48800)	13723 (48800)	13807 (49100)	13863 (49300)
4	KAR	ICS-103	Fine	23mm	4.0 – 5.5	4.5%	21		15297 (54400)	15213 (54100)	15213 (54100)	15213 (54100)	15269 (54300)
5	M/M (P)	ICS-104	Fine	23mm	4.5 – 7.0	4%	22		16591 (59000)	16591 (59000)	16450 (58500)	16450 (58500)	16535 (58800)
6	P/H/R(U) (SG)	ICS-202	Fine	27mm	3.5 – 4.9	4.5%	26	O	16535 (58800)	16450 (58500)	16450 (58500)	16506 (58700)	16759 (59600)
7	M/M(P)/SA/TL	ICS-105	Fine	26mm	3.0 – 3.4	4%	25		-	-	-	-	-
8	P/H/R(U)	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.5 – 4.9	4%	26		16703 (59400)	16619 (59100)	16619 (59100)	16675 (59300)	16928 (60200)
9	M/M(P)/SA/TL/G	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.0 – 3.4	4%	25	L	15691 (55800)	15691 (55800)	15607 (55500)	15719 (55900)	15803 (56200)
10	M/M(P)/SA/TL	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.5 – 4.9	3.5%	26		16394 (58300)	16394 (58300)	16310 (58000)	16422 (58400)	16506 (58700)
11	P/H/R(U)	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.5 – 4.9	4%	27		17097 (60800)	17013 (60500)	17013 (60500)	17069 (60700)	17322 (61600)
12	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.5	3.5%	27		16844 (59900)	16844 (59900)	16759 (59600)	16872 (60000)	16956 (60300)
13	SA/TL/K	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.5	3.5%	27	I	16872 (60000)	16872 (60000)	16788 (59700)	16900 (60100)	16984 (60400)
14	GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.5	3%	27		17069 (60700)	17013 (60500)	17013 (60500)	17125 (60900)	17181 (61100)
15	R(L)	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.5	3.5%	28		17153 (61000)	17097 (60800)	17097 (60800)	17153 (61000)	17322 (61600)
16	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.5	3.5%	28	D	17153 (61000)	17153 (61000)	17153 (61000)	17266 (61400)	17322 (61600)
17	SA/TL/K	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.5	3%	28		17181 (61100)	17181 (61100)	17181 (61100)	17294 (61500)	17350 (61700)
18	GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.5	3%	28		17378 (61800)	17322 (61600)	17322 (61600)	17434 (62000)	17491 (62200)
19	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	30mm	3.7 – 4.5	3.5%	29	A	17434 (62000)	17434 (62000)	17350 (61700)	17462 (62100)	17491 (62200)
20	SA/TL/K/O	ICS-105	Fine	30mm	3.7 – 4.5	3%	29		17462 (62100)	17462 (62100)	17378 (61800)	17491 (62200)	17519 (62300)
21	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	31mm	3.7 – 4.5	3%	30	Y	17631 (62700)	17631 (62700)	17575 (62500)	17687 (62900)	17716 (63000)
22	SA/TL/K/TN/O	ICS-105	Fine	31mm	3.7 – 4.5	3%	30		17687 (62900)	17687 (62900)	17631 (62700)	17744 (63100)	17772 (63200)
23	SA/TL/K/TN/O	ICS-106	Fine	32mm	3.5 – 4.2	3%	31		N.A. (N.A.)	N.A. (N.A.)	N.A. (N.A.)	N.A. (N.A.)	N.A. (N.A.)
24	M/M(P)	ICS-107	Fine	34mm	2.8 - 3.7	4%	33		20668 (73500)	20668 (73500)	20668 (73500)	20668 (73500)	20668 (73500)
25	K/TN	ICS-107	Fine	34mm	2.8 - 3.7	3.5%	34		21090 (75000)	21090 (75000)	21090 (75000)	21090 (75000)	21090 (75000)
26	M/M(P)	ICS-107	Fine	35mm	2.8 - 3.7	4%	35		21090 (75000)	21090 (75000)	21090 (75000)	21090 (75000)	21090 (75000)
27	K/TN	ICS-107	Fine	35mm	2.8 - 3.7	3.5%	35		21371 (76000)	21371 (76000)	21371 (76000)	21371 (76000)	21371 (76000)

(Note: Figures in bracket indicate prices in Rs./Candy)