

Weekly Publication of



**Cotton
Association
of India**

COTTON STATISTICS & NEWS

Edited & Published by Amar Singh

2018-19 • No. 18 • 31st July, 2018 Published every Tuesday

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CITI CDRA's Cotton Projects - An Impetus to Cotton Production in Jodhpur District of Rajasthan

With his rich and varied experience in cotton, cotton yarn and textiles for nearly five decades, Shri. P.D. Patodia has represented a number of Textile Bodies, Councils and Trade Organisations dealing with Cotton, Textile Mills, Export Organisations for the promotion of textiles.

He is the past Chairman of the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI) and also of The Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council of India (TEXPROCIL). He was the President of the Federation of Indian Export Organisation (FIEO) and also the past President of Cotton Association of India (CAI) and Former Member of the Managing Committee of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

Under his leadership the CITI CDRA has made rapid strides through cotton collaborative project in improving cotton production and productivity in rain dependent cotton growing areas of Lower Rajasthan. CITI/CDRA is now working on improving quality and production of Extra Long Staple (ELS) Cotton. Shri. Patodia is the Chairman and Mg. Director of Prime Urban (Dev) India Ltd. and partner in Standard Cotton Corp and also the Convenor for the Subcommittee on CITI's COTTON Development and Research Association. (CITI-CDRA).



GUEST COLUMN

Shri. P.D. Patodia

Convenor, Sub Committee on CITI CDRA

The Confederation of Indian Textile Industry's (CITI) Cotton Development and Research Association (CDRA) in collaboration with State Agriculture Department of Rajasthan, Bayer Crop Science (BCS) and the Rajasthan Textile Mills Association, Jaipur (RTMA) launched a cotton collaborative project in Jodhpur district along with Ajmer, Nagaur and Pali districts in 2012-13. The project aimed at improving the yield, production and quality of cotton by encouraging cotton farmers from project areas to adapt the latest production, plant protection and Integrated Nutrient Management Technologies.

Towards that end, the project farmers were given continuous training and on field guidance to cover the whole gamut of cotton cultivation right from soil testing to clean cotton harvesting practices. Scientists from Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Jodhpur, Agriculture Research Station, Jodhpur, Bayer Crop Science, Agriculture officers and Project coordinator/Project officers were involved in training project staff and project farmers. During the past six years, the cotton scene in Jodhpur district has undergone a change

as would be evident from the following:

Area of Operation of the Project

The project was implemented in six major cotton growing clusters of the district. This included Baori, Borunda, Bhopalgarh, Bhilara, Phalodi and Osian

clusters. Nearly 75 % of the total area of the district under cotton at 116770 acres was covered under the project in 2017-18.

Project Infrastructure

The infrastructure created for implementing the project by CITI CDRA supplemented the extension efforts of the State Agriculture Department right from village to district level, through well-coordinated awareness activities like Kisan Goshtis, Farmers' Field Schools, Farm visits, Farmers' Training and Awareness Camps. These efforts were strengthened by technical support of scientists from the district Krishi Vigyan Kendra Agriculture Research Station, Jodhpur, and Bayer Crop Science who participated in all the activities of the project.



Dr. Asif Tanweer, G.M., DCS and Shri. Yashveer Chaudhary, R.M. Jodhpur answering the points raised by the scouts during the training programme held in the conference hall of the Dy. Director of Agriculture, Jodhpur.

Proactive Support of the State Government

While implementing the project, the pro-active support of the State Government facilitated close coordination with the State Agriculture Department from village to district level and also scientists from KVK and Agriculture University of Jodhpur.



Meeting with Dy. Director of Agriculture / Agriculture officers from Ajmer, Pall, Nagpur and Jodhpur districts held at Jodhpur.

Front Line Demonstration Programme

The CITI CDRA also implemented Front Line Demonstration (FLD) programme sponsored by the Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Govt. of India for dissemination of cotton production and Integrated Pest Management Technologies in the above clusters for two years

(2012-13 and 2013-14). Thereafter the programme was implemented by the CITI CDRA and Bayer Crop Science for two more years (2014-15 and 2015-16). Thus, 312 FLDS of one acre each were implemented in 149 villages from the six clusters during this period and the farmers received input subsidy worth Rs. 6.24 lakhs.

Clusterwise Profile of Prominent Bt Hybrids in the District

The following prominent Bt hybrids dominated cotton cultivation in the five clusters:

1. Osian-Ajit 155 , Surpass 7007, Ankur Jai
2. Phalodi -Rasi 134, JK and Ankur
3. Bhilara- Ajit 155, mahyco 6401 and Shriram 6488
4. Bhopalgarh- Surpass 7007, Rasi 557 , Shriram 6488, Pancham 551 and Krishidhan
5. Baori- Surpass 7007, Ajit 155, Pancham 551 and Krishidhan.

Emphasis on Good Agriculture Practices

While implementing the cotton projects in the district for the past 6 years , the CITI CDRA laid emphasis on adaption of good agriculture practices by the project farmers . These included adaption of Gap filling to ensure adequate plant population for optimising production, weed free clean cotton cultivation including keeping borders free from parthanium weeds, soil test based application of micro nutrients and need based use of fertilizers, ETL based pest and disease management through continuous surveillance by project scouts and farmers, checking of flower and boll shedding through use of NAA (Planofix), training farmers in safe use of pesticides and clean kapas picking, storage and transportation for controlling trash in lint cotton.



Nursery of seedlings ready for gap - filling in Jodhpur district.

Promoting Cultivation of Bt Cotton Hybrids Having Higher Lint Recovery

The CITI CDRA made conscious efforts under its cotton project to promote cultivation of cotton Bt cotton hybrids like Surpass 7007 having higher lint recovery in project areas. Such hybrids have become popular among the project farmers because they got high production and a premium of Rs. 200-250 per quintal of kapas over prevailing market rate due to higher lint recovery. Today Bt hybrids like Surpass 7007 have become the most preferred Bt hybrids in the district.



Shri. S.A. Ghorpade, Advisor, CITI CDRA discussing the progress of the projects in Rajasthan with Shri. R.G. Sharma, Joint Director, Agriculture, Directorate of Agriculture, Govt. of Rajasthan.

Enhanced Awareness Regarding Reduction of Cost of Cultivation

For reduction in cost of cotton cultivation, the CITI CDRA's project activities not only created awareness among the project farmers regarding need based application of inputs like fertilizers and



Dignitaries at the Kisan Mela held at village Soyala on 26th July 2013. Shri. R.K. Nolkha Chairman, RTMA, Shri. P.D. Patodia, Chairman, Standing Committee on Cotton, CITI and Dr. A.K. Dahma, Vice Chancellor, Swami Keshwanand Rajasthan Agriculture University, Bikaner are seen in the picture.



A view of farmers gathering at Farmers Meet at Village Soyala, Dist. Jodhpur held on 26th July 2013

pesticides, but also encouraged them to adapt low cost technologies for pest / disease management like use of Pheromone traps, installation of bird perches and yellow sticky traps, use of bio-pesticides like neem oil and neem leaf extracts (NKSE).

Changed Cotton Scene in Jodhpur District

The noticeable changes that have taken place during the past six years in cotton economy of Jodhpur district are as under:

Area Under Cotton Increased by 144%.

Before launching of the project in the district in 2011-12 area under cotton was 47753 acres and within 6 years of project it has reached 116770 in 2017-18, an increase of 144%. The year wise increase in the area under cotton subsequent to launching of cotton collaborative project in Jodhpur district will be evident from the following data:

Year	Area under cotton in Acres
2011-12	47753
2012-13	65525
2013-14	89915
2014-15	105965
2015-16	107898
2016-17	101290
2017-18	116770

Source: Department of Agriculture, Jodhpur.

Cotton Production Increase by 193%

The production at 95505 quintals of kapas in 2011-12 reached estimated 280206 quintals in 2017-18 as per the details of the district Agriculture department of Jodhpur.

Cotton Figures Among Major Cash Crops in the District

Unlike in the past, today cotton crop figures as one of the major cash crops in the district providing large scale seasonal employment to labour in farming, transportation and kapas processing.

Expansion of Kapas Processing Infrastructure

In keeping with the increase in production of cotton in the district, infrastructure to process kapas expanded considerably in each cluster as would be evident from the following data:

Name of cluster	No. of ginning factories before the project	Addition of ginning factories during the project period	Total ginning units
Osian	4	5	9
Phalodi	1	2	3
Bilara	12	18	30
Bhopalgarh	20	28	48
Baori	10	5	15
Total	47	58	105

Noticeable Improvement in Cotton Yield in Project Areas

The average yield in the project areas as worked out on the basis of randomised data of the production of 20% of the project farmers during the past six years was as under:

Year	Yield in Kgs of lint per hectare
2012-13	966
2013-14	858
2014-15	1020
2015-16	857
2016-17	1038
2017-18	1042

With the improvement in yield, the income of cotton farmers from the project areas has also gone up considerably.

Quality of cotton from Jodhpur district is found to be among the best in the country. Quality

parameters of some of the prominent Bt hybrids grown in the districts during 2017-18 season were as under:

Name of Cluster	Variety	2.5% sl mm	UR %	MIC	Tenacity	Ginning %
Bilara	Mahyco 6401	29.1	53	3.6	24.7	37.90
Bilara	Ajit 11155	26.7	54	3.7	22.4	38.52
Bhopalgarh	Gujarat Hybrid	24.3	53	3.3	20.4	38.97
Bhopalgarh	Gajab Amar Biotech	26.5	54	3.9	21.5	39.43
Baori	Tulsi-4 BG II	26.1	52	3.7	21.4	39.88
Baori	Ronak 555	29.6	50	3.7	22.4	39.03
Osian	Ankur Jai-BG II	33.0	47	4.1	22.0	33.85
Osian	Sriram-6488	28.9	50	3.7	22.2	36.57
Phalodi	Bayer Surpass 7007	31.1	49	3.6	24.4	32.17
Phalodi	Rasi 131	31.0	52	3.7	23.7	32.28

Outlook for Future

In the cotton growing districts of Lower Rajasthan, cotton and soyabean are the main competing cash crops. Depending upon the market rates of these crops and the rainfall pattern in a particular season, farmers decide the cash crop to be cultivated in a particular year. Therefore, area under cotton varies from year to year. However, unlike other districts of Lower Rajasthan, Jodhpur district despite its lowest annual rainfall (about 350 mm) is known to cultivate cotton, soyabean beside other cash crops like cumin, istabgul, methi (grain) gaur, castor, etc. Even then cotton cultivation is on the rise and therefore this trend is likely to continue in years to come, as is evident from the number of ginning units put up in the district during the past six years.

Courtesy: Cotton India 2018 (Domestic)

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

COTTON EXCHANGE MARCHES AHEAD

Madhoo Pavaskar, Rama Pavaskar

Chapter 8

Cotton Exchange Goes Global

(Contd. from Issue No. 5)

Cotton Contract Controversy

At the Melbourne meet, Mr. Suresh Kotak stressed these points and advocated the process of slow “transformation” through market forces as opposed to rigid “implementation” of the new regulations as proposed by the ITMF. Finally, since the cotton associations did not support the Check List of the Spinners Committee, the ITMF in its Annual Meeting held at Venice in Italy between September 26 and 29, 1999 circulated its Check List as “Guidelines for Purchasing Raw Cotton”. These Guidelines were subsequently published and distributed widely by the ITMF to both the spinners and cotton suppliers through its members and associate members. Thus, a curtain was drawn for the time being on this most controversial issue between the spinners and the suppliers of raw cotton.

In the next meeting of the ITMF held during September 24-27, 2000 at Cape Town in South Africa, there was yet another strong demand from the ITMF for the inclusion of short staple percentage in the cotton contracts, as also for levying penalties for any infringement of such percentage as specifically provided in the contracts. The Cotton Exchange did not favour the inclusion of short fibre percentage in the cotton contracts and proposed that any such clause must also wait till its need is strongly felt by the international market forces in cotton.

The cotton contract controversy between the spinners and the cotton merchants thus continues. The last word on the subject has still not been spelt out. But while the ITMF Guidelines for Purchasing Raw Cotton based on the HVI style technical specifications for fibre quality and more exacting contractual obligations for shipment

delays and supply of off-quality cotton have not been adopted so far by the cotton organizations the world over, the association of the Cotton Exchange with the ITMF has undoubtedly helped the Exchange to move up on the learning curve and face the challenges of technological developments. This is now unmistakably reflected in the quality specifications and other terms as defined by the Cotton Exchange for its futures contract, namely, the Indian Cotton Contract. The Cotton Exchange

is thus gearing up its members to face the inevitable, when the technical specifications by HVI style and other more stringent contractual obligations would eventually find their way into the international cotton marketing system.

ICAC Meetings

The International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC), with its headquarters in Washington D.C. (U.S.A.), is an inter-governmental forum set up in 1939 on the initiative of the U.S. government, which was then facing the problem of cotton surpluses in its production. ICAC represents about 50 member countries whose governments discuss matters on

cotton, and more particularly those related to the government policies affecting cotton production, prices, marketing, consumption and international trade. ICAC has a consultancy status with the United Nations as well as its specialised agencies, and co-operates closely with other international cotton organizations.

The main functions of the ICAC are :

- (a) to observe and analyse all developments affecting the world cotton situations;
- (b) to collect and disseminate comprehensive, authentic and timely statistical data and



information on world cotton production, exports and imports, consumption, stocks and prices;

- (c) to recommend to the member-governments appropriate policy measures for the furtherance of international collaboration with due regard to maintaining and developing a sound world cotton economy ; and
- (d) to provide a forum for discussions among the member countries on various aspects of cotton such as productivity, fibre quality, prices, competitiveness with its substitutes like man-made fibres, etc.

The plenary meetings of the ICAC are held annually in different countries at the invitations of the member governments. The representatives of some of the non-member countries and international organizations also attend these annual sessions as observers. The plenary meetings are quite educative and informative, since several eminent international experts on cotton present their views. They also shed much light on the government policies adopted by different member countries to resolve the specific problems facing their respective cotton economies.

Till the end of 1960s, the Cotton Exchange had a proud privilege of its representative being nominated by the Government of India as a leader of the Indian delegation. Thus, late Mr. R.G. Saraiya, the doyen of Indian cotton trade during the 1960s and 1970s, often led the Indian delegation to the Annual Plenary Sessions of ICAC. Mr. Saraiya was actively associated with the working of the Cotton Exchange for almost five decades since its inception, and made a significant contribution to the development of various activities at the Exchange, including the blind survey system, during his life time. When India hosted the ICAC meeting in 1963, Mr. Saraiya was the leader of the Indian delegation, while late Mr. Madanmohan R. Ruia, the then President of E.I.C.A., was the alternate leader.

But with the subsequent state intervention in cotton marketing and the establishment of the public sector Cotton Corporation of India, a senior official of the Union Ministry of Textiles began to lead the Indian delegation. Yet, the authorities could not do without the support and co-operation of the Cotton Exchange, which always

had the first-hand information and knowledge on international cotton developments. The President of E.I.C.A. is therefore invariably included in the delegation representing India. Quite a few members of the Cotton Exchange also attend the ICAC plenary meetings as observers.

At the behest of the Cotton Exchange, the Government of India extended an invitation to the ICAC to hold its 52nd Plenary Meeting in India. The meeting was held in New Delhi from October 11 to 15, 1993. The Cotton Exchange was one of the co-sponsors of this plenary session, and assisted the Ministry of Textiles in several ways for the success of the meeting. Aside from Mr. Mirani, the then President of E.I.C.A., who was also a member of the Indian delegation, the Cotton Exchange deputed as many as 70 observers to participate in the plenary meeting. The ICAC also honoured Mr. Mirani by nominating him as one of the vice-chairpersons of the 52nd Plenary Session. To commemorate this memorable occasion for the country, the Cotton Exchange brought out a Souvenir, "Indian Cotton - Today and Tomorrow", containing very many interesting articles on various facets of the Indian cotton economy from eminent authorities in India and abroad. Several overseas participants at the meeting appreciated the efforts of the E.I.C.A.'s COTAAP Research Foundation to improve cotton productivity, and even contributed generously to the Fund set up by the Foundation.

Not only have the Cotton Exchange representatives been attending regularly the annual meetings of the ICAC, but they often present useful papers on pivotal aspects of the Indian cotton economy. Thus, at the 56th Plenary Meeting of the ICAC held at Asuncion in Paraguay from October 27 to 31, 1997, Mr. Suresh Kotak, the President of the East India Cotton Association, who was one of the five delegates representing India, read an analytical and educative paper on "Improving Cotton's Competitiveness in Developing Countries - The Case of India". In this paper, Mr. Kotak suggested many practical measures for adoption by the cotton producing countries to improve the competitiveness of cotton vis-a vis man-made fibres and its share in the total fibre consumption by the textile industry. The ICAC appreciated Mr. Kotak's valuable suggestions and incorporated these in a separate Annexure to the Statement of the Plenary Meeting issued at its conclusion.

To be continued...

Production of Man-Made Filament Yarn

(In Mn. kg.)

Year/Month	Viscose Filament yarn	Polyester Filament yarn	Nylon Filament yarn	Poly propylene Filament yarn	Total
2016-17 (P)	46.07	1060.41	41.00	11.45	1158.93
2017-18 (P)	47.02	1090.12	39.38	10.90	1187.42
2018-19 (P) (Apr-May)	7.56	173.84	6.97	1.84	190.21
2016-17					
April	3.78	84.08	3.30	0.96	92.12
May	3.88	85.31	3.38	0.96	93.53
June	3.90	84.93	3.27	0.95	93.05
July	3.98	89.83	3.46	0.99	98.26
August	3.97	90.88	3.38	0.97	99.20
September	3.75	89.11	3.67	0.96	97.49
October	3.89	93.00	3.69	1.05	101.63
November	3.78	86.49	3.06	0.77	94.10
December	3.84	84.59	2.76	0.80	91.99
January	3.87	93.21	3.77	1.10	101.95
February	3.56	85.78	3.49	0.89	93.72
March	3.87	93.20	3.77	1.05	101.89
2017-18 (P)					
April	3.81	89.41	3.24	0.85	97.31
May	3.82	92.68	3.49	0.79	100.78
June	3.69	90.84	3.27	0.90	98.70
July	4.03	96.53	2.96	0.95	104.47
August	3.98	97.09	3.07	0.91	105.05
September	3.90	91.96	3.09	0.92	99.87
October	4.00	88.04	3.30	0.93	96.27
November	4.06	84.34	3.31	0.82	92.53
December	4.46	90.02	3.29	0.87	98.64
January	3.85	94.38	3.45	1.03	102.71
February	3.54	83.63	2.96	1.00	91.13
March	3.88	91.20	3.95	0.93	99.96
2018-19 (P)					
April	3.77	89.97	3.58	0.92	98.24
May	3.79	83.87	3.39	0.92	91.97

P - Provisional

Source : Office of the Textile Commissioner

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) 2017-18 Crop JULY 2018					
Sr. No.	Growth	Grade Standard	Grade	Staple	Micronaire	Strength /GPT	23rd	24th	25th	26th	27th	28th
1	P/H/R	ICS-101	Fine	Below 22mm	5.0-7.0	15	12598 (44800)	12598 (44800)	12598 (44800)	12598 (44800)	12598 (44800)	12598 (44800)
2	P/H/R	ICS-201	Fine	Below 22mm	5.0-7.0	15	12738 (45300)	12738 (45300)	12738 (45300)	12738 (45300)	12738 (45300)	12738 (45300)
3	GUJ	ICS-102	Fine	22mm	4.0-6.0	20	8830 (31400)	8886 (31600)	8886 (31600)	8942 (31800)	8998 (32000)	8998 (32000)
4	KAR	ICS-103	Fine	23mm	4.0-5.5	21	10151 (36100)	10151 (36100)	10151 (36100)	10179 (36200)	10179 (36200)	10179 (36200)
5	M/M	ICS-104	Fine	24mm	4.0-5.0	23	11051 (39300)	11051 (39300)	11051 (39300)	11051 (39300)	11051 (39300)	11051 (39300)
6	P/H/R	ICS-202	Fine	26mm	3.5-4.9	26	12963 (46100)	12907 (45900)	12907 (45900)	12963 (46100)	12963 (46100)	12879 (45800)
7	M/M/A	ICS-105	Fine	26mm	3.0-3.4	25	10657 (37900)	10742 (38200)	10742 (38200)	10826 (38500)	10826 (38500)	10826 (38500)
8	M/M/A	ICS-105	Fine	26mm	3.5-4.9	25	11220 (39900)	11135 (39600)	11135 (39600)	11192 (39800)	11192 (39800)	11192 (39800)
9	P/H/R	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.5-4.9	26	13020 (46300)	12963 (46100)	12963 (46100)	13020 (46300)	13020 (46300)	12935 (46000)
10	M/M/A	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.0-3.4	26	11164 (39700)	11248 (40000)	11248 (40000)	11332 (40300)	11332 (40300)	11332 (40300)
11	M/M/A	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.5-4.9	26	11698 (41600)	11614 (41300)	11614 (41300)	11754 (41800)	11754 (41800)	11754 (41800)
12	P/H/R	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.5-4.9	27	13076 (46500)	13020 (46300)	13020 (46300)	13076 (46500)	13076 (46500)	12991 (46200)
13	M/M/A	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.5-4.9	27	12598 (44800)	12598 (44800)	12598 (44800)	12682 (45100)	12795 (45500)	12795 (45500)
14	GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.5-4.9	27	12935 (46000)	12935 (46000)	12935 (46000)	12991 (46200)	13104 (46600)	13104 (46600)
15	M/M/A/K	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.5-4.9	28	13104 (46600)	13104 (46600)	13104 (46600)	13188 (46900)	13216 (47000)	13216 (47000)
16	GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.5-4.9	28	13441 (47800)	13441 (47800)	13441 (47800)	13498 (48000)	13526 (48100)	13526 (48100)
17	M/M/A/K	ICS-105	Fine	30mm	3.5-4.9	29	13469 (47900)	13469 (47900)	13469 (47900)	13526 (48100)	13554 (48200)	13554 (48200)
18	M/M/A/K/T/O	ICS-105	Fine	31mm	3.5-4.9	30	13694 (48700)	13694 (48700)	13694 (48700)	13751 (48900)	13751 (48900)	13751 (48900)
19	A/K/T/O	ICS-106	Fine	32mm	3.5-4.9	31	14229 (50600)	14229 (50600)	14229 (50600)	14229 (50600)	14229 (50600)	14229 (50600)
20	M(P)/K/T	ICS-107	Fine	34mm	3.0-3.8	33	17350 (61700)	17350 (61700)	17350 (61700)	17434 (62000)	17434 (62000)	17434 (62000)

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