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Cotton Statistics And News

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Programme on "Introduction To Shipping" Organised by CAI under "Learn with CAI" Series

Under the programme "Learn with CAI" series, the 3rd programme on "Introduction to Shipping" was held on 30th May 2009 in the Conference Room of the Association.



CAI President, Shri Dhiren N. Sheth addressing the participants.

Shri Dhiren N. Sheth, President, CAI welcomed the participants. He introduced the Course Faculty Captain Dinesh Gautama, General Manager of Sea Consortium Shipping (I) P.Ltd., and urged the participants to derive maximum



Captain Dinesh Gautama was welcomed with a Bouquet of Flowers.

benefit from vast knowledge and experience of the eminent speaker.

Captain Gautama made a detailed presentation on different aspects of shipping and shipping practices, shipping operations, shipping processes and documentation and Bill of Lading and its Clauses.



Captain Dinesh Gautama interacting with the participants

In his presentation, he highlighted the intermediaries involved in cargoes and containerisation, documentation terms and clauses in a bill of lading and explained in detail its definitions and various other aspects of shipping.

The programme concluded with an open session where all the participants interacted with the speaker and raised several queries and the faculty member responded to their questions.

All the participants highly appreciated the programme.

Cotton Development Project of CITI to be Expanded

According to reports, the Cotton Development and Research Association of the Cofederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI-CDRA) plans to expand its cotton development activities in 2009-10. CITI-CDRA took up two cotton extension projects for the first time in 2008-09 in south Rajasthan. These included Front Line Demonstrations (FLDs) sponsored by the Directorate of Cotton Development (DOCD) and a collaborative Project in association with the State Government of Rajasthan and a private sector company.

During 2008-09, as many as 1200 FLDs were implemented on Production Technologies while 3 were devoted to Integrated pest Management Practices, in two districts of Banswara and Bhilwara. Under the Collaborative Project, the object was to increase cotton production by 150 percent in three years. It covered 25000 acres in the tribal areas of Banswara district. As a result of the efforts under the Projects, the area under Bt cottons in Bhilwara district is claimed to have gone up to 90 percent from about 10 percent in the previous year, while in Banswara district the increase was from 5 percent in the previous year to 30 percent in 2008-09.

The FLDs seem to have demonstrated the potential for raising the yield level per hectare. In Bhilwara district where 800 FLDs were implemented, the average yield obtained is stated to have been 945 kg lint per hectare as compared to the State average of 416 kg and the national average of 560 kg in 2007-08. In Banswara district, where the Collaborative Project was implemented, a number of training and awareness camps are stated to have been organised involving officials of State Agriculture Department and Scientists from the Agricultural Research Station of Banswar. During these camps, farmers in the Project area are said to have been familiarised with modern methods of cotton cultivation and effective ways of pest management enabling them to adopt them on a large scale.

The CITI-CDRA, it is reported, aims to expand the projects. During 2009-10, it is proposed to implement the FLDs sponsored by the Cotton Directorate in two more districts, viz, Rajasamand and Chittorgarh, covering in all 95 villages. The area under cotton in general and Bt

cotton in particular is expected to increase in 2009-10. In the case of Collaborative Project, the area under it is proposed to be increased to 50,000 acres comprising of 25,000 acres in Banswara, 17,500 acres in Bhilwara and 7,500 acres in Rajsamand districts. The beneficiary villages and the farmers from these districts are said to have been identified by the Project Coordinators of CITI-CDRA in consultation with the concerned officials of the State Agriculture Department and Village Panchayats.

In order to give a boost to the production of extralong staple cotton, in which the country is deficient at present, it is said to have been decided to earmark 200 FLDs in Banswara district for promotion of DCH-32 which is now being grown over sizable areas in the district. Arrangements, it is stated, are being made for supply of good quality seed of this cotton from Karnataka.



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Maharashtra to Implement Agriculture Competitiveness Project

"Competitiveness" has emerged as a key word in recent years. It has in fact become essential in all spheres, be it industry or agriculture. Enhancing competitiveness leads to not only lower cost but also to better quality which attract increased number of customers in the market. It is now reported that the Government of Maharashtra has decided to implement the Maharashtra Agriculture Competitiveness Project which is partly funded by World Bank. This Rs 646 crore Project aims at integrated development of agriculture, animal husbandry, dairy and fishery sectors.

The intention, it is reported, is to create a new mechanism, which will enhance agriculture production while keeping market centred agriculture development in its sight. The lacunae in the agriculture marketing would also be removed. Of the total Project cost, 64 percent is to be borne by the World Bank. The State Government and local self-government will raise the rest of the funds. Of the Rs 414 crore to be

contributed by the World Bank, 50 percent would bear an interest of 4.25 percent, according to reports.

Implementation of the Project is to commence during the current fiscal and would be completed in 2014-15. All the 33 districts in the State would be covered under the Project. It is also proposed to create an alternative market mechanism for marketing the products. As per reports, about Rs 195 crore would be spent on improving 906 agriculture market yards. Also, Rs 24 crore would be spent for developing market information and analysis.

It appears that it has taken about three years for the Project to take off. It is said to be based on the 2006 World Bank study for agriculture marketing, which had recommended infrastructure development for the sector. It is reported that the study had also recommended similar projects for Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Punjab and Orissa.

Improvement in Business Confidence Index - CII

It is reported that according to the bi-annual Business Outlook Survey of the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII), Business Confidence Index (BCI) for April - September 2009-10 improved considerably compared to the previous six months. The Index recorded at 58.7 percent for April - September 2009-10 is said to be an increase after two consecutive half-year periods of decline. The rise in Index obviously indicates better expectations for the coming six months and confirms the belief that the worst is likely to be over for the economy, the Director - General of CII is quoted to have stated. However, the uncertain global economic outlook and slackening consumer demand still remained a major concern for the business community, he reportedly added.

The CII survey which covered a sample of 374 companies seems to have revealed that 83 percent of the respondents expected the GDP growth for 2009-10 to exceed 5 percent with majority expecting it to be between 5 and 6 percent. On inflation, 86 percent of the respondents are stated to expect it to be above 2 percent in 2009-10 thereby ruling out the possibility of sustained delation in the economy. Given the ongoing

global slowdown, 96 percent of the respondents are said to feel that it is only in the second half of 2009-10 and beyond that the Indian economy would witness a turnaround and begin returning to normal growth.

Issue of Certificates of Origin (Non-Preferential)

The CAI has been enlisted by the Director General of Foreign Trade, New Delhi and is authorized us to issue Certificates of Origin (Non-Preferential). This service has already been commenced by CAI.

The purpose of this is to serve all the stakeholders in cotton value chain better and more effectively. We invite all of you to avail of these services.

The interested parties may contact the CAI Secretariat or visit our website: www.caionline.in for more details.

S N I P P E T S

Under the adverse impact of the global financial crisis, foreign direct investment (FDI) in the country is estimated to have fallen by over 55 percent to \$2 billion in March 2009 compared to \$4.4 billion in March 2008. The total FDI inflow in 2008-09 is now placed at around \$27.38 billion, about 11.8 percent more than the \$24.5 billion in 2007-08.



The first month of the current financial year is reported to have witnessed a fall of 33 percent to \$10.7 billion in merchandise exports. Imports fell sharper by 35 percent during the month to \$16 billion on the back of a deceleration in investment and manufacturing. According to experts, exports are expected to remain negative till September as against a rapid growth recorded during the first half of 2007-08.



Allaying concerns about any shortage of cotton seed for planting during this kharif season, the

Union Ministry of Agriculture is reported to have clarified that there is more than adequate availability of seed at 2,35,000 quintals against the demand of 1,87,000 qtls. In the case of Maharashtra, where there have been some apprehensions in this regard, the availability is said to be 85,000 qtls against the demand of 71,000 qtls. The seed position is stated to have been recently reviewed at a zonal conference in March.



The Chinese Cotton Association is quoted to have stated that cotton plantings in the country may exceed the previous forecast since the decline in prices has been curbed by the government policies. The present estimate is 12.8 million acres (approx. 4.8 million hectares) which is about 1.5 percent higher than the March estimate.



UPCOUNTRY SPOT RATES

(Rs./Candy)

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) 2008-09 CROP May- June 2009					
					30th	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
01.	ICS-101	Below 22mm	Bengal Deshi(RG)	5.0-7.0 15	23300	23200	23200	23200	23200	23200
02.	ICS-201	Below 22mm	Bengal Deshi(SG)	5.0-7.0 15	24000	23900	23900	23900	23900	23900
03.	ICS-102	22mm	V-797	4.5-5.9 19	17500	17500	17500	17500	17500	17500
04.	ICS-103	23mm	Jayadhar	4.0-5.5 19	18200	18200	18200	18200	18200	18200
05.	ICS-104	24mm	Y-1	4.0-5.5 20	20700	20700	20700	20700	20700	20700
06.	ICS-202	25mm	J-34 (SG)	3.5-4.9 23	23000	22900	22900	22900	22900	22900
07.	ICS-105	25mm	NHH-44	3.5-4.9 22	20700	20700	20700	20700	20700	20700
08.	ICS-105	27mm	LRA-5166	3.5-4.9 24	21200	21200	21200	21400	21400	21400
09.	ICS-105	28mm	H-4/ MECH-1	3.5-4.9 25	21800	21800	21800	22000	22000	22000
10.	ICS-105	29mm	S-6	3.5-4.9 26	23200	23200	23200	23200	23200	23200
11.	ICS-105	31mm	Bunny/ Brahma	3.5-4.9 27	23000	23000	23000	23000	23000	23000
12.	ICS-106	33mm	MCU-5/ Surabhi	3.3-4.5 28	23700	23700	23700	23700	23700	23700
13.	ICS-107	35mm	DCH-32	2.8-3 .6 31	32200	32200	32200	32200	32200	32200
14.	ICS-301	26mm	ICC	3.7-4.3 25	22100	22000	22000	22000	22000	22000