

Impact of Covid Pandemic on Cotton Scenario in India

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The global COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting lockdown during April 2020 and its step-by-step relaxation have impacted cotton production and marketing in the country. Similarly, the lockdown in other important cotton producing and consuming countries have also impacted Indian cotton scenario at various levels. The global cotton supply chain was under a shadow of uncertainty. The direct impact can be understood by comparing the scenario during 2018-19 with the scenario of 2019-20 and 2020-21.

Area and Production

Cotton area during 2018-19 was about 126

lakh ha and it increased to 134.77 lakh ha during 2019-20. This was despite low international cotton prices and high unused stalks at the end of 2018-19. This increase was observed in all the three cotton growing zones. Main reasons for this increase were better price situation, timely availability of seeds despite the pandemic and timely onset as well as progress of monsoon.

Though the pandemic started in October 2019 and the lockdown was imposed in India in March 2020, its effect was seen here only by the beginning of 2021. About 70 percent of the cotton produce was already marketed by the farmers before the imposition of the lockdown. Cotton farmers faced

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difficulties in selling their produce during the lockdown period. As the lockdown was relaxed after one month and the movement of agricultural produce was exempted from lockdown, markets were slowly reopened and the farmers started to bring the remaining produce to the markets.

The Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) also played a pivotal role in the procurement of cotton during the pandemic period and procured a record amount of 104 lakh bales of cotton valued at Rs. 28,000 crore and helped the farmers at the time of crisis.

Thanks to all these measures, cotton farmers were able to market the produce with little difficulty. Cotton area decreased only marginally in 2020-21 and settled at 133.41 lakh (Table 1). Measures taken by the Government to ensure the timely supply and availability of inputs like seeds and fertilizers during the lockdown, was another laudable feature that helped farmers and further prevented the fall in cotton area. This clearly indicates that the Covid pandemic did not have much effect on cotton area and production in India.

Late season rains, extended crop duration, pink boll worm and boll rot in the states of Maharashtra, Gujarat and Telangana are likely to reduce the production figures to 360 lakh bales (Table 1)

Cotton Prices

The price scenario of raw cotton was very encouraging during 2018-19 (Table 2). The price remained above Rs. 5000/q during the entire season. This encouraged farmers to increase the cotton area during 2019-20. The price scenario at the beginning of the marketing year 2019-20 was also good at Rs. 5070/q.

The slowdown in the international markets due to the Covid outbreak in China and as well as increased production in the country, caused the prices to fall in the domestic markets. Average price recorded during November 2019 was Rs. 4984/q. As the prices fell below MSP, the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) started MSP operations and began purchasing cotton from farmers, due to which the cotton prices remained above Rs. 5000/q. As the pandemic spread to the rest of the world, and many other countries imposed lockdowns, the demand for cotton fell drastically, reflecting on the prices. Seed

Table 1 Area and Production of Cotton in India during 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21

Name of the state	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
APY	Area (lakh ha)	Area (lakh ha)	Area (lakh ha)	Production (lakh bales)	Production (lakh bales)	Production (lakh bales)
Punjab	2.68	2.48	5.01	8.50	9.50	11.00
Haryana	7.08	7.23	7.22	23.00	26.50	22.50
Rajasthan	6.29	7.60	8.08	27.50	29.00	32.00
Northern Zone	16.05	17.31	20.31	59.00	65.00	65.50
Gujarat	26.60	26.55	22.79	90.00	89.00	90.00
Maharashtra	42.18	44.91	42.86	76.00	87.00	84.00
Madhya Pradesh	6.14	6.50	5.89	23.00 20.00		18.00
Central Zone	74.92	77.96	71.54	189.00	196.00	192.00
Telangana	18.39	21.27	24.51	42.00	54.00	51.00
Andhra Pradesh	6.20	6.57	6.06	15.00	18.00	17.00
Karnataka	7.18	8.17	7.65	16.00	20.00	22.00
Tamil Nadu	1.33	1.70	1.55	6.00	6.00	6.00
Southern Zone	33.10	37.71	39.77	79.00	98.00	96.00
Orissa	1.57	1.70	1.71	4.00	4.00	4.50
Others	0.50 0.0		0.08	0.08 2.00		2.00
Total	126.14	134.77	133.41	333.00	365.00	360.00

Source: Office of the Textiles Commissioner, GoI, (http://www.txcindia.gov.in/)

Table 2 Seed Cotton Prices during 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21

Month/Year	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
October	5513	5070	4949
November	5430	4984	5341
December	5412	5116	5432
January	5358	5234	5582
February	5261	5086	5667
March	5502	4981	5949
April	5913	4720	5770
May	5526	4759	5674
June	5892	4454	
July	5759	4553	
August	5551	4648	
September	5234	4611	

Source: Directorate of Marketing & Inspection (DMI), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India (https://agmarknet.gov.in/PriceTrends/SA_Pri_Month.aspx)

cotton prices started decreasing in the domestic markets by March 2020 and the trend persisted till the end of the season.

The prices during the beginning of the season 2020-21 was below Rs. 5000/q mark. During this season also, CCI played a stellar role in procuring cotton, which gave a tremendous boost to farmers. As the lockdown was relaxed step by step and the spinning and weaving industry started operations, the demand for cotton also picked up. As a result, cotton prices started rising and by the end of March 2021 crossed the MSP in many markets.

During the second wave, as there was no centralised lockdown, a part of the industry continued to function but at a slow pace. As a result, though cotton prices decreased, it was not like in the first wave. Seed cotton prices had decreased to Rs. 5674/q by the end of May 2021.

Cotton Consumption

Though the impact of pandemic on cotton area and production was not significant, it affected cotton consumption in a big way. Due to the lockdown and movement of the migrant workforce to their native villages, the processing industry was brought to a standstill. Although it began functioning, after lifting of the lockdown, it was a very slow start.

Mill consumption decreased to 233.7 lakh bales during 2019-20 from 270.78 lakh bales of previous year (Table 3). Similarly, S.S.I consumption and Non Textile consumption also showed a decrease. Thus, the total consumption got reduced by 42 lakh bales during 2019-20. This decreased consumption and increased crop size resulted in increasing the closing stock to 120.79 lakh bales. Consumption did not recover to its full extent during the 2020-21 season and it was expected to be about 300 lakh bales only.

Cotton Balance Sheet during 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21

(In lakh bales of 170 kg. each)

Particulars	2018-19	2019-2020	2020-2021
Supply			
Opening Stock	42.91	56.52	120.79
Crop	333.00	365.00	360.00
Import	35.37	15.50	11.00
Total Supply	411.28	437.02	491.79
Demand			
Mill Consumption	270.78	233.70	266.00
S.S.I Consumption	22.43	20.49	22.00
Non Textile Consumption	18.00	15.00	15.00
Export	43.55	47.04	70.00
Total Demand	354.76	316.23	373.00
Closing Stock.	56.52	120.79	118.79

Source: Office of the Textiles Commissioner, GoI, (http://www.txcindia.gov.in/)

Compared to the other commodities, the impact of the Covid pandemic in India on cotton was minimal. It is expected that after the second wave, the mill activity will pick up pace and the cotton sector will bounce back. An area of 130 lakh hectares is expected to be put under cotton during 2021-22 season too.

Acknowledgement

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

Revision in Testing Charges at CAI Laboratories

The following are the charges for cotton testing in the laboratories of the Cotton Association of India with effect from 1st October 2020.

Particulars	Per Sample Testing Fees in Rs.						
	Testing Fees	GST	Total				
HVI Test	145	26	171				
Micronaire Test	85	15	100				
Colour Grade on HVI	85	15	100				
Gravimetric Trash Test on HVI	85	15	100				
Moisture	85	15	100				
Grading (Manual Classing)	235	42	277				

VOLUME BASED DISCOUNTS

Particulars	Per Sample Testing Fees in Rs.						
	Testing Fees	GST	Total				
For 250 samples and above but less than 500 samples	140	25	165				
For 500 samples and above but less than 750 samples	135	24	159				
For 750 samples and above but less than 1000 samples	130	23	153				
For 1000 samples and above but less than 2000 samples	125	23	148				
For 2000 samples and above but less than 5000 samples	120	22	142				
For 5000 samples and above but less than 10,000 samples	115	21	136				
For 10,000 samples and above	100	18	118				

The fees under the above volume based discount scheme is payable within 15 days from the receipt of the invoices to be raised on monthly basis.

We would also like to inform that the parties can avail the benefit of testing of cotton at multiple laboratories of the Associations against the CAI Credits made by them.

We earnestly request you to avail the facility of testing at the Association's laboratories.



Cotton Association of India

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All India Weather Summary and Forecast

Weather Forecast for next 5 days

- ♦ Meteorological sub-division wise detailed 5 days precipitation forecast is given in Table-1.
- ♦ Gradual rise by 3-5° C in maximum temperatures over most parts of Northwest and Central India during next 4-5 days.

Table-1 5 Day Rainfall Forecast (MID-DAY) 21-June-2021

Met-Sub-Division	21-Jun Today	22Jun Tue	23Jun Wed	24Jun Thu	25Jun Fri
1. Andaman & Nicobar Islands	SCT	FWS	FWS	ws	ws
2. Arunachal Pradesh	FWS	ws	ws	ws	ws
3. Assam & Meghalaya	FWS	WS	WS	FWS	FWS
4. N. M. M. & T.	FWS	FWS	FWS	FWS	FWS
5. S.H. West Bengal & Sikkim	WS	ws	ws	WS	ws
6. Gangetic West Bengal	WS	WS	WS	ws	FWS
7. Odisha	ISOL	SCT	SCT	FWS	FWS
8. Jharkhand	WS	FWS	FWS	FWS	SCT
9. Bihar	WS	FWS	FWS	FWS	FWS
10. East Uttar Pradesh	ISOL	ISOL	ISOL	ISOL	ISOL
11. West Uttar Pradesh	ISOL	ISOL	ISOL	ISOL	ISOL
12. Uttarakhand	SCT	SCT	ISOL	ISOL	SCT
13. Haryana, Chd & Delhi	ISOL	DRY	DRY	ISOL	ISOL
14. Punjab	ISOL	DRY	DRY	ISOL	ISOL
15. Himachal Pradesh	ISOL	ISOL	ISOL	ISOL	ISOL
16. J & K and Ladakh	ISOL	ISOL	ISOL	DRY	ISOL
17. West Rajsthan	ISOL	ISOL	ISOL	DRY	DRY
18. East Rajasthan	ISOL	ISOL	ISOL	DRY	DRY
19. West Madhya Pradesh	SCT	ISOL	ISOL	ISOL	ISOL
20. East Madhya Pradesh	ISOL	SCT	SCT	SCT	ISOL
21. Gujarat Region	SCT	SCT	ISOL	ISOL	ISOL
22. Saurashtra & Kutch	SCT	ISOL	ISOL	ISOL	ISOL
23. Konkan & Goa	WS	FWS	FWS	FWS	FWS
24. Madhya Maharashtra	SCT	ISOL	ISOL	ISOL	ISOL
25. Marathawada	ISOL	ISOL	ISOL	ISOL	ISOL
26. Vidharbha	ISOL	ISOL	SCT	SCT	ISOL
27. Chhattisgarh	SCT	FWS	FWS	FWS	SCT
28. Coastal A. P. & Yanam	ISOL	ISOL	SCT	ISOL	ISOL
29. Telangana	ISOL	ISOL	ISOL	ISOL	ISOL
30. Rayalaseema	ISOL	ISOL	ISOL	ISOL	ISOL
31. T.N., Puducherry & Karaikal	SCT	SCT	SCT	SCT	ISOL
32. Coastal Karnataka	ws	ws	ws	FWS	FWS
33. North Interior Karnataka	ISOL	ISOL	ISOL	ISOL	ISOL
34. South Interior Karnataka	SCT	FWS	FWS	ISOL	ISOL
35. Kerala & Mahe	FWS	FWS	WS	FWS	SCT
36. Lakshadweep	FWS	FWS	FWS	SCT	SCT

% Station Reporting Rainfall

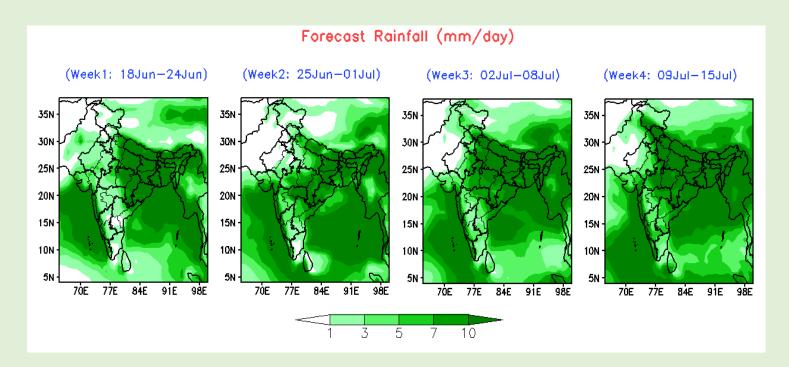
% Stations	Category	% Stations	Category
76-100		26-50	Scattered (SCT/ A Few Places)
51-75	Fairly Widespred (FWS/ Many Places)	1-25	Isolated (ISOL)
No Rain	Dry		

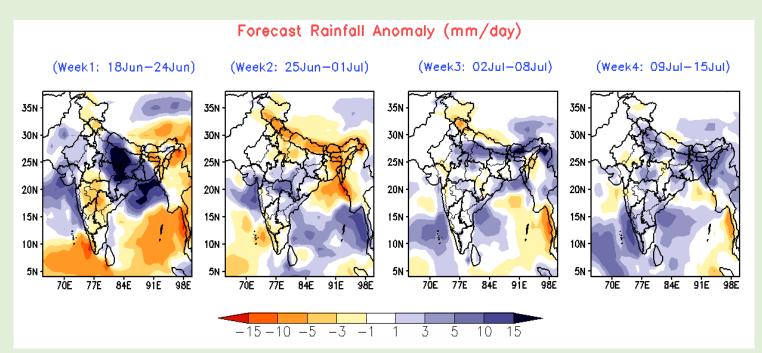
♦ No significant change in temperatures over remaining parts of the country during next 5 days.

Weather Outlook for subsequent 2 days from 26th June 2021 to 28th June 2021

♦ Fairly widespread to widespread rainfall likely over most parts of Northeast India.

- ♦ Scattered rainfall likely over foothills of Himalayas, East India, along the west coast, Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Islands.
- ♦ Dry weather likely over rest parts of the country.







The Cotton Association of India (CAI) is respected as the chief trade body in the hierarchy of the Indian cotton economy. Since its origin in 1921, CAI's contribution has been unparalleled in the development of cotton across India.

The CAI is setting benchmarks across a wide spectrum of services targeting the entire cotton value chain. These range from research and development at the grass root level to education, providing an arbitration mechanism, maintaining Indian cotton grade standards, issuing Certificates of Origin to collecting and disseminating statistics and information. Moreover, CAI is an autonomous organization portraying professionalism and reliability in cotton testing.

The CAI's network of independent cotton testing & research laboratories are strategically spread across major cotton centres in India and are equipped with:

- State-of-the-art technology & world-class Premier and MAG cotton testing machines
- HVI test mode with trash% tested gravimetrically

LABORATORY LOCATIONS

Current locations: • Maharashtra: Mumbai; Yavatmal; Aurangabad; Jalgaon • Gujarat: Rajkot; Ahmedabad • Andhra Pradesh: Adoni • Madhya Pradesh: Khargone • Karnataka: Hubli • Punjab: Bathinda • Telangana: Warangal, Adilabad



COTTON ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

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Established 1921 ISO 9001:2015

COTTON STATISTICS & NEWS

					UPCOU	NTRY SP	OT RAT	ES				(R	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) 2020-21 Crop June 2021						
Sr. No.	Growth	Grade Standard	Grade		Micronaire	Gravimetric Trash	Strength /GPT	14th	15th	16th	17th	18th	19th
1	P/H/R	ICS-101	Fine		5.0 - 7.0	4%	15	11473	11473	11473	11473	11473	
2	P/H/R (SG)	ICS-201	Fine	Below 22mm	5.0 - 7.0	4.5%	15	11614	(40800) 11614 (41300)	11614	11614	11614	11614
3	GUJ	ICS-102	Fine	22mm	4.0 - 6.0	13%	20	9645	9561 (34000)	9505	9448	9448	9448
4	KAR	ICS-103	Fine	23mm	4.0 - 5.5	4.5%	21	10151		10011	9983	9983	9983
5	M/M (P)	ICS-104	Fine	24mm	4.0 - 5.5	4%	23	11698	11614 (41300)	11557	11529	11529	11529
6	P/H/R (U) (SG)	ICS-202	Fine	27mm	3.5 - 4.9	4.5%	26	13329	13188 (46900)	13104	13104	13020	13020
	M/M(P)/ SA/TL	ICS-105	Fine	26mm	3.0 - 3.4	4%	25	11895	11810 (42000)	11754	11670	11670	11670
8	P/H/R(U)	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.5 - 4.9	4%	26		13357 (47500)				13188 (46900)
	M/M(P)/ SA/TL/G	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.0 - 3.4	4%	25	12204 (43400)	12120 (43100)	12063 (42900)	11923 (42400)	11923 (42400)	11923 (42400)
	M/M(P)/ SA/TL	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.5 - 4.9	3.5%	26	13076	13020 (46300)	12963	12963	12963	12963
11	P/H/R(U)	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.5 - 4.9	4%	27	13638	13498 (48000)	13413	13413	13329	13329
12	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 - 4.5	3.5%	27	13835	13751 (48900)	13694	13610	13610	13610
13	SA/TL/K	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 - 4.5	3.5%	27	13863	13779 (49000)	13723	13638	13638	13638
14	GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 - 4.5	3%	27	13947 (49600)	13863 (49300)	13807 (49100)		13807 (49100)	13807 (49100)
15	R(L)	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 - 4.5	3.5%	28		13835 (49200)				
16	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 - 4.5	3.5%	28		14060 (50000)		13919 (49500)		
17	SA/TL/K	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 - 4.5	3%	28		14088 (50100)				
18	GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 - 4.5	3%	28		14201 (50500)				
19	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	30mm	3.7 - 4.5	3.5%	29	14622	14594 (51900)	14594	14594	14594	14594
20	SA/TL/K/O	ICS-105	Fine	30mm	3.7 - 4.5	3%	29	14650	14622 (52000)	14622	14594	14594	14594
21	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	31mm	3.7 - 4.5	3%	30	14847	14819 (52700)	14819	14735	14735	14735
22	SA/TL/ K / TN/O	ICS-105	Fine	31mm	3.7 - 4.5	3%	30	14875	14847 (52800)	14847	14763	14763	14763
	SA/TL/K/ TN/O	ICS-106	Fine	32mm	3.5 - 4.2	3%	31	14988	14988 (53300)	14988	14904	14904	14904
	M/M(P)	ICS-107	Fine	34mm	2.8 - 3.7	4%	33	22215	22215 (79000)	22215	22215	22215	22215
25	K/TN	ICS-107	Fine	34mm	2.8 - 3.7	3.5%	34	22777	22777 (81000)	22777	22777	22777	22777
26	M/M(P)	ICS-107	Fine	35mm	2.8 - 3.7	4%	35	22777		22777	22777	22777	22777
27	K/TN	ICS-107	Fine	35mm	2.8 - 3.7	3.5%	35	23340	23340 (83000)	23340	23340	23340	23340

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