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Technical Analysis

Price outlook for Gujarat-ICS-105, 29mm and ICE cotton futures for the period 28/06/16 to 12/07/16

(The author is Director of Commtrendz Research and the views expressed in this column are his own and the author is not liable for any loss or damage, including without limitations, any profit or loss which may arise directly or indirectly from the use of following information.)

We will look into the Gujarat-ICS-105, 29mm prices along with other benchmarks and try to forecast price moves going forward.

EXPERT's Column

Shri Gnanasekar Thiagarajan

As mentioned in the previous update, fundamental analysis involves studying and analysing various reports, data and based on that arriving at some possible direction for prices in the coming months or quarters.

Some of the recent fundamental drivers for the domestic cotton prices are:

- Cotton futures are higher and are moving on a positive tone as production concerns loom. The area under cotton sowing for 2016-17 crop year has decreased in North India, especially in Haryana and Punjab, where cotton sowing is almost completed, according to recent estimates.

- Cotton planting in India, the world's biggest producer, is likely to fall to the lowest in seven years in the 2016/2017 marketing season as farmers switch to other crops, potentially cutting production and exports of the fibre.

- The cotton area in Punjab and Haryana has declined 27 per cent to 7.56 lakh hectares in the 2016-17 crop year, as farmers shifted to other crops after incurring huge losses due to whitefly pest attack last year.

- According to the data from the Cotton Association of India (CAI), India's cotton production is expected to stand around 341.50 lakh bales for the 2015-16 season. The Association estimates the total availability to stand at 429.10 lakh bales with total consumption at around 305 lakh bales for the current season, which leaves a surplus of 124.10 lakh bales. Production stood at 382.75 lakh bales in the previous crop year.

Some of the fundamental drivers for International cotton prices are:

- Cotton futures were mildly lower on Monday, on thin trading volumes as a stronger U.S. dollar weighed and physical demand remained subdued. Key growing regions in the United States had excellent weather over the weekend.

- The weekly progress report, published after the market closed, showed that the pace of planting had picked up last week, but was still behind the prior five-year average.

- Earlier, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) cut its outlook for global inventories, largely on a decrease in inventories in China, the world's largest consumer. The U.S. government raised its outlook for domestic inventories at the end of the 2016/17 crop year, but slashed its outlook for world stocks in part due to a reduction in global output.

- Speculators increased their net long position to 45,538 by 993 in the latest week, as shown by the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission data, on Friday.

Let us now dwell on some technical factors that influence price movements.

As mentioned earlier, price charts are turning friendlier and a possible rally higher is in the offing. We expected prices to test the important resistance around 10,250-300/qtl levels. Prices are moving perfectly in line with our expectations. As expected, we are seeing prices head towards 12,000/qtl. But, a potential correction lower is expected after this one way move upwards. We are wary of further upside till a correction to 11,000/qtl or even lower to 10,500/qtl materialises.

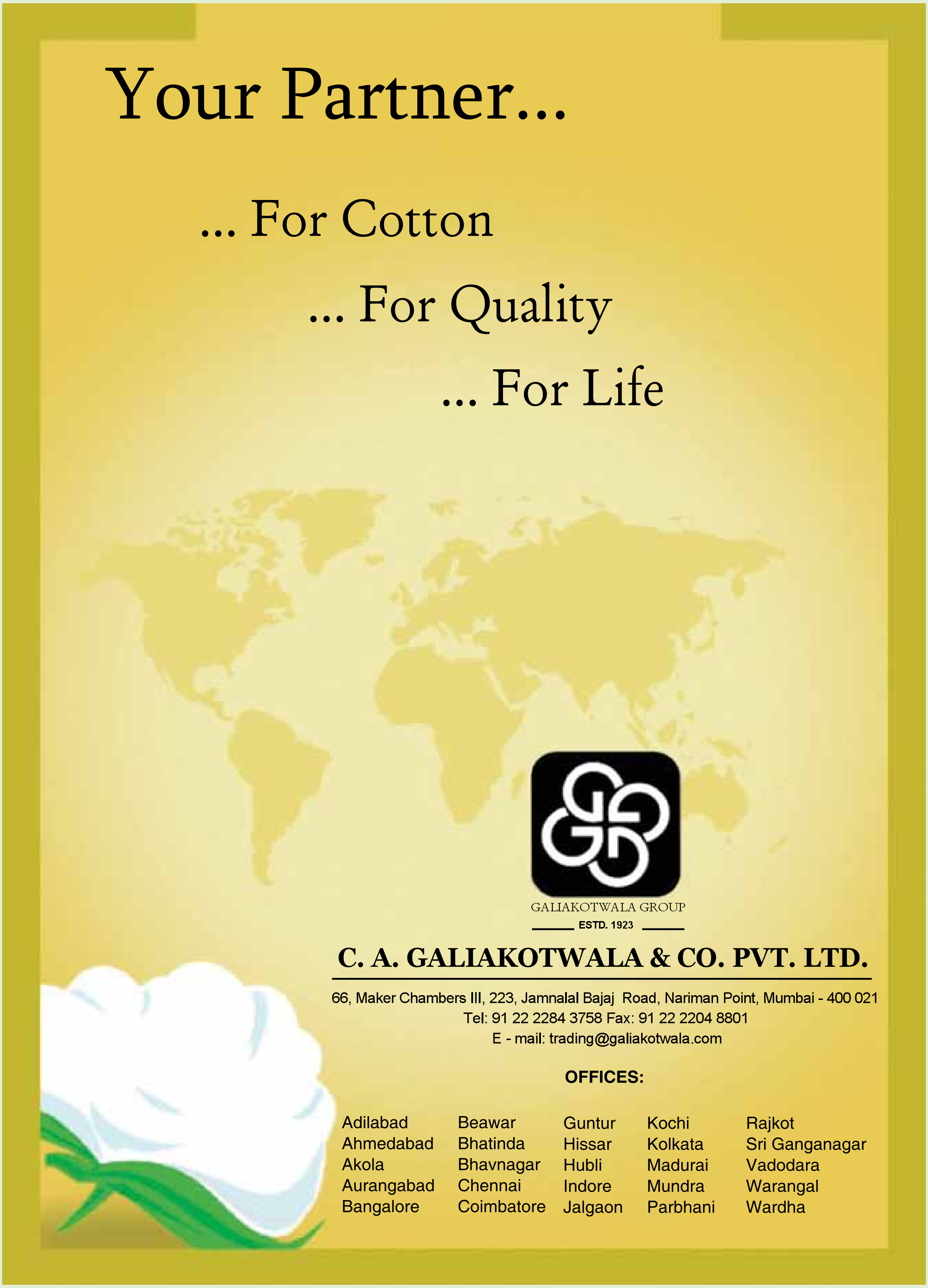
As mentioned earlier, indicators are turning friendly now, which could see prices moving higher gradually. Indicators are displaying extremely overbought conditions, which could see a pullback or a downward correction in the coming sessions. A very high RSI reading of 93 signifies extreme overbought conditions which warn of an impending correction lower. We see support now in the 11,000/qtl range followed by more important support at 10,500/qtl zone. Ideally, the upward trend should extend further to 13,000/qtl levels in the coming months after the expected downside correction.

We will also look at the ICE Cotton futures charts for a possible direction in international prices.

As mentioned in the previous update, a strong rally from lower levels accompanied by higher volumes and open interest has rekindled bullish hopes for 68-69c in the coming sessions. Supports at 63c held well. We continue to expect prices to edge higher towards 66.95-67.00c in the coming weeks followed by 69.25-50c being an extremely strong resistance in the coming months. Once prices edge higher and close above 66.95c, the upside expectations for 69c should kick-in again. Only an unexpected fall below 63c could cast doubts on our bullish view now.

CONCLUSION:

Both the domestic and international prices have risen sharply and show promise to move further higher. But, a correction looks likely before the uptrend resumes. For Guj ICS supports are seen at 11,000 /qtl followed by 10,500 /qtl, and for ICE March cotton futures at 64.50c followed by 63c. The rise above 9,700/qtl has confirmed that the picture has changed to bullish in the domestic markets. In the international markets prices are indicating a possible bullish trend now, and the indicators have turned friendly. It is now headed towards key resistance levels around 69c on the upside.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Development of Advanced Mapping Populations in Cotton

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(Contd. From Issue No.12)

Nested Association Mapping Populations

A Nested Association Mapping (NAM) population can be developed by pooling an equal number of progenies from a large number of crosses involving one common parent. NAM, as it is currently employed in maize, with a reference design of 25 families having 200 recombinant inbred lines per family, might be an even more powerful strategy for dissecting the genetic basis of quantitative traits in species like cotton with low LD. The controlled crosses in NAM reduce the confounding effects of population structure observed in association panels, while the large numbers of progeny derived from the crosses allow for family mapping with substantial statistical power by capturing the best features of both linkage and association mapping through joint linkage-association analysis (Yu et al., 2008). The general procedure, as evidenced from McMulen et al. (2009), involves:

- Selection of diverse founders from which to develop an equal number of mapping populations;
- Dense genotyping of the founder lines using re-sequencing approaches or available molecular markers;
- Genotyping of a smaller number of tagging markers on both the founders and their progeny to define the inheritance of chromosome segments and to project the high-density marker information from the founders to the progeny;
- Phenotyping of progenies to identify various complex traits;
- Conducting genome-wide association analysis relating phenotypic traits with projected high-density markers of the progeny. When compared to conventional linkage mapping populations, NAM aims to create an integrated mapping population specifically designed for a full genome scan with high power for QTL detection with different effects. A major limitation with NAM populations is the large number of crosses involved in generating the population, as well as the fact that QTL interactions with the genetic background cannot be examined because one parent is common in all component subpopulations.

Multi-parent Advanced Generation Inter-Cross Population

The Multi-parent Advanced Generation Inter-Cross (MAGIC) Population is a new type of complex experimental design situated somewhere between bi-parental designs and association mapping designs in terms of power, diversity, and resolution. It can be created by crossing multiple inbred founders over several generations prior to creating inbred lines, thereby producing a diverse population whose genomes are fine scale mosaics of contributions from all the founders. Similar to bi-parental populations, allelic variation in MAGIC populations is also limited to the number of founders, but with much higher polymorphism. While a MAGIC population requires greater initial investment in capability and time than a bi-parental population, careful selection of the founders makes it easier to generalize its outcomes to a greater range of breeding applications and ensures its relevance as a long term genetic resource panel (Huang et al., 2015). In order to generate a MAGIC population, founder lines must be selected for genotypic diversity and subsequently managed carefully to ensure phenotypic diversity in order to produce a practical resource material. More diverse founder sets may provide biological insight into a wide variety of traits; however, founder lines selected on the basis of relevance to a breeding program designed for specific traits may result in a MAGIC population capable of more quickly translating into superior breeding lines. If n founder lines are taken, they need to be inter-crossed for n/2 generations till all the founders are combined in equal proportions. Once the inter-crossing is done, recombinant inbred lines may be derived from them by selfing (Rakshit et al., 2012). To increase the number of recombination events in the population, the F1 plants resulting from the pairwise crosses obtained in the first generation can be randomly and sequentially inter-crossed as explained for advanced intercrossed line populations. MAGIC populations have already been created in Arabidopsis thaliana, wheat, and rice, and

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are already in process for chickpeas and a variety of other crops. The major limitation of this tool is that, with increases in the number of founders, the inter-crossing cycles also increase proportionately. Another limitation of this population is that they are likely to show extensive segregation for phenological traits, like maturity and plant height. Segregation for such traits may influence overall performance for complex traits that may lead to the identification of false QTLs.

Conclusions

Conventional mapping populations have been developed and utilized in cotton for the tagging of genes/QTLs of economic importance. Such populations are easy to generate but have several limitations. Thus, it has become necessary to develop advanced mapping populations such as: advanced backcross (AB) QTL lines, backcross inbred lines (BILs), advanced intercrossed lines (AILs), near isogenic lines (NILs), chromosome substitution lines (CSL), high throughput genotyping multiparent advanced generation inter-cross (MAGIC), association panels, nested association mapping (NAM) populations for the purpose of gene/QTL mapping in cotton. These populations are unaffected by the limitations of conventional mapping populations. It is also necessary to extract positive alleles from the related tetraploid Gossypium species and from un-adapted cotton germplasm for various economic traits. Among the traits that merit special attention are: nutrient (nitrogen) and water use efficiency; tolerance to drought and salinity; fiber strength, and resistance to the cotton leaf curl disease.

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Source : The ICAC Recorder,
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COTAAP Corner

Activities for May - June 2016

Because of low rainfall last year, the water table level was affected in Chopda region. The scarcity of water resulted in decrease as well as delay in sowing of irrigated cotton. Although farmers started sowing from 20th of May 2016, COTAAP started its activities as per schedule.

1. Soil testing project :

Soil health is the basic requirement for obtaining optimum productivity in the field. Every year, COTAAP has included activities like soil testing and guidance regarding maintenance of soil health. This year, COTAAP has selected a single village – Ghadvel - for testing samples of all the farmers. Samples have already been collected and submitted to the laboratory for analysis. Representative samples of different zones will be tested for micronutrient content. Thus a complete fertility index of the village will be displayed in a prime place which will help farmers to calculate accurate requirement of fertilizers. This information on soil health and guidance by scientists will help in proper crop nutrition management and farmers can avoid indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizers. A total of 225 samples have been collected under this project.

Soil samples being collected at Ghadwel village

2. Distribution of cotton seed under HDPS project :

High Density Plantation System (HDPS) is a promising technology, spearheaded by COTAAP in the region. In order to spread awareness about HDPS in new areas, cotton growing villages were selected where the technology was not yet popular. Farmers meetings were conducted to inform them about COTAAP, project details and the technology to be adopted in the demo plot. As per the sanctioned project, an area of 250 acres was selected from 21 villages. Mahyco provided 500 packets of Dr. Brent seeds and by end May, all the seed kits had been distributed only to the selected marginal farmers along with proper guidelines on adopting HDPS.

List of villages where seeds were distributed seeds under HDPS project:

Village	No.of farmers	Village	No. of farmers
Chahardi	47	Virwade	15
Chunchale	22	Khadgaon	06
Mamalde	05	Majrehol	06
Chopda	19	Mangrul	07
Vele	01	Tawase	05
Adgaon	28	Kurwel	05
Borajanti	24	Vardi	04
Akulkheda	16	Varad	06
Ghadwel	14	Nagalwadi	01
Gartad	10	Dhanora	05
Sanpule	04		

3. Village meetings :

To inform selected marginal farmers regarding the different technologies in cotton production, COTAAP organised village meetings through the month of June. Face to face communication between the farmers and experts helped to extend knowledge for the farmers as well as enabled COTAAP to collect grass root level information that provided valuable inputs for future planning and implementation of extension activities. Topics like HDPS technology (without seed), pink boll worm awareness, bamboo staking, etc., were discussed during these meetings.

A village meeting in progress

Date-wise details of the meetings are as follows:

Date	Village	FLD	Time	Co-ordination committee members
18 June, 2016	• Narwade • Khadgaon	HDPS	5.00 p.m 6.30 p.m	Shri. S.S. Gujarathi Shri. Ambadas Patil Shri. Kuldeep Patil Shri. Sanjay Deshmukh
19 June, 2016	• Lasur • Mamalde	HDPS	4.30 p.m 6.00 p.m	Shri. R.A. Patil Shri. S.S. Gujarathi Shri. B.G. Mahajan Shri. Anil G. Patil
20 June, 2016	• Sanpule • Tawase	HDPS	5.00 p.m 6.00 p.m	Shri. S.S. Gujarathi Shri. B.N.Patil Shri. Rajubhau Patil
22 June, 2016	• Bhardu • Dhupe	HDPS	5.00 p.m 6.00 p.m	Shri. S.S. Gujarathi Dr. Ravindra Nikam Shri. Sanjay Deshmukh
23 June, 2016	• Borajanti • Varad	HDPS	5.00 p.m 6.00 p.m	Shri. S.S. Gujarathi Shri. Dharamdas Patil Shri. Sanjay Deshmukh
24 June, 2016	• Akulkheda • Virwade	HDPS	5.00 p.m 6.00 p.m	Shri. S.S. Gujarathi Dr. Ravindra Nikam Shri. Sanjay Deshmukh
25 June, 2016	• Loni • Kamalgaon	HDPS	5.00 p.m 6.00 p.m	Shri. S.S. Gujarathi Dr. Ravindra Nikam Shri. Sanjay Deshmukh

World Cotton Prices

Monthly Average Cotlook A Index (FE) from 2011-12 onwards

(Cotlook Index in US Cents per lb.)

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
August	114.10	84.40	92.71	74.00	71.82
September	116.86	84.15	90.09	73.38	68.74
October	110.61	82.00	89.35	70.34	69.03
November	104.68	80.87	84.65	67.53	69.22
December	95.45	83.37	87.49	68.30	70.39
January	101.11	85.51	90.96	67.35	68.75
February	100.75	89.71	94.05	69.84	66.57
March	99.50	94.45	96.95	69.35	68.73
April	99.94	92.68	94.20	71.70	69.28
May	88.53	92.70	92.71	72.89	
June	82.18	93.08	90.90	72.35	
July	83.97	92.62	83.84	72.35	

Source: Cotton Outlook

Supply and Distribution of Cotton

June 1, 2016

Seasons begin on August 1 — Million Metric Tons

	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14 Est.	2014/15 Est.	2015/16 Proj.	2016/17 Proj.
BEGINNING STOCKS						
WORLD TOTAL	**10.315**	**15.347**	**18.321**	**20.490**	**22.22**	**20.38**
CHINA	2.087	6.181	9.607	12.088	12.88	12.01
USA	0.566	0.729	0.903	0.651	0.98	1.01
PRODUCTION						
WORLD TOTAL	**27.839**	**26.800**	**26.185**	**26.116**	**21.81**	**23.01**
INDIA	6.239	6.290	6.766	6.460	5.88	6.45
CHINA	7.400	7.300	6.929	6.480	5.17	4.65
USA	3.391	3.770	2.811	3.553	2.81	3.13
PAKISTAN	2.311	2.002	2.076	2.305	1.51	2.05
BRAZIL	1.877	1.310	1.734	1.563	1.44	1.49
UZBEKISTAN	0.880	1.000	0.910	0.885	0.81	0.85
OTHERS	5.741	5.128	4.960	4.870	4.19	4.39
CONSUMPTION						
WORLD TOTAL	**22.784**	**23.531**	**23.762**	**24.333**	**23.65**	**23.73**
CHINA	8.635	8.290	7.517	7.479	7.08	6.73
INDIA	4.231	4.731	5.057	5.360	5.23	5.43
PAKISTAN	2.121	2.216	2.470	2.492	2.19	2.22
EUROPE & TURKEY	1.498	1.564	1.616	1.698	1.68	1.68
VIETNAM	0.410	0.492	0.694	0.903	1.10	1.27
BANGLADESH	0.700	0.765	0.880	0.937	1.05	1.16
USA	0.718	0.762	0.773	0.778	0.78	0.78
BRAZIL	0.897	0.910	0.862	0.797	0.76	0.71
OTHERS	3.574	3.801	3.894	3.888	3.77	3.74
EXPORTS						
WORLD TOTAL	**9.826**	**10.085**	**8.976**	**7.647**	**7.37**	**7.45**
USA	2.526	2.836	2.293	2.449	2.00	2.23
INDIA	2.159	1.685	2.014	0.914	1.21	1.06
CFA ZONE	0.597	0.829	0.973	0.883	0.98	1.05
BRAZIL	1.043	0.938	0.485	0.851	1.01	0.83
UZBEKISTAN	0.550	0.690	0.615	0.550	0.54	0.49
AUSTRALIA	1.010	1.343	1.057	0.520	0.53	0.56
IMPORTS						
WORLD TOTAL	**9.784**	**9.790**	**8.721**	**7.597**	**7.37**	**7.45**
CHINA	5.342	4.426	3.075	1.804	1.08	0.96
VIETNAM	0.379	0.517	0.691	0.941	1.10	1.37
BANGLADESH	0.680	0.631	0.967	0.964	1.08	1.13
INDONESIA	0.540	0.686	0.651	0.728	0.66	0.68
TURKEY	0.519	0.803	0.924	0.800	0.78	0.88
TRADE IMBALANCE 1/	**-0.042**	**-0.295**	**-0.255**	**-0.050**	**0.00**	**0.00**
STOCKS ADJUSTMENT 2/	**0.018**	**0.001**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.00**	**0.00**
ENDING STOCKS						
WORLD TOTAL	**15.347**	**18.321**	**20.490**	**22.222**	**20.38**	**19.66**
CHINA	6.181	9.607	12.088	12.876	12.01	10.85
USA	0.729	0.903	0.651	0.980	1.01	1.13
ENDING STOCKS/MILL USE (%)						
WORLD-LESS-CHINA 3/	**65**	**57**	**52**	**55**	**51**	**51**
CHINA 4/	**72**	**116**	**161**	**172**	**170**	**161**
COTLOOK A INDEX 5/	**100**	**88**	**91**	**71**		

1/ The inclusion of linters and waste, changes in weight during transit, differences in reporting periods and measurement error account for differences between world imports and exports.

2/ Difference between calculated stocks and actual; amounts for forward seasons are anticipated.

3/ World-less-China's ending stocks divided by World-less-China's mill use, multiplied by 100.

4/ China's ending stocks divided by China's mill use, multiplied by 100.

5/ U.S. cents per pound.

Source: ICAC Cotton this month June 1, 2016

Growth In Capacity Of Cotton / Man- Made Fibre Textile Mills (Non SSI)

YEAR	NO. OF MILLS			INSTALLED CAPACITY		
	SPINNING	COMPOSITE	TOTAL	SPINDLES(Mn.)	ROTORS (000)	LOOMS (000)
31-03-2011	1757	183	1940	42.69	518	52
31.03.2012	1761	196	1957	43.31	523	52
31.03.2013	1771	198	1969	44.17	546	52
31.03.2014	1757	197	1954	44.47	553	51
31.03.2015	1776	200	1976	45.08	565	52
31.03.2016	1779	201	1980	46.00	581	53
2013-14 (P)						
April	1765	197	1962	44.15	543	51
May	1766	197	1963	44.17	543	51
June	1768	197	1965	44.22	545	51
July	1774	197	1971	44.59	555	51
August	1759	197	1956	44.46	551	51
September	1762	197	1959	44.49	553	51
October	1759	199	1958	44.59	580	51
November	1744	197	1941	44.32	576	51
December	1748	197	1945	44.31	551	51
January	1757	197	1954	44.47	553	51
February	1757	197	1954	44.47	553	51
March	1757	197	1954	44.47	553	51
2014-15 (P)						
April	1757	197	1954	44.47	553	51
May	1757	197	1954	44.47	553	51
June	1757	197	1954	44.48	553	51
July	1761	198	1959	44.55	553	52
August	1765	198	1963	44.61	557	52
September	1770	198	1968	44.72	557	52
October	1772	198	1970	44.73	558	52
November	1773	198	1971	44.75	561	52
December	1772	200	1972	44.79	562	52
January	1773	200	1973	44.81	562	52
February	1774	200	1974	45.04	564	52
March	1776	200	1976	45.08	565	52
2015-16 (P)						
April	1776	200	1976	45.09	565	52
May	1776	200	1976	45.09	565	52
June	1776	200	1976	45.10	565	52
July	1776	200	1976	45.24	565	52
August	1776	200	1976	45.08	565	52
September	1776	201	1977	45.54	511	52
October	1778	201	1979	45.57	515	52
November	1778	201	1979	44.65	573	52
December	1778	201	1979	44.69	575	52
January	1778	201	1979	45.82	579	53
February	1779	201	1980	46.02	581	53
March	1779	201	1980	46.00	581	53
2016-17 (P)						
April	1781	201	1982	46.14	578	53
May	1784	201	1985	46.18	579	53

P - Provisional

Source : Office of the Textile Commissioner

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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) 2015-16 Crop JUNE 2016					
Sr. No.	Growth	Grade Standard	Grade	Staple	Micronaire	Strength /GPT	20th	21st	22nd	23rd	24th	25th
1	P/H/R	ICS-101	Fine	Below 22mm	5.0-7.0	15	9336 (33200)	9336 (33200)	9336 (33200)	9336 (33200)	9336 (33200)	9336 (33200)
2	P/H/R	ICS-201	Fine	Below 22mm	5.0-7.0	15	9476 (33700)	9476 (33700)	9476 (33700)	9476 (33700)	9476 (33700)	9476 (33700)
3	GUJ	ICS-102	Fine	22mm	4.0-6.0	20	6917 (24600)	6917 (24600)	6917 (24600)	6946 (24700)	6974 (24800)	7002 (24900)
4	KAR	ICS-103	Fine	23mm	4.0-5.5	21	8661 (30800)	8661 (30800)	8661 (30800)	8689 (30900)	8717 (31000)	8745 (31100)
5	M/M	ICS-104	Fine	24mm	4.0-5.0	23	9842 (35000)	9842 (35000)	9842 (35000)	9870 (35100)	9898 (35200)	9926 (35300)
6	P/H/R	ICS-202	Fine	26mm	3.5-4.9	26	11192 (39800)	11164 (39700)	11107 (39500)	11135 (39600)	11220 (39900)	11248 (40000)
7	M/M/A	ICS-105	Fine	26mm	3.0-3.4	25	9645 (34300)	9645 (34300)	9701 (34500)	9729 (34600)	9758 (34700)	9814 (34900)
8	M/M/A	ICS-105	Fine	26mm	3.5-4.9	25	10489 (37300)	10489 (37300)	10573 (37600)	10629 (37800)	10657 (37900)	10714 (38100)
9	P/H/R	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.5.4.9	26	11445 (40700)	11417 (40600)	11360 (40400)	11389 (40500)	11473 (40800)	11501 (40900)
10	M/M/A	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.0-3.4	26	10011 (35600)	10011 (35600)	10067 (35800)	10067 (35800)	10095 (35900)	10123 (36000)
11	M/M/A	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.5-4.9	26	10826 (38500)	10826 (38500)	10882 (38700)	10939 (38900)	10967 (39000)	11023 (39200)
12	P/H/R	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.5-4.9	27	11585 (41200)	11557 (41100)	11501 (40900)	11529 (41000)	11614 (41300)	11642 (41400)
13	M/M/A	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.5-4.9	27	11248 (40000)	11248 (40000)	11248 (40000)	11304 (40200)	11389 (40500)	11445 (40700)
14	GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.5-4.9	27	11135 (39600)	11135 (39600)	11135 (39600)	11192 (39800)	11220 (39900)	11248 (40000)
15	M/M/A/K	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.5-4.9	28	11473 (40800)	11473 (40800)	11473 (40800)	11529 (41000)	11614 (41300)	11670 (41500)
16	GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.5-4.9	28	11332 (40300)	11304 (40200)	11304 (40200)	11360 (40400)	11389 (40500)	11417 (40600)
17	M/M/A/K	ICS-105	Fine	30mm	3.5-4.9	29	11670 (41500)	11670 (41500)	11670 (41500)	11754 (41800)	11838 (42100)	11923 (42400)
18	M/M/A/K/T/O	ICS-105	Fine	31mm	3.5-4.9	30	11951 (42500)	11951 (42500)	11951 (42500)	11979 (42600)	12035 (42800)	12092 (43000)
19	A/K/T/O	ICS-106	Fine	32mm	3.5-4.9	31	12092 (43000)	12092 (43000)	12092 (43000)	12148 (43200)	12232 (43500)	12260 (43600)
20	M(P)/K/T	ICS-107	Fine	34mm	3.0-3.8	33	15129 (53800)	15129 (53800)	15129 (53800)	15129 (53800)	15185 (54000)	15185 (54000)

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