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# COTTON STATISTICS & NEWS

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Cotton Exchange Building, 2nd Floor, Cotton Green, Mumbai - 400 033  
Phone: 30063400 Fax: 2370 0337 Email: cai@caionline.in  
www.caionline.in

## Tough Times for Cotton

*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 with the African Cotton and Textile Industries Federation (ACTIF). He served as executive director of the International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC) and has also worked at the United States Department of Agriculture for five years, analyzing the U.S. cotton industry and editing a magazine devoted to a cross-section of agricultural issues.*

There is an adage: "Be careful for what you wish; you may get it."

The world cotton industry is experiencing price stability rarely seen, and while some segments may appreciate the tranquility, the industry as a whole will suffer. This may seem counter intuitive as most government officials and many market participants decry price volatility. However, the current stability in prices is not the result of a natural balance between cotton supply and demand. Rather, the current situation results from management of reserve stocks by the governments of China and India.

### Stable Prices

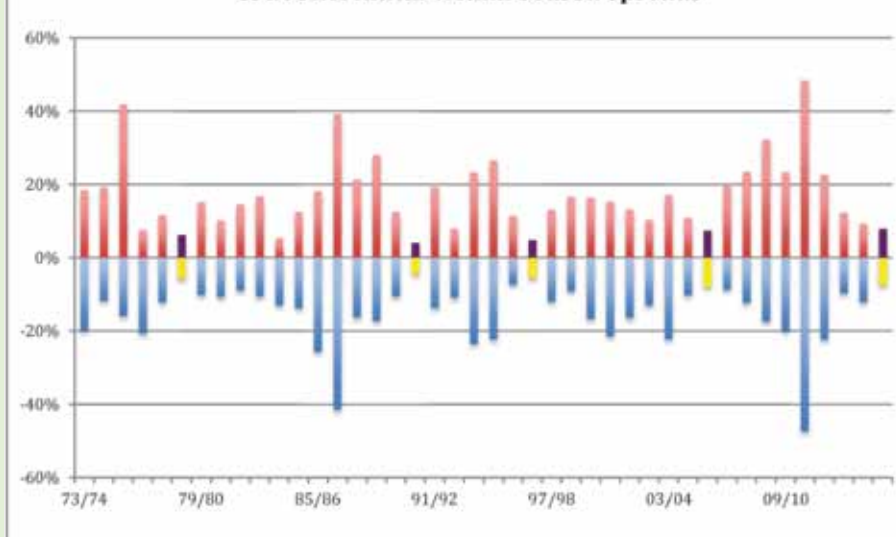
With approximately six weeks to go in the current season, the 2014/15 Cotlook A Index has averaged 70.5 cents per pound. The highest quote of the season was 76.15 cents in September and the lowest was 65.3 cents in January. As a percentage of the average, the highest quote was 8% above and the lowest was 7% below, for a total spread of 15 per cent of the average this season. Since 1973/74, the average within-season spread between the highest and lowest Cotlook A Indexes has been 32%, and the highest was 96% during 2010/11. In the 42 seasons beginning with 1973/74, the 2014/15 within-season spread of 15%

### EXPERT'S Column



**Dr. Terry Townsend**

**Cotlook A Index: Within Season Spreads**





between the highest and lowest quotes will be tied for the 4th lowest.

Furthermore, the December 2015 ICE cotton futures contract has been in a relatively tight band between 61.50 and 66.50 cents per pound since October 2014, for a spread of 5 cents per pound over the last 9 months.

### What Does Not Cause Price Volatility?

During 2010/11 when the Cotlook A Index rose to an average of \$1.64 per pound and briefly exceeded \$2, there was much gnashing of teeth over 'volatility'. Many government officials blamed speculators, futures markets, hedge funds or the 'financialisation' of commodity markets, meaning the inclusion of commodities in investment portfolios. Speculators, futures markets, hedge funds and commodity portfolios still exist, but prices are no longer volatile. The stability in prices during the current season should put to rest allegations that cotton market volatility during 2010/11 was ever a result of anything other than a wide imbalance between supply and demand.

### Price Stability May Continue

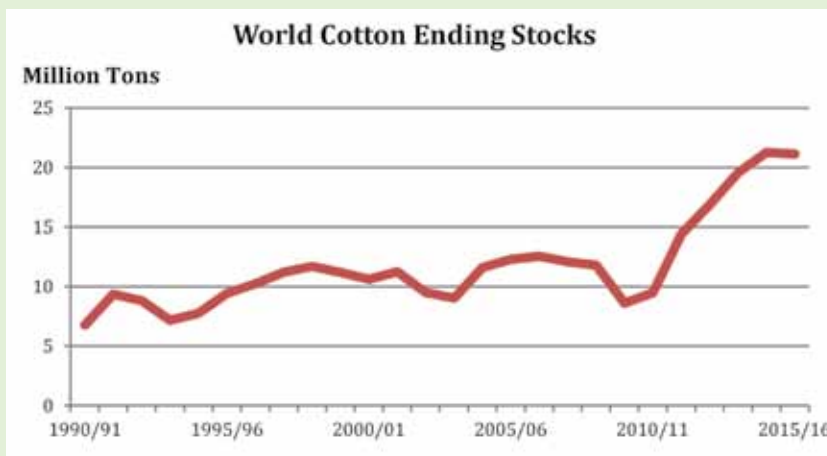
In every other instance of particularly low within-season price volatility, including 1990/91 (a spread of 9%), 1996/97 (a spread of 10%), 1978/79 (a spread of 12%), and 2005/06 (a spread of 15%), volatility in prices reverted toward the average by displaying a within-season spread of at least 25% of the average in the ensuing season.

However, that may not be the case in 2015/16. As by now, everyone is aware that the Government

of China is managing a state reserve of more than 10 million tons, and Minimum Support Price operations by the Government of India account for another 1.5 million tons. Thus, out of world ending stocks of 22 million tons forecast on July 31, 2015, an estimated 12.6 million will be in China and another 1.7 million in India. Two-thirds of world ending stocks will be in two countries, and their respective governments will control 90% of the stocks in those two countries. Accordingly, both the direction of change in prices during 2015/16, and the magnitude

of price movements, will be at the discretion of government officials. Both the Chinese and Indian governments, have a philosophical predilection toward commodity market intervention so as to achieve price stability.

Cotton stocks are so large, that even several consecutive seasons of reduced production will still leave government officials in charge of the direction of change in world cotton prices. The ICAC is forecasting 2015/16 world production at 24 million tons and consumption at 25 million tons, which would result in a reduction in world stocks of one million tons. Nevertheless, this would leave world ending stocks at a still more-than-ample level greater than 80% of use.



Record yields for corn in the United States are helping to reduce grain and oilseed prices around the world at this time. However, corn yields will not be record high every year. Over the long run, the biofuel mandates in the United States and Europe will cause upward pressure on the grain and oilseed complex, and cotton prices will look less attractive. Secondly, farmers react to prices

with a lag of one year. By 2016, cotton farmers around the world will have experienced a full season of prices that are significantly lower than they were at the start of 2014/15. The result will be continued declines in cotton production in 2016/17 and probably in 2017/18 also.

Nevertheless, this does not mean that supplies available to the market will decline. The stock liquidation by China will continue for several more years until the state reserve has reached a desired level, probably about 5 or 6 million tons, or half the current level. Consequently, lower cotton production will not result in upward pressure on prices for several more seasons.

Therefore, it is likely that the stability in prices evident since October 2014 will continue for longer than anyone has experienced in the last four decades.

### Consequences of Stability

World cotton consumption peaked at 26.7 million tons in 2007/08 and has been lower in the seven seasons since. In the current season, world mill use is estimated at 24.4 million tons, 9% below the 2007/08 level. Mill use is forecast to rise to 25 million tons during 2015/16, and hopefully, further increases will occur in succeeding years. Nevertheless, there is no guarantee that world mill use will ever exceed the 2007/08 level again.

Polyester now accounts for more than half of world fibre mill use while cotton's share has fallen under 30%, and even former bastions of cotton use such as denim are now experiencing inroads by polyester. With the new energy extraction techniques known as fracking, hydrocarbons are now in almost limitless supply, and there are no

effective natural constraints to expanded polyester production. China's capacity for polyester production continues to grow, and as of mid-June, polyester prices in China are more than ten cents per pound lower than the Cotlook A Index.

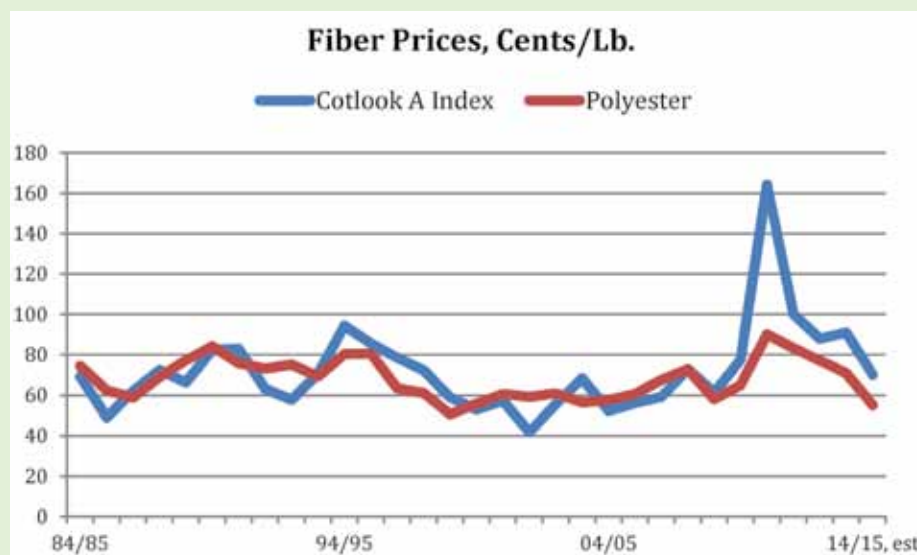
A very serious consequence of stable prices at the current level is that prices are not low enough to be competitive. If markets were allowed to reflect supply and demand, prices would be lower today, and world cotton consumption would grow to higher levels tomorrow. In the current situation, more price volatility is needed.

Another consequence of stable prices is that opportunities for profit by speculators will decrease. 'Speculator' is a pejorative term in many countries. However, speculators are investors, and when opportunities for profit are reduced, investment will decline. Farmers are 'speculating' when they plant a crop. Stable prices that are not attractive relative to other crops will result in reduced area devoted to cotton. Ginners are 'speculating' when they buy seed cotton. Stable prices that reduce opportunities for gain in the sale of lint will result in less investment in ginning equipment. Textile mills are 'speculating' when they buy cotton or sell yarn and fabric. Reduced opportunities to sell yarn profitably will result in less investment in textile activities.

"Be careful for what you wish; you may get it."

Those who wished for stable prices have them now. For many, stable cotton prices will make management decisions much easier. There will be no need to hedge sales or purchases. Farmers will plant, ginners will buy, merchants will market, and spinners will sell, each knowing with greater certainty what their returns will be. However, a market situation that seems to be an advantage for individual participants will prove to be a disadvantage for the industry as a whole. Nevertheless, whether desirable or not, stable prices are likely to characterise the cotton market for several years to come.

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





# COTTONOLOGY SCHOOL CONTACT PROGRAM IN ST. GREGORIOUS SCHOOL, CHEMBUR ON 28TH NOVEMBER 2014



Students browsing through Display Panel



King Cotton conducting the Cotton Quiz



Children taking Cotton Quiz



Children taking the Cotton Quiz



King Cotton interacting with students



MC talking educating children about Cotton and interacting with them



Distribution of Cotton Saplings



Distribution of Cotton Goody Bags

## Cotton Production Practices are Changing

(Continued from Issue No.11)

### Women Cotton Growers

The ICAC also collects statistics on the percentage of female cotton growers in the various cotton producing countries. The data for 2013/14 showed that in China women growers account for 70% and 60% of the cotton producers in the Yellow River and Yangtze River Valleys respectively, the highest percentage in the world. In Vietnam, cotton was planted on about 12,000 hectares in 2013/14, most of which was planted by families headed by women. The percentage of women growers is also high in southern Africa. The percentage of women growers in the USA is lower in the Southeast, but women make up about 20% of the cotton growers in the rest of the cotton belt. In the Tamil Nadu state of India, women represent almost half of the cotton growers. Overall, more than 26 million planters produced cotton on 32.7 million hectares around the world in 2013/14, each turning out an average of one ton of cotton for the seven billion people in the world.



ICAC

often occurs when a single crop is planted over and over again. By alternating deep-rooted and shallow-rooted plants, rotation can also improve soil structure and fertility. Crop rotation is good for maintaining soil health and soil fertility, but growers are under pressure to produce more and more on the same limited farmland area year after year. Despite these advantages, cotton is grown as

a monoculture on a limited farmland area in the world. The best crop rotation structure is determined on the basis of soil type, availability of land and resources, suitability to grow crops and, of course, each farmer's technical knowhow and ability (production technology) to produce other crops successfully. Leguminous crops are, undoubtedly, the best for rotation because of their additional advantage of fixing nitrogen and, in most cases, a shorter cropping season. Any crops that

are grown as a green manure crop will be good for the soil because they contribute organic matter and increase aeration. Rotations are, in general, effective in improving soil health in the medium and long terms. With respect to the containment of pathogens, the data in table 4 show that corn, sorghum and Sudan grass are more desirable for rotation with cotton wherever cotton is affected by any of the seedling diseases mentioned in the table. Corn, sorghum and Sudan grass do not provide satisfactory control of Fusarium wilt, when varieties prone to Fusarium attack are grown.

### Rotational Crops in the Cotton Production System

Crop rotation can be defined in many ways but, in general, it is a cropping system growing a series of crops with dissimilar root systems on the same fields in successive seasons produces sustained benefits. Proper crop rotation also mitigates the chances of building up pathogens and pests, which

**Table 4: Cotton Crop Rotations for Reducing the Incidence of Various Pathogens**

Rotational Crop	Root Knot Nematode	Verticillium Wilt	Fusarium Wilt	Rhizoctonia and Pythium	Thielaviopsis basicola
Small grains and summer crops	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Some	Satisfactory	Some
Winter small grains grown as silage	Some	Some	Some	Some	Some
Cowpea	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Some	Minimal	Some
Corn	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Some	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
Sorghum and Sudan grass	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Some	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
Alfalfa	Satisfactory	Some	Some	Satisfactory	Some
Onion and Garlic	Minimal	Satisfactory	Some	Minimal	Satisfactory
Clean fallow (Weed free)	Some	Some	Minimal	Some	Some
Tomato (Root knot resistant)	Some	Minimal	Race 1: Satisfactory Race 4: Some	Minimal	Minimal

Key to ratings:

Satisfactory = significant suppressive activity but does not control

Some = has an inhibitory effect but less than satisfactory

Minimal = has very little effect

Source: University of California, USA



Major rotations as a one crop rotation in selected countries are shown in table 5. In African countries, maize is a major crop for rotation with cotton, while in other countries, wheat is planted on the greatest area after cotton has vacated the field for the next crop. Maize also seems to be one of the leading major crops competing with cotton.

**Table 5: Major One-Year Crop Rotation in Selected Countries**

Country	Rotation	
	Crop	Area %
Australia	Wheat	40
Brazil	Soybean	70
Burkina Faso	Maize	60
Cameroon	Fallow	100
Chad	cereals	98
China	Wheat	50-70
Egypt	Wheat	50
India	Wheat and Fallow	
Pakistan	Wheat	85
Togo	Fallow	95
Turkey	Wheat	
Zambia	Maize	86

When farmers do not plant cotton, they have the option of planting rice, sugarcane or maize as in Pakistan, wheat and rice as in China and the north region of India, and maize as in the Karnataka state. In the Central region of India, which accounted for 63% of the cotton area in India in 2013/14, farmers switch to soybean, groundnut and maize when they decide not to grow cotton.

### Fertilizer Use

Some form of fertilizer is necessary, whether it is applied in the form of organic manure, synthetic fertilizers or a green manure crop that is grown and mulched into the soil. The degree to which plant needs are met has a high impact on the plant's ability to express its fullest potential. Nitrogen is undoubtedly the most necessary element, but the plant may also fail to exhibit its full potential if phosphorus and potassium are deficient. Although soil needs is the most important factor, the importance of micronutrients takes on a greater role as the soil reaches its fullest potential. Fertilizer is applied in most cotton-producing countries, with the exception of Argentina, Bangladesh (*G. arboreum*), Chad, Kenya, Mozambique, Paraguay, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia where a significant extension of the cotton area does not receive any fertilizer. Applications of micronutrients per hectare are summarized in table 6.

**Table 6: Application of Micronutrients to Cotton**

	Boron	Sulfur	Others
Bangladesh ( <i>G. arboreum</i> )		9.0 kg	
Bangladesh ( <i>G. hirsutum</i> )		22.0 kg	
Brazil (Cerrado)	4.0 kg	60.0 kg	Manganese & Zinc = 1-2 kg
Burkina Faso	1.5 kg	9.0 kg	
Chad	1.2 kg	5.0 kg	
Cameroon	1.7 kg	9.0 kg/ha	
Côte d'Ivoire	2.0 kg	12.0 kg	
India (North)			Zinc = 25.0 kg (only hybrids)
India (Andhra Pradesh)			KNO <sub>3</sub> (Foliar) = 2.5-5.0 kg/ha and Zinc = 50.0 kg/ha
India (Karnataka)			MgSO <sub>4</sub> = 12.5 kg/ha and Zn SO <sub>4</sub> = 12.5 kg/ha
India (Central)			MgSO <sub>4</sub> = 10.0 kg/ha
Iran (Ardebil)			Biologic = 2.0 kg/ha
Iran (East and Central)			Micro = 5.0 kg/ha
Iran (Fars)			Micro = 10.0 kg/ha
Mali	1.0 kg	6.0 kg	
Togo	3.0 kg	15.0 kg	

## Insect Pests and Their Control

The bollworm is still the most important arthropod affecting cotton in the world. All the countries that responded to the survey questionnaire on production have confirmed that it is not a single bollworm, but a variety of bollworms that constitute a serious pest on cotton. While the resistance problem has been contained and the spread of bollworms of whitely had slowed down for quite a number of years, reports from Brazil last year indicate that there is great concern among cotton growers about the spread of *H. armigera* in the country, especially in the large-scale farming system in the Cerrado region. The cost of insecticide use is already high in the region because of the boll weevil, so any additional requirement to spray against the *H. armigera* may have a significant impact on the economic viability of the production system. *H. armigera* is also notorious for development of resistance, which may render obsolete the chemical control approach. One of the impacts foreseen as a consequence of the flare-up of the bollworm in Brazil is the additional demand for biotech cotton in the country. Biotech cotton will have no impact on the need to spray against the boll weevil; in fact, it may even hasten the emergence of a resistance problem. There is a need to devise a very careful bollworm control program, keeping in mind the fact that bollworm control should not add to the current amount of insecticides currently used to control other arthropods. There is no other pest that has encroached into additional areas in Brazil in the recent past, but the general consensus is that sucking pests are increasing in number due to the absence or reduction of sprays against the bollworm on biotech cotton. Plant bugs are now at the top of the list of insects damaging cotton in the USA.

The awareness of the need to produce cotton using the least possible amount of insecticides has grown significantly and that awareness continues to increase, as a result of the extensive availability of additional information and the implementation of a containment approach by which farmers have learned to use insecticides only when absolutely necessary. One of the reasons for this new approach or this shift away from the practices of the last 15-20 years has been the absence of a backstop to cushion farmers against higher production costs. Chemical products used to control pests have improved a great deal in their ability to hit only the target pests. Insecticide sprays are decreasing in most countries. Currently, Brazil sprays cotton with much greater quantities of insecticide than any other country in the world. The average number of sprays used to

control insect pests on cotton in selected countries appears in the table 7.

**Table 7: Average Number of Insecticide Sprays on Cotton**

Country	Insecticides Sprays	
	1995/96	2013/14
Australia	7-12	3.5
Brazil	4-8	15
Cote d'Ivoire	No data	5
Cameroon	5	5.1
Chad	No data	7
India	4-6	4-6
Iran	2-3	2-4
Mali	5	5
Myanmar	1	6-10
Pakistan	5	5-7
Spain	5	4
Togo	3	5
Turkey	5	2-5
Uganda	7	3
USA	2.5 - 10.8	3-4

Notes:

Australia, 1995/96 - Seven sprays in New South Wales and 12 in Queensland on irrigated cotton.

Brazil, 1995/96 - No more than eight sprays were made on cotton in any region of the country.

India, 2013/14 - Most area gets only four sprays.

USA, 1995/96 - Highest number of sprays was in Southeast followed by Midsouth.

Weeds vary greatly among countries. The most recent issue of ICAC's Cost of Production of Raw Cotton showed that weed control costs currently exceed the cost of all other individual inputs or operations and are on the increase. One of the reasons may be a higher emphasis on weed control and the fact that farmers are increasingly shying away from reliance on cultural operations and relying more and more on herbicides. The Technical Information Section of the ICAC began to compile data on the cotton area treated with herbicides in 2002. The data for harvest year 2001/02 showed that only Australia and Colombia used herbicides on 100% of the area. Only four other countries (Argentina, some production areas in Iran, Turkey and the USA) used herbicides on more than 75% of the cotton area. In the latest survey, which contains data for 20013/14, the list of countries using herbicides on 100% of the area also includes

(contd. on pg 11)

# Legacy

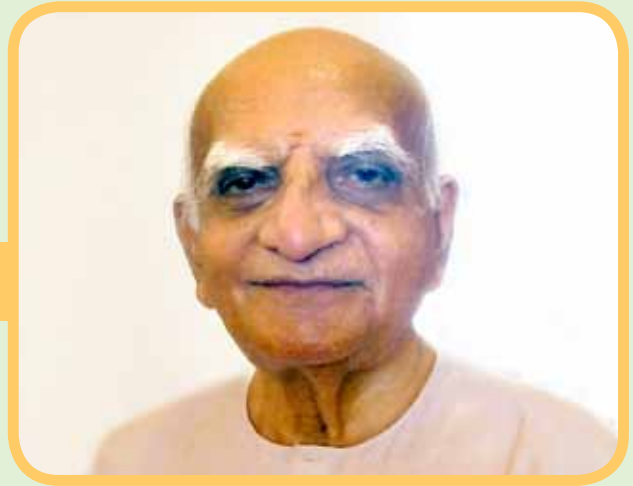
## Shri. Sushilkant Shah

**H**e speaks in soft measured tones, exuding a kind of dignity that is rare to find these days. But then, Shri. Sushilkant Purshotamdas Shah, belongs to an era, that you can only read about in history books.

Born on June 13, 1925, Sushilbhai as he's known by the who's who of the cotton fraternity, had a triple celebration to bring in his 91st birthday. The first was held at the survey room of the Cotton Association of India, Cotton Green, on June 4, 2015 and attended by all the office bearers and staff members of the Association. On June 12, there was a felicitation in the Bhaidas Cursondas office, founded by his father and where he has been a Partner for over six decades. On his actual birthday, there was a family gathering at home, attended by almost 50 members of the extended family.

But then Sushilbhai is used to large family gatherings. "At one time we were so many of us living together in our house, Gokul Nivas in Chowpatty - my parents, two sisters - Jaywanti and Bhanu, we six brothers - Rajnikant, Ramniklal, Ishwarlal, Madhavdas, Kishore, myself and our families. Even now, when the entire family comes together, we are more than 70."

The venerable Bhaidas Cursondas & Co was born in 1906, founded by his father, the late



Purshotamdas Shah. The name of the company that was one of the best known in the cotton trade in India, was derived from the names of two people. "Bhaidas was my father's friend and partner and Cursondas was my father's elder brother, my kaka," Sushilbhai shares.

But the Shah family was no novice to business. Their company Harkisandas Jagjivandas, had a strong presence in the commodity market, serving as commission agents, dealing in commodities like rice, wheat and sugar, with offices in Surat and Mumbai.

Sushilbhai studied in St. Xaviers School and then one year in Elphinstone College doing science. "I wanted to be a doctor, but cotton was my destiny," he admits. So he shifted to Sydenham College to do commerce.

"I joined the Company in 1948. My older brother Rajnikantbhai, was handling local business and I learnt the ropes of the cotton business by travelling upcountry in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh. Later, from 1952, I started going to Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan."



Shri Sushilkant Shah celebrates his 91st birthday at the CAI





1st Row L to R Shri Sushilkant P. Shah, Shri Kishorilal F. Jhunjhunwala, Shri Shyamsunder M. Makharia, Shri Om Prakash Agarwal  
2nd Row L to R Shri Shirish R. Shah, Shri Suresh A. Kotak, Shri Bhadrakumar S. Bangdiwala and Shri Udayan B. Thakkar

He continues, “We had Ginning and Pressing mills in various places like Palej in South Gujarat, Manavadar in Saurashtra, Khamgaon, Chikhli and Amravati in Vidharbha and I would travel to each and every one of these. Bhaidas Cursondas had an oil mill at Amravati called the New Kamal Oil Mill and I would go there very often. In the South we had leased units in Guntur, Bijapur and Bailhongal. Khamgaon was the headquarters for the South and this was managed by our partner Shri. Champaklal Mehta. I used to go here very often.”

He even visited Karachi twice in his college days. “I’m talking about pre-Partition days,” he explains. “Since Sind and Punjab were major cotton growing areas, my father started an office in Karachi. My brother Rajnikant was the first to take charge. When he returned, my other brother Ramniklal went there. He stayed there for 14 years and maybe would have continued to stay there if Partition hadn’t happened. In the riots following Partition, he just about managed to escape with

his staff by chartered plane. But he had to leave everything behind,” says Sushilbhai, recounting a chapter in the history of his family and firm, that many may not be aware of.

“My father had great foresight and realising the potential in exports, expanded the export business and travelled to Europe thrice, himself.”

In early 50s’ when Bhaidas Cursondas concentrated on export and import, Sushilbhai was entrusted with imports from America, Sudan and Egypt.

Sushilbhai counts Shri. Pratap Dwarkadas and Shri. Madhubhai from Khimji Punja as his two closest friends. “We were friends from our college days, and since we joined the cotton business too around the same time, our friendship remained strong. Shri. Babaseth Mirani was also a dear friend as was Shri. Bhavanjibhai Narsee from Arjan Khimjee (now Narsee Cotton). Shri. Narendraseth



The extended family comes together to celebrate his 91st birthday.



Shri Sushilkant P. Shah, with his brothers Shri Kishorebhai Shah and Shri Ramnikbhai Shah

of Galiakotwala was also a very dear friend of the family and would come often to meet my brother.”

He remembers, “When my brother Rajnikant, who was president of the CAI, expired, it was friends like Shri. P.F. Jhunjhunwala and Babaseth, who urged me to stand for the CAI elections. I was CAI director for 20 years and the reason I got elected year after year, was thanks to the good reputation we had in the market. Bhaidas Cursondas has always enjoyed a very cordial relationship with all the companies.” Sushilbhai retired from the board at the age of 84, in 2008.

He remembers the tremors felt in the cotton fraternity when the Government of India, formed the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) in 1970, to control the export and import of cotton. “The EICA organised a Cotton Conference from June 26 - 28, 1970 in Delhi. It was a very big gathering at that time, and although I did not attend, my brother Rajnikantbhai went for it.” “Then the Maharashtra government enacted the Raw Cotton (Procurement, Processing and Marketing) Act in 1971. Earlier we could buy directly from the farmers, but now they could only sell cotton to the Maharashtra State Cooperative Cotton Marketing Federation, and we, in turn had to buy cotton only



With nephew Samir and his wife Isha.

from the Federation. This created a monopoly in the state.”

He has been part of an important milestone in the history of the Association. “When an unanimous decision was made to sell the Kalbadevi building, there were two factions regarding ‘how’ it should be sold. Many members wanted to negotiate and sell to some known party, but Dhirenbhai and I were amongst those who wanted the process to be done transparently through tenders. Ultimately we prevailed, and I remember being one of the signatories to the sales deed along with Dhirenbhai, in 2006.”

He recollects, “When I joined the business, popular varieties were Jarila from Maharashtra and Digvijay from Gujarat. The quantity would be 26 lakhs bales, today it is over 3 crores, 80 lakhs bales. We exported a lot of Deshi cotton to Japan for mattresses. Those days, Deshi cotton was Rs. 500/ Rs. 600 per candy. Now if I remember rightly, Shankar 6 went up to Rs.75,000 per candy two years ago.”

“Those days, business was always done on trust. But now it’s different because there’s such a wide fluctuation in prices. I hear of people backing out of transactions, but this was rare in my time. Now you do not have any export/import quota, so there is no limit to how much business you can do. But the competition has also increased and even foreign companies have their offices in India. The only way to survive now in cotton is to work hard and get more business,” he says.

He has the following words of wisdom for the present generation in cotton. “When it comes to trading in futures, you should be very careful because the rupee keeps fluctuating. At Bhaidas Cursondas, we have always believed in doing cautious business. Bhaidas Cursondas has always been conservative in its approach and taken limited risks. Maybe that’s why we never made a loss in



With his daughter Uma (left) and sister Bhanu



107 years! We made less profits maybe, but never a loss!" he says.

He still comes to office every day. "I don't work anymore as the business is handled ably by my nephews Samir, ( Kishorebhai's son), Shirish and Satish (Ramnikbhai's sons) and two grand nephews - Deven and Rohan (Rajnikantbhai's grandsons). But I come here to do my personal work like checking out my investments. I come at 12.30 and leave by 4.30pm."

"My favourite brother was Ramniklal," he admits. "But all of us brothers loved each other so much, that though all of us worked together, we never quarreled. We had differences of opinion certainly, but we loved each other too much to quarrel," he says. "I always considered my cousin Hasmukhlal ( my kaka Cursondas' son) to be my mentor. We used to share the same cabin and sit next to each other."

Sushilbhai continues living in Gokul Nivas. "I have been staying here for more than 75 years. But now there is just me, my daughter Uma and my niece Bharti (brother Ishwarlal's daughter), since my wife Hansaben expired in 1992. Alas, all my brothers as well as old school and college friends are gone too," he says sadly.

An avid bridge player, he still manages a game or two with his friends Dr. and Smt. Ajit Mehta and Smt. Rashmi Bhagwati, wife of his dear friend, the late Dr. Sanat Bhagwati. He manages to keep fit by doing pranayam for 45 minutes to an hour. "I also walk a little," he says. He likes to watch the BBC News, share market and Baba Ramdev on TV. "I listen to classical music. I don't read novels anymore, only spiritual books."

*Written by Jayashree Menon*

## Cotton Production Practices are Changing

*(contd. from pg 7)*

Sudan and the USA. In Brazil, only the Northeast region is believed to not be using herbicides. About twenty other countries have reported herbicide use in 2013/14. There are very few cotton-producing countries left, if any at all, where herbicide use is still avoided. For detailed information on important weeds by country, please refer to the publication on Cotton Production Practices - November 2014.

### Cotton Picking and Ginning

Hand-picking is still the dominant practice in the world. According to the data for the year 2013/14, one quarter of the world's cotton area is picked by machines and the rest manually. All cotton is machine-picked in Australia, Cerrado region of Brazil, Greece, Israel, Spain and USA. In Turkey, machine-picking has become increasingly popular due to the scarcity and high cost of labor, so over 80% of cotton was machine-picked in 2013/14. Large-scale growers in the Chaco province of Argentina and Interior region of Colombia have mechanized their cotton-picking operations. The trend toward machine-picking is rising due to the high cost of labor. Almost all the area that is currently not picked by machines still requires small machines that are not yet available. Uzbekistan is working on developing two-row, tractor-pulled spindle-pickers, but there is a dire need for even smaller, hand-held machines. One of the current challenges for agricultural engineers is to develop a machine that an individual small-scale farmer can own and maintain. Such a machine must be able

to pick cotton without adding extra plant trash to the fiber, so as not to trigger changes in ginning. The machine must be efficient enough to make it economically feasible for use in picking cotton.

Roller ginning has increased in recent few years but not significantly. Available data shows that about 15% of the cotton produced in 2013/14 was processed in roller gins. Saw ginning is popular due to its greater efficiency and ability to open and automatically separate trash from cotton. Countries where most cotton is ginned on roller gins include Bangladesh (*G. hirsutum*), Egypt, India, Israel, Kenya, Myanmar, Spain, Tanzania, Turkey and Uganda. In the Farwest region of the United States, in Peru and in Sudan, where *G. barbadense* is produced, as well as in Egypt, all the fine and extra-fine cotton is processed on roller gins.

### References

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*Source : The ICAC Recorder, VOL. XXXII No.4, December 2014*



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) 2014-15 Crop JUNE 2015					
Sr. No.	Growth	Grade Standard	Grade	Staple	Micronaire	Strength /GPT	15th	16th	17th	18th	19th	20th
1	P/H/R	ICS-101	Fine	Below 22mm	5.0-7.0	15	9870 (35100)	9729 (34600)	9729 (34600)	9729 (34600)	N	9729 (34600)
2	P/H/R	ICS-201	Fine	Below 22mm	5.0-7.0	15	10011 (35600)	9870 (35100)	9870 (35100)	9870 (35100)		9870 (35100)
3	GUJ	ICS-102	Fine	22mm	4.0-6.0	20	6946 (24700)	6861 (24400)	6805 (24200)	6805 (24200)	O	6749 (24000)
4	KAR	ICS-103	Fine	23mm	4.0-5.5	21	7508 (26700)	7508 (26700)	7452 (26500)	7452 (26500)		7396 (26300)
5	M/M	ICS-104	Fine	24mm	4.0-5.0	23	8380 (29800)	8380 (29800)	8323 (29600)	8323 (29600)	T	8267 (29400)
6	P/H/R	ICS-202	Fine	26mm	3.5-4.9	26	9954 (35400)	9926 (35300)	9926 (35300)	9926 (35300)		9926 (35300)
7	M/M/A	ICS-105	Fine	26mm	3.0-3.4	25	8323 (29600)	8239 (29300)	8295 (29500)	8295 (29500)		8380 (29800)
8	M/M/A	ICS-105	Fine	26mm	3.5-4.9	25	8717 (31000)	8661 (30800)	8717 (31000)	8717 (31000)	Q	8802 (31300)
9	P/H/R	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.5-4.9	26	10011 (35600)	9983 (35500)	9983 (35500)	9983 (35500)		9983 (35500)
10	M/M/A	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.0-3.4	26	8661 (30800)	8577 (30500)	8577 (30500)	8577 (30500)	U	8661 (30800)
11	M/M/A	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.5-4.9	26	8998 (32000)	8942 (31800)	8942 (31800)	8942 (31800)		9026 (32100)
12	P/H/R	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.5-4.9	27	10151 (36100)	10123 (36000)	10123 (36000)	10123 (36000)	O	10123 (36000)
13	M/M/A	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.5-4.9	27	9364 (33300)	9308 (33100)	9392 (33400)	9392 (33400)		9308 (33100)
14	GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.5-4.9	27	9448 (33600)	9392 (33400)	9392 (33400)	9392 (33400)	T	9336 (33200)
15	M/M/A/K	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.5-4.9	28	9673 (34400)	9617 (34200)	9561 (34000)	9561 (34000)		9505 (33800)
16	GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.5-4.9	28	9617 (34200)	9589 (34100)	9533 (33900)	9533 (33900)	E	9505 (33800)
17	M/M/A/K	ICS-105	Fine	30mm	3.5-4.9	29	9758 (34700)	9729 (34600)	9673 (34400)	9673 (34400)		9645 (34300)
18	M/M/A/K/T/O	ICS-105	Fine	31mm	3.5-4.9	30	10067 (35800)	10039 (35700)	9983 (35500)	9983 (35500)	D	9898 (35200)
19	A/K/T/O	ICS-106	Fine	32mm	3.5-4.9	31	10348 (36800)	10320 (36700)	10264 (36500)	10264 (36500)		10179 (36200)
20	M(P)/K/T	ICS-107	Fine	34mm	3.0-3.8	33	12317 (43800)	12429 (44200)	12373 (44000)	12373 (44000)		12373 (44000)

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