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Desi Cotton - Returns?

(Dr. K.R. Kranthi, Director of Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR), Nagpur has completed his Ph.D in Entomology from IARI, New Delhi. He has more than 20 years of experience in the field of cotton research.)

Last month, an interesting research paper on Indian Desi cotton was published by a team of researchers from Oxford University UK in the journal 'NATURE plants'. The paper titled 'Asiatic cotton can generate similar economic benefits to Bt cotton under rain-fed conditions' URL http://www.nature.com/articles/nplants201572 written by Carla-Romeu-Dalmau and three other authors has some brilliant insights on the strengths of Desi (Asiatic cotton) with reference to India. I am tempted to ask 'why is it that we Indians are unable to see and accept something so obvious, which foreign researchers are able to see clearly and point out –the brilliance of Desi cotton?'

EXPERT's Column

Dr K.R. Kranthi

Desi cotton can be as profitable as Bt-cotton in rainfed Maharashtra: American cotton belongs to the species Gossypium hirsutum and Desi cotton or Asiatic cotton belongs to Gossypium arboreum. The Oxford authors visited Maharashtra and conducted their survey in Vidarbha. The authors concluded that "Taken together, these data suggest that the main reasons why farmers adopt Bt G. hirsutum instead of G. arboreum is the expectation of higher yields and more resistance to bollworms, but also because G. arboreum seed is hardly available. In contrast, farmers choose to grow G. arboreum instead of Bt G. hirsutum because with G. arboreum cultivation they expect lower expenditure and better performance under rainfed conditions. We found evidence demonstrating that under rainfed conditions, G. arboreum cultivation can generate similar economic benefits for farmers as Bt G. hirsutum cultivation in Maharashtra. Although farmers growing Bt G. hirsutum have more stable net revenue, they also need to spend more to obtain similar net revenue than farmers growing G. arboreum. This indicates that under rainfed conditions, the economic benefits associated with Bt G. hirsutum cultivation are not necessarily realized. In these conditions, other cotton varieties such as the Asiatic cotton G. arboreum may offer an alternative for cotton farmers in Maharashtra and perhaps in other cotton cultivating areas. When farmers growing Bt G. hirsutum use irrigation, they obtain higher yields than under rainfed conditions, but our data demonstrate that without effective management of the expenditure, higher yields do not translate into higher net revenue. We conclude that our study provides insights into how the potential of Bt G. hirsutum cultivation is constrained under rainfed conditions in India, and how even though Bt G. hirsutum yields increase with irrigation, this does not necessary translate into an increase in the economic benefits received by Indian smallholder farmers".

Why Desi cotton? The research paper cited my article 'Long live SwaDesi Cotton' that was published on 13th August, 2013 in the Cotton Statistics and News, CAI-Vol 20, Published by Cotton Association of India, Mumbai. I am recollecting here a passage from my article "It may not be easy to accept the opinion instantaneously, but with some good thinking, it would not be difficult either, to propose that India's cotton future lies in Desi

cotton. The recent challenges of ever-increasing cost of chemical inputs and labour scarcity have been pushing cotton cultivation towards un-sustainability and marginalized profits. The current American cotton hybrid systems that predominate more than 95.0% of the cotton area in India do not fall in the category of sustainable approaches. These hybrids are expensive to cultivate; input intensive and run the constant risks of collapsing under high sensitivity to biotic and abiotic stresses. What is imminently needed for India is a vision based policy to plan towards sustainable profits. Desi cotton provides the answers for sustainability. But good thinking and planning are necessary. Two aspects strengthen Desi cotton. One is improvement of fibre traits. The second aspect relates to the exploitation of the existing traits for specialized purposes such as absorbent cotton and ancillary uses, for which Desi cotton is the best and other species cannot serve the purpose." It is noteworthy that the researchers from Oxford University arrived at the same conclusions independently.

Though it might sound repetitive, it is important to point out that India needs to move towards sustainable cotton cropping systems which are much easier with Desi cotton. In my previous article on Agrarian Crisis Part - 3, published in the 13th May 2015 issue of Cotton Statistics and News, I pointed out that "Clearly, agrarian stress is related to the declining net returns in agriculture and cannot be related to cotton cultivation alone. But, there are long term sustainable solutions that can lower down the cost of production and increase yields." Net returns depend on the cost of cultivation and market price. Cultivating Desi cotton varieties is easy with low production costs. These are highly tolerant to drought, insects and diseases and give high yields with low inputs. Then why is it that India is still reluctant to move towards Desi cotton, at least in the 60% area under rain-fed farming?

Interestingly, Indian farmers were historically reluctant to move away from Desi cotton. At the time of Independence India had 97.5% of its area under Desi cotton. The area under Desi was 25% before Bt-cotton made its entry into India 13 years ago. By the year 2011, the area shrunk to less than 2.0%. It is important to understand why Indian farmers preferred Desi cotton over times immemorial until the invasion by Bt-hybrids. There are Desi varieties of Gossypium herbaceum and Gossypium arboreum which can grow in any kind of conditions such as saline soils, sodic soils, desert soils, light soils etc., under dry conditions. There are hardly any varieties of the American cotton species Gossypium hirsutum that can survive such conditions. Desi varieties are highly tolerant to drought, salinity, diseases and a range of insect pests including the bollworms. It is this resilience to tough biotic and abiotic conditions that makes Desi cotton species the right choice for sustainable farming.

Indian cotton production systems have become costly and unsustainable. The shifting away from Desi cotton and the change from a mere 40% hybrid area in 2001 to 92% area under Bt-cotton in 2011 influenced a lot of changes in the cotton economics in India. As per the data available with the Ministry of Agriculture, the average cost of cultivation was Rs. 15,961 per hectare in 2002, which increased to an average of Rs. 71,115 per hectare in 2011. The yields may have increased, but fertilizer usage per hectare increased by 3.6 times from an average of 74.1 kg per hectare in 2002 to 267 kg per hectare in 2011. With the increase in fertilizer usage, predominantly urea on hybrid cotton, insect pest infestation increased. The average expenditure on insecticides was Rs. 1073 per hectare in 2001, which increased to Rs. 2925 per hectare in 2011. Thus, India's cotton is now characterised with a constant increase in chemical fertilizers and insecticide usage, to move away from sustainability. This shift towards unsustainable cotton production systems makes farmers highly vulnerable to economic risks.

Desi cotton offers the most resilient options. It is important for India to break away from the current imbroglio mired in chemical matrices. We need to move towards robust and sturdy climate resilient cotton production methods that are in consonance with natural ecosystems. Desi cotton provides exciting prospects towards sustainability. Unfortunately research on Desi cotton was grossly neglected in India, as a result of which there was a slow progress in varietal development. Despite the neglect, a few scientists have developed outstanding Desi cotton varieties which can bring in a 'soft revolution' in the country.

Desi cotton for spinnable and non-spinnable fibres. Two categories of Desi cotton varieties can make a huge difference especially in the rain-fed tracts that comprise 60% of the cotton area of India. One type is the short and coarse fibre varieties that are suitable for absorbent cotton, surgical, denims, mattresses, technical textiles etc., whose demand is growing and the market price is very high. There are several varieties in this category. Desi cotton

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offers hygroscopic short fibre with high micronaire, which makes it an ideal choice for a wide range of applications. Yields are high with high density planting because of the compact nature of many varieties. For example, Phule Dhanwantary from MPKV Rahuri is one outstanding Desi variety which gives high yields of 25-30 q/ha or more under high density planting in rain-fed conditions with less than half of the production cost compared to any Bt-cotton hybrid. Ginning out-turn is very high. Other category pertains to Desi varieties that produce good quality spinnable fibres. There are some newly improved varieties with very good fibre traits that are equivalent to American cotton varieties. In a succinct study published in 2011 in the Indian Journal of Fibre and Textile Research, Chandra and Srinivasan (ex-Director CIRCOT. Mumbai) compared four improved new Desi cotton Gossypium arboreum varieties (PA-255, DLSA-17, MDL-2463 and Jawahar Tapti) with two American cotton Gossypium hirsutum varieties (Bikaneri Narma and LRA-5166) for their spinning potential at 16, 30 and 40 counts. They found that "..at medium count (30s), in general, all the improved G. arboreum strains perform better than the G. hirsutum strain LRA-5166 but the strain PA-255 shows most promising results. This may be attributed to the fact that almost all the improved G. arboreum strains evaluated, PA-255 posseses best fibre quality traits, especially fibre length and fineness. For 40s count the improved G. arboreum strain PA-255 shows significantly better results for U%, thick and thin places in comparison to the G. hirsutum strain LRA-5166." The authors concluded that "The fabric produced from improved G arboreum cotton shows comparatively higher toughness and appears to possess optimum rigidity. The improved G .arboreum cotton fabric records markedly higher values for dye uptake and air permeability as compared to G. hirsutum cotton fabric. These fabrics are suitable for the designated end use i.e. men's winter wear with THV rating around '3'. ..The improved G. arboreum can be a viable and suitable alternative to the medium long staple G. hirsutum cotton particularly with regard to the yarn count range 8-25s and for specific end uses like denim and twills. Also, the G. arboreum genotypes are well known for their inherent resistance to biotic and abiotic stresses and widely considered as a potential source for organic cotton."

Thus, there is immense potential for Desi cotton varieties to make a huge positive difference to India's cotton sustainable future. Unfortunately some of the best research results with Desi cotton were achieved at a time when the country was under the Bt-cotton hybrid wave. All the new improved varieties were released mostly coinciding with the Bt-cotton wave. The improvements made in Desi cotton are important because they provide viable sustainable alternatives for high yields with low cost of production. This assumes significance in light of the significant increase in cost of cotton production over the past 10 years, when the yields also became stagnant.

Also, over the past 2-3 years there is a growing demand for Desi cotton all across the country, especially in North India. But, seeds of many Desi varieties are not available in the local market. Public sector institutions such as State Agricultural Universities, state seed corporations and CICR have been producing limited quantities that are adequate for just a few thousand acres. In view of the increasing demand, it is possible that these institutions will upscale seed production programmes of the Desi varieties in the next few years. The renewed demand for Desi cotton did not come as a surprise for those who deal with cotton. The main reasons for the preference are 1. Desi cotton varieties are deep rooted and overcome drought with ease 2. Whiteflies have been causing immense damage to almost all the Bt cotton hybrids in north India, whereas almost all the Desi cotton varieties are resistant to whiteflies and leaf hoppers. 3. Desi cotton species are immune to the dreaded 'cotton leaf curl virus disease CLCuD' which is a major menace in North India and not in other parts of the country 4. The market price of Desi Kapas (seed-cotton) was 15-20% more than the kapas of Bt-cotton hybrids 5. Desi varieties hardly need any chemical inputs such as fertilizers or insecticides for higher yields, thus the cost of production is less than half of Bt-cotton hybrids 6. Even with moderate care, the yields of Desi cotton varieties can easily exceed the yields of Bt cotton in rain-fed and irrigated regions.

Conclusion. It is important for the cotton scientific fraternity to renew their focus on the strengths of the native cotton and build on them to develop robust climate resilient Desi varieties that produce premium quality fibre with least dependence on chemical inputs. This is eminently possible. As Robert Goddard said "It is difficult to say what is impossible, for the dream of yesterday is the hope of today and the reality of tomorrow". Strange, that we transformed Desi cotton which was a wonderful reality of yesterday into a dream for tomorrow.

It occurs to me sometimes that Desi cotton is just like what Indians are "deep rooted in civilization, rich in heritage, strong in conviction, open to exploitation, unaware of their strengths, philosophically lost in wilderness and happily resigned to fate". It is time to wake up and help Desi cotton get back its lost kingdom, and through it so shall our own brethren regain back our roots to reach the sky.

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

Cottonology School Contact Program
At Atomic Energy Schools 2 & 3, Mumbai on 28th November 2014

Children assembled in the central hall

King Cotton conducting the cotton quiz

EM explaining educational display panels on cotton to students

Students excitedly writing answers to the cotton quiz

Distribution of goody bags by King Cotton

Photo opportunity with King Cotton

SAGA OF THE COTTON EXCHANGE

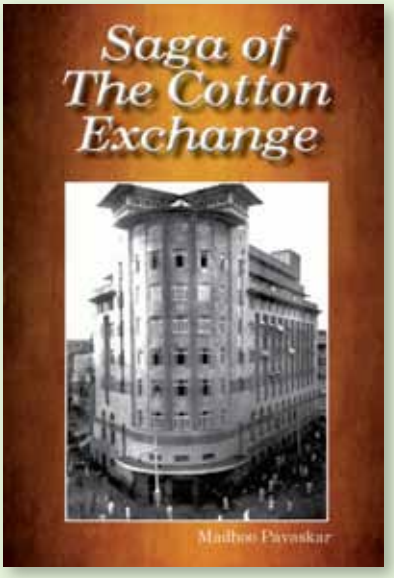
By Madhoo Pavaskar

Chapter 3

Trials and Travails

From Colaba to Sewree

Soon after the establishment of the East India Cotton Association, the cotton market of Bombay was shifted from Colaba to Sewree. As stated earlier, the cotton market was originally located at Elphinstone Circle (currently known as Horniman Circle) opposite the present Town Hall. The area was known as Bombay Green, where was laid out more than 250 years ago a beautiful garden encircled by tamarind and other trees. As cotton began to be exported from Bombay, the Green gave way to the cotton market.



In 1844, the cotton market was shifted from Bombay Green to Cotton Green at Colaba, and occupied an area of about two square kilometres on either side of the Colaba Causeway. Dealers in cotton rented plots and constructed jaithas or platforms for depositing cotton bales brought from storage for display and sale. Later, as a railways made their appearance, the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway (renamed as Western Railway after Independence), which linked Bombay to Gujarat, had its goods terminal at Colaba.

Towards the end of the 19th century, with the construction of docks and the development of the textile industry in Central Bombay, as also a goods terminal of the Great Indian Peninsular Railway (the present Central Railway) at Wadi Bunder, the location of Cotton Green at Colaba became a cause of great inconvenience and expense to all.

In 1899, a proposal was therefore mooted for reclaiming land between Sewree and Mazagaon from the sea to transfer the Cotton Green from Colaba to Sewree. In a letter dated October 17, 1899, addressed to the Government of Bombay, the Chairman of the Bombay Port Trust made out an eloquent case for such reclamation of land and transfer of Cotton Green. But it was not until 1923, when the warehousing accommodation provided by the Bombay Port Trust became available, that the Bombay cotton market was shifted from Colaba to Sewree. To begin with, on March 13, 1923 the new Cotton Depot, comprising godowns, was formally inaugurated by the then Governor of Bombay, Sir Leslie Wilson.

With the shifting of the cotton warehouses from Colaba to Sewree, it became essential for the East India Cotton Association to have accommodation there to house not only its own office, but also the offices of its members so that they can transact business near their godowns. The Association therefore acquired by way of lease 10,092.75 sq. metres of land from the Bombay Port Trust to build a new Cotton Exchange at Sewree. But as the construction of a permanent building was expected to take two years to complete, the Association built temporary wooden offices, rooms and a trading hall. On November 1, 1923 the Cotton Green was formally declared open for business by Sheth Narandas Purshotamdas, who inaugurated the temporary headquarters of the largest cotton market in the East.

Two years later, the construction of the New Exchange Building at Sewree was completed. The formal opening ceremony was performed by Sir Leslie Wilson, the then Governor of Bombay on December 1, 1925. In his message to the East India Cotton Association on the occasion, Lord Reading, the then Viceroy of India, congratulated Bombay most cordially on the opening of the new Cotton Exchange, and added, "It is right and fitting that a stately building should have been erected to shelter those activities which have made Bombay famous as the largest distributing cotton market in the Eastern Hemisphere. The outstanding position of Bombay in the cotton trade has shed lustre on India as a whole and has gained for her an enviable

prominence in the Empire and the world at large in connection with the supply of one of the most indispensable natural products."

The sprawling Cotton Depot at Sewree consists of 178 cotton godowns, arranged in 17 rows of ten and one of eight. The different rows of godowns are separated by wide roads and avenues to facilitate loading and unloading. Each warehouse has a floor area of 417.23 sq. metres, with a height of about 15 metres, and has a capacity to store 4000 to 4500 cotton bales of 170 kg. each. The Cotton Green warehouses have an aggregate floor area of nearly 75,000 sq.metres and the total storage capacity of all these godowns is around three-quarters of a million bales.

The godowns are equipped with "pulley system" which enables stacking of as many as 12 bales, or even more, one over other without much hardship to the labour. All the godowns are fitted with low melting point water pipes, which serve as automatic fire extinguishers. The godowns are also owned by the Bombay Port Trust, but have long been hired out to cotton merchants and mills. At present, about 140 godowns at Cotton Green are in the hands of the trade, while the rest are with the mills.

Along the side of most godowns, there are jaithas—platforms on raised plinths. These are 225 in number, where another quarter million bales can be piled up in the dry season. Thus, the Cotton Green can store nearly a million bales of cotton during the non-monsoon months, and about three-fourth of a million in the rainy season.

Abode of King Cotton

At the northern end of the Cotton Depot and separated from the godowns by a wide road stands the imposing Cotton Exchange Building—the present hubbub of the ready trade in cotton. It is a two-storeyed majestic building having a frontage of nearly 550 metres on the north and about 200 metres on the east, thus providing ample sunlight over a length of almost 750 metres for visual inspection of cotton in the morning. The ready business in cotton is transacted in the morning hours only.

The building was erected at a cost of over Rs.18 lakhs, of which a little over Rs.5 lakhs was contributed by the Government of Bombay from the balance funds lying with the Cotton Contracts Board.

The Cotton Exchange building at Sewree contains 200 rooms, which are occupied by buyers and sellers. Even the public sector Cotton Corporation of India and the Maharashtra State Co-operative Marketing Federation (which acts as the sole agent of the Government of Maharashtra for procurement of kapas under the raw-cotton monopoly procurement scheme of the state) have their rooms in the Cotton Exchange Building.

On the second floor of the building is the Arbitration and Appeals Room, capable of handling as many as 300/350 surveys and appeals per hour. The Board Room and a small library are also on the same floor. Even an up-to-date cotton testing laboratory has recently been set up there. On the ground floor, there is a large trading hall, which provided the forum for futures trading activity in cotton till 1929.

Trials and Travails

Even though King Cotton found his abode at Sewree, not all sections of the cotton trade and industry were happy with his installation on the throne of the East India Cotton Association. No doubt, the millowners had joined the Association, but they secretly nursed the grievance that their plea for widening the hedge contracts was not fully accepted by the cotton merchants. True, in deference to their wishes, EICA had agreed to the reduction in the number of hedge contracts from 7 to 5 with effect from June 25, 1922. And although the millowners had reluctantly consented to this before joining the Association, they were keen to have no more than a single hedge contract, with all cotton varieties tenderable against it alone. This way, they felt, not only could speculation in cotton futures, which mostly thrives on bullish sentiment, be nipped in the bud, but the cotton market would also remain distinctly bearish to their advantage.

Surprisingly, the speculators and small traders too were sore over the statutory powers granted to the East India Cotton Association. Their uneasiness stemmed from the regulation of futures trading business under the auspices of the EICA, following the introduction of periodical clearings and minimum unit of trading of 100 bales. Unlike the millowners, who feared the growth of rampant speculation through the EICA, these small speculators and traders saw an end to their speculative business under the aegis of the statutory Association. This led to the formation of a rival cotton trading body, named "Shri Mahajan Association" in 1925. For nearly two decades

thereafter, King Cotton had to struggle hard to unify the cotton trade.

Last but not the least, despite the fact that the European traders were given more than proportionate representation to their strength over the Board of Directors of the EICA, they were nervous in an organisation dominated by the Indian cotton merchants. Unfortunately, instead of reconciling to the reality of the new situation, the European section of the cotton trade, inspite of its declining share in cotton marketing in India, began to wield its undue influence with the alien government to twist the arm of King Cotton. This delayed his efforts at democratisation of his rule and unification of his kingdom.

These trials and travails notwithstanding, it is to the credit of the East India Cotton Association that not only did it come out successfully through these incessant struggles, but eventually emerged as a premier cotton exchange in India and the whole of Asia as well. At the same time, through their patience and perseverance, the Indian cotton merchants ensured that the East India Cotton Association represented essentially the larger national interests rather than the sectional interests of one or the other class of traders. In fact, the story of the EICA before the Indian independence is the saga of the heroic struggles of these patriotic cotton merchants to build their association into a national institution, subserving the cause of Indian farmers and the freedom movement. Like all other Indian farmers and the freedom movement. Like all other Indian patriots, they too reached their hour of triumph on August 15, 1947, when the country threw the yoke of British rule and became free. But till then (and alas, even thereafter), all was not a smooth sailing for the Indian cotton merchants.

Hedge Contract Controversy

Soon after the regulation of cotton futures trading in Bombay under the Bombay Cotton Contracts Act, 1922, as a consequence of an attempted corner in September 1922, the Bombay Millowners' Association urged the EICA that "single or at any rate two hedge contracts" should at once replace the 5 hedge contracts then traded at the Association. Referring to this plea of the millowners, in his letter dated April 23, 1924, addressed to the then Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas, the President of the EICA emphasised that "whilst the millowners' are anxious to devise everything they can to stop corners, I wish to point out that they do not mention the possibility of bear raids or the unjustified and undue depression that may be caused by broadening contracts". Sir Purshotamdas further added that "the limited holding power of the Indian cultivators, and the comparative limited facilities for financing purposes that are available to the Indian middlemen and to Indian merchants, all make it necessary that the existing Hedge Contracts should not be broadened beyond a certain point lest they should lead to undue depression of prices.

Later, when it was brought to the notice of the millowners that attempt at broadening of the existing hedge contracts would be inimical to the interests of Indian cotton farmers and the trade, they reluctantly modified their stand and proposed on June 23, 1924, a reduction in the number of hedge contracts to three. Even this revised proposal did not find acceptance at a meeting of the Representative Committee of the Association held on April 28, 1925. At that meeting, the representatives of the cotton interests, except the millowners, expressed their opinion that if the proposal of the millowners were accepted, "it would tend to make the contracts attractive to sellers and would inevitably result to depreciate the values thereof" to the detriment of the cotton cultivators.

Subsequently, in May 1925, when the question of extending the Bombay Cotton Contracts Act, 1922, by five years arose, the Millowners Association once again raised the question of widening the hedge contracts and suggested to the Government of Bombay that the number of contracts should be reduced to at least four. In his reply dated October 8, 1925, to the Government of Bombay, Sir Purshotamdas explained that in its broadest aspect, this suggestion of the millowners would result in "cheaper cotton for the mills and a lower price to the cultivator". He brought to the notice of the government that "the cultivators" financial arrangements and status are at present stage of his development comparatively so primitive that he is unable to hold his cotton against artificial market depression in order to secure a fair price. Until therefore the cultivator and the up-country merchant in the course of their development get into a better position to deal with market conditions, it is undesirable to introduce a change such as this, which might prove detrimental to their interests". Not surprisingly, the government rejected the plea of the Millowners Association and extended the

operation of the Bombay Cotton Contracts Act by five more years without reducing the number of hedge contracts. King Cotton won his first battle and saved his crown of futures trading.

Threat From A Rival

The Indian Cotton Committee had recommended the establishment of the East India Cotton Association to provide for unified control of the entire cotton trade under the auspices of a single central body with a view to putting an end to the anarchy that prevailed in the cotton market earlier. But even before the Bombay Cotton Contracts Act, 1922, which led to the formation of EICA, entered the statute book, gambling in cotton rates was being carried on in what was know as "Khandi Bazar" where the dealings were not in bales, but khandies (2 bales making a khandi). These transactions were even then outside the pale of any of the controlling bodies in cotton.

Disappointingly, the Bombay Cotton Contracts Act, 1922, rendered such contracts merely void (unenforceable by law) and not illegal (punishable). Emboldened by this loophole in the law, soon after the EICA was born, the small speculators and traders, who were already nervous of the stringent regulations of the EICA over trading in hedge contracts, organised themselves into a rival trading body called "Shri Mahajan Association" in July 1925 as stated earlier.

Shri Mahajan Association adopted, as nearly as was possible for it, some of the rules of the East India Cotton Association, and started transactions in Broach Cotton, the main hedge contract of the EICA. The unit of trading adopted by this Association was only 5 bales, as against 100 bales at the EICA. Devoid of any regulations worth the name, trading at Shri Mahajan Association attracted even many a member of the EICA, who began to operate clandestinely in the ring of that Association. And, yet, for want of any documentary evidence, the EICA was helpless to prevent such illegal activities of its members. This rendered it difficult for the EICA to regulate trading in its own hedge contracts, which were more often than not influenced, directly or indirectly, by the speculative prices prevailing in the Khandi Bazar.

Unfortunately, unaware of the mechanics of futures trading and the need for unitary control over such trading, quite a few legislators then erroneously viewed Shri Mahajan Association as serving the cause of small traders and cultivators. In fact, Shri Mahajan Association merely served small speculators and unwary public of small means who dreamt of getting rich quickly by betting on cotton. The popularity of such gambling on cotton gathered momentum in the years of Great Depression (1929-33), so much so that yet another rival organisation under the name "The Indian Cotton Exchange" was actually founded in July 1932. But, as luck would have it, this new Exchange never took off the ground. Be that as it may, Shri Mahajan Association constantly posed a threat of anarchy in the cotton kingdom, and, not surprisingly, King Cotton was often hard put to it.

Constitutional Crisis

In the meanwhile, discontent was brooding among the Indian traders over the disproportionate weightage given to the European section of the trade on the Board of Directors of the East India Cotton Association under the Bombay Cotton Contracts Act, 1922. The Bombay Cotton Brokers' Association were most dissatisfied with the constitution of the Board, since the Act had offered them only 3 seats on a Board of 16, though more than half the members of the Association belonged to their class. They demanded the abolition of the panel system altogether, and the introduction of 'one man, one vote' principle in the elections to the Board. Alternatively, they clamoured for the repeal of the Act itself, which was decidedly unjust to them.

The other sections of the Indian trade, like exporters, commission agents and merchants and jaithawalas, were not unsympathetic to the demands of the brokers. They too resented the overrepresentation given to the European traders on the Board of the East India Cotton Association and the undemocratic character of its constitution. But with the alien government backing the European section of the trade to the hilt, they could hardly do anything to mend the matters. Finally in June 1930, as a protest, the Bombay Cotton Brokers Association withdrew their representatives from the Board of Directors of the East India Cotton Association. This was an ultimatum to the government. Clearly, the Association was heading for a new constitutional crisis. Sometimes had to be done soon to save King Cotton.

(To be continued)

Cotton Consumption - Cotton Year-wise

(In Lakh bales)

Month	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14 (P)	2014-15 (P)
Oct.	17.33	18.32	16.54	18.13	22.09	17.77	21.84	24.03	24.17
Nov.	17.81	16.94	16.94	18.47	21.09	18.34	21.09	22.96	25.05
Dec.	18.49	18.86	17.98	19.49	22.57	20.13	22.63	25.16	25.89
Jan.	18.22	18.54	16.93	19.54	22.1	20.33	23.30	25.19	25.77
Feb.	17.11	18.14	16.23	18.81	20.23	20.31	22.24	23.22	24.64
March	18.39	18.45	17.51	20.01	21.77	20.38	23.61	25.07	26.17
April	18.06	17.98	17.12	20.53	20.17	20.31	23.22	24.32	25.72
May	17.89	18.95	17.83	20.93	18.64	21.27	22.85	24.38	25.42
June	17.85	18.55	18.01	20.71	18.23	21.17	22.51	24.11	
July	18.42	18.50	18.98	22.11	19	22.14	24.11	24.54	
Aug.	18.58	17.62	18.59	21.73	18.64	22.08	24.23	24.46	
Sept.	18.03	16.90	18.29	21.42	21.71	21.46	23.70	25.81	
TOTAL	**216.18**	**217.75**	**210.96**	**241.88**	**246.23**	**245.47**	**275.34**	**293.24**	**202.83**

P - Provisional

Source : Office of the Textile Commissioner

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
August	114.10	84.40	92.71	74.00
September	116.86	84.15	90.09	73.38
October	110.61	81.95	89.35	70.34
November	104.68	80.87	84.65	67.53
December	95.45	83.37	87.49	68.30
January	101.11	85.51	90.96	67.35
February	100.75	89.71	94.05	69.84
March	99.50	94.45	96.95	69.35
April	99.94	92.68	94.20	71.70
May	88.53	92.70	92.71	72.89
June	82.18	93.08	90.90	72.35
July	83.97	92.62	84.01	73.82

Source: Cotton Outlook

COTTON ASSOCIATION OF INDIA
Established 1921

COTTON STATISTICS & NEWS

ADVERTISEMENT RATES

effective from April 2014

RATES PER INSERTION

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Half Page	Rs. 6,000	Rs. 6,500

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148x210 mm (+ Bleed)

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Cotton Green (East), Mumbai – 400 033
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Email: publications@caionline.in

UPCOUNTRY SPOT RATES

(Rs./Qtl)

Sr. No.	Growth	Grade Standard	Grade	Staple	Micronaire	Strength /GPT	Spot Rate (Upcountry) 2014-15 Crop JULY 2015					
	Standard Descriptions with Basic Grade & Staple in Millimetres based on Upper Half Mean Length [By law 66 (A) (a) (4)]						6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th
1	P/H/R	ICS-101	Fine	Below 22mm	5.0-7.0	15	9617 (34200)	9617 (34200)	9533 (33900)	9533 (33900)	9533 (33900)	9533 (33900)
2	P/H/R	ICS-201	Fine	Below 22mm	5.0-7.0	15	9758 (34700)	9758 (34700)	9673 (34400)	9673 (34400)	9673 (34400)	9673 (34400)
3	GUJ	ICS-102	Fine	22mm	4.0-6.0	20	6861 (24400)	6917 (24600)	6974 (24800)	7002 (24900)	7030 (25000)	7030 (25000)
4	KAR	ICS-103	Fine	23mm	4.0-5.5	21	7424 (26400)	7424 (26400)	7424 (26400)	7424 (26400)	7424 (26400)	7424 (26400)
5	M/M	ICS-104	Fine	24mm	4.0-5.0	23	8464 (30100)	8464 (30100)	8464 (30100)	8464 (30100)	8464 (30100)	8464 (30100)
6	P/H/R	ICS-202	Fine	26mm	3.5-4.9	26	9983 (35500)	9954 (35400)	9926 (35300)	9926 (35300)	9926 (35300)	9926 (35300)
7	M/M/A	ICS-105	Fine	26mm	3.0-3.4	25	8352 (29700)	8352 (29700)	8352 (29700)	8352 (29700)	8352 (29700)	8352 (29700)
8	M/M/A	ICS-105	Fine	26mm	3.5-4.9	25	8886 (31600)	8886 (31600)	8886 (31600)	8886 (31600)	8886 (31600)	8886 (31600)
9	P/H/R	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.5.4.9	26	10039 (35700)	10011 (35600)	9983 (35500)	9983 (35500)	9983 (35500)	9983 (35500)
10	M/M/A	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.0-3.4	26	8633 (30700)	8633 (30700)	8633 (30700)	8633 (30700)	8633 (30700)	8633 (30700)
11	M/M/A	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.5-4.9	26	9111 (32400)	9111 (32400)	9111 (32400)	9111 (32400)	9111 (32400)	9111 (32400)
12	P/H/R	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.5-4.9	27	10179 (36200)	10151 (36100)	10123 (36000)	10123 (36000)	10123 (36000)	10123 (36000)
13	M/M/A	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.5-4.9	27	9280 (33000)	9280 (33000)	9223 (32800)	9195 (32700)	9223 (32800)	9223 (32800)
14	GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.5-4.9	27	9476 (33700)	9533 (33900)	9476 (33700)	9476 (33700)	9448 (33600)	9448 (33600)
15	M/M/A/K	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.5-4.9	28	9505 (33800)	9505 (33800)	9420 (33500)	9364 (33300)	9336 (33200)	9336 (33200)
16	GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.5-4.9	28	9673 (34400)	9729 (34600)	9617 (34200)	9617 (34200)	9645 (34300)	9645 (34300)
17	M/M/A/K	ICS-105	Fine	30mm	3.5-4.9	29	9617 (34200)	9617 (34200)	9533 (33900)	9476 (33700)	9448 (33600)	9448 (33600)
18	M/M/A/K/T/O	ICS-105	Fine	31mm	3.5-4.9	30	9842 (35000)	9842 (35000)	9842 (35000)	9842 (35000)	9842 (35000)	9842 (35000)
19	A/K/T/O	ICS-106	Fine	32mm	3.5-4.9	31	10123 (36000)	10123 (36000)	10123 (36000)	10123 (36000)	10123 (36000)	10123 (36000)
20	M(P)/K/T	ICS-107	Fine	34mm	3.0-3.8	33	12373 (44000)	12373 (44000)	12373 (44000)	12373 (44000)	12373 (44000)	12373 (44000)

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