

**Technical Analysis** Price outlook for Gujarat-ICS-105, 29mm and ICE cotton futures for the period 07/08/18 to 31/08/18

(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.

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 edged higher marginally on MCX due to weather Shri Gnanasekar Thiagarajan related reasons though volatile international prices were weighing

on the markets. The prices skyrocketed to record highs in the domestic market on expectations of higher export demand and lower supply

• The demand for export requirements is predominantly bolstering the price. Amid concerns over a trade spat between the US and China, Chinese importers have now turned to India for meeting their cotton demand. Accusing China of theft of intellectual property and unfair trade practices, the US recently imposed tariffs on Chinese imports. As a retaliatory measure, China too slapped duties on American products, which worsened their trade relations.

 Also, India doubled the import tax on more than 300 textile products to 20 percent on Tuesday, as the world's biggest producer of cotton tried to curb rising imports from China. Rising imports sent India's trade deficit with China in textile

> products to a record high \$1.54 billion in 2017/18, alarming industry officials as until recently, India had been a net exporter of textile products to China.

 The Cotton Association of India (CAI) has released its July estimate of the cotton crop for the season 2017-18 beginning from 1st October 2017. The CAI has maintained its cotton crop estimate for the ongoing crop year 2017-18 at 365 lakh bales of 170 kgs.

Some of the fundamental drivers for International cotton prices are:

 ICE cotton futures hit a one-week high on Tuesday after a federal report showed a deterioration in the U.S. crop condition, but prices settled lower as index funds rolled positions.

 As a result of extreme and exceptional drought across large portions of the western cotton belt, USDA's Crop Progress Report of August 6, revealed that only 40 percent of the cotton crop was in good-to-excellent condition, down from



Director, Commtrendz Research

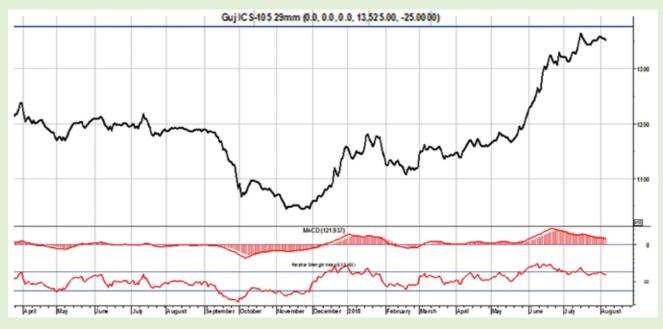
#### 2 • 7<sup>th</sup> August, 2018

57 percent in good-to-excellent condition the previous year and down from the five-year average of 51 percent. Texas, the largest cotton-producing state, has the poorest cotton crop conditions, with only 21 percent of the crop in good-to-excellent condition and 49 percent in poor-to-very-poor condition.

• Meanwhile, the market is awaiting the USDA's influential World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE) report due on Friday.



As mentioned in the previous update, prices are near a five year high and threatening to push even higher. Earlier, we were expecting positive signs hinting at further bullishness ahead, and we seem to have got that right. Only an unexpected fall below 12,300 could change the picture to neutral again. Further upside can be seen in the coming weeks towards 13700, but strong resistance will be seen, with a long-term resistance zone as seen in the chart above. Only a close above 13,700 could open the upside to 14,250 or even higher.



As mentioned previously, as per the indicators, prices could remain range bound with a bullish bias. Mild overbought conditions and divergences in the indicators hint at a corrective downward tilt in the coming sessions. Downward corrections are possible, but might not be a major one. While 13,000-300 levels hold on the downside, we can expect prices to gradually edge higher from here towards 13,700-800 levels or even higher in the coming month.

# MCX October Contract Chart

MCX The benchmark October cotton chart is moving exactly as per expectations. In our previous update, we anticipated a strong rally ahead to 23,500 levels. It has now crossed 24,000 and is nearing the long-term resistance at 24,200 being a long-term resistance level as seen in the chart above. A close above here could see prices further edging higher to 24,600 followed by the psychologically important 25,000 level. Only an unexpected fall below 23,300 could postpone the bullishness.

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

As mentioned earlier, our favoured view is still bullish. Prices were expected to edge higher towards 95-97c where strong resistances kick in. As mentioned in the previous update, a correction is underway presently and it can extend till 79-80c level. Prices hit a low of 83c and



edged higher again. While 85-86c is seen holding supports now in the coming weeks, prices could again make a shy at 97-98c on the upside. There is scope for an extension even to \$1.00. An unexpected fall below 83c could postpone the bullishness.

### **CONCLUSION:**

Both the domestic and international prices are edging back towards the multi-month highs made earlier, but it is finding it tough to cross the long-term resistances. The technical picture presently is bullish with chances of a stronger market ahead. But, prices could be in a broad range before breaking out further higher, and close above 95c. Such a move could again revive bullish hopes for the long-term target of \$110-14. The international prices indicate supports to hold on corrective declines in the coming weeks, but the medium-term picture still looks neutral to positive, while the domestic prices also look stable.

For Guj ICS supports are seen at 13,200-300 /qtl followed by 12,700-800 /qtl, and for ICE Oct cotton futures at 85-86. The Rise above 12,500 /qtl has once again revived the bullish picture in the domestic markets. In the international markets, prices are indicating either a correction or a pause before it resumes the uptrend. As mentioned earlier, prices are nearing a strong long-term resistance zone and could take a while to break it higher. The domestic technical picture has turned friendly as the international one, but it might not be a one-way streak and corrections can be expected from time to time. We favour prices to consolidate the testing support levels mentioned above and then gradually edge higher again in the coming month.

# CAI Maintains Cotton Crop for the 2017-18 Crop Year at 365 Lakh Bales; Estimated Cotton Arrivals upto July End Constitute about 97% of the Total Crop

otton Association of India (CAI) has released its July estimate of the cotton crop for the season 2017-18 beginning from 1st October 2017. The CAI has maintained its cotton crop estimate for the ongoing crop year 2017-18 at 365 lakh bales of 170 kgs. each i.e. at the same level as in the estimates made by it during the last two months. The CAI has, however, revised the State-wise crop estimate for the North Zone compared to the estimate made during the last month, based on the arrival figures upto 31st July 2018 reported by the respective States. In Punjab and Haryana, the crop estimates for the Season have been reduced by 2 lakh bales and 50,000 bales respectively compared to the estimate made during the last month. However, the crop estimates for Upper Rajasthan and Lower Rajasthan have been increased by 1.00 lakh bales and 1.50 lakh bales respectively compared to the last month based on the arrival figures. Statements containing the state-wise estimate of the cotton crop and the Balance Sheet for the crop year 2017-18 with the corresponding data for the previous year are given below.

The CAI has projected total cotton supply upto 31st July 2018 at 400.45 lakh bales which consists the arrival of 353.45 lakh bales upto 31st July 2018, imports the Committee has estimated at 11 lakh bales and the opening stock of 36 lakh bales at the beginning of the season as on 1st October 2017. Further, the Committee has estimated cotton consumption for 10 months i.e. from October 2017 to July 2018 at 270 lakh bales @ 27 lakh bales per month while the shipment of cotton till 31st July 2018 has been estimated at 67 lakh bales. The stock at the end of July 2018 is estimated at 63.45 lakh bales including 42.65 lakh bales with textile mills while the remaining 20.80 lakh bales are estimated to be held by CCI and others (MNCs, traders, ginners, etc.).

The projected yearly Balance Sheet for the Season 2017-18 drawn by the CAI has estimated

total cotton supply till end of the season i.e. upto 30th September 2018 at 416 lakh bales of 170 kgs. each which includes opening stock of 36 lakh bales at the beginning of the season. The CAI has estimated domestic consumption for the season at 324 lakh bales while the exports are estimated to be 70 lakh bales. The carry-over stock at the end of the 2017-18 season is estimated by the CAI at 22 lakh bales.

#### CAI's Estimates of Cotton Crop as on 31st July 2018 for the Seasons 2017-18 and 2016-17

			(in lakh bales)
	Produ	ction *	Arrivals
State	2017-18	2016-17	as on 31st July 2018 (2017-18)
Punjab	9.00	8.75	8.75
Haryana	23.50	20.50	22.25
Upper Rajasthan	11.00	7.25	10.85
Lower Rajasthan	12.50	9.25	12.10
Total North Zone	56.00	45.75	53.95
Gujarat	108.00	89.00	103.00
Maharashtra	82.00	88.00	81.75
Madhya Pradesh	21.25	20.50	20.75
Total Central Zone	211.25	197.50	205.50
Telangana	51.50	48.00	50.50
Andhra Pradesh	18.50	18.50	18.00
Karnataka	18.50	17.00	18.00
Tamil Nadu	5.25	5.50	3.50
Total South Zone	93.75	89.00	90.00

Total	365.00	337.25	353.45
Others	0.60	2.00	0.60
Orissa	3.40	3.00	3.40

\* Including loose

The Balance Sheet drawn by the Association for 2017-18 and 2016-17 is reproduced below:-

Details	2017-18	2016-17
Opening Stock	36.00	36.50
Production	365.00	337.25
Imports	15.00	30.94
Total Supply	416.00	404.69
Mill Consumption	280.00	262.70
Consumption by SSI Units	29.00	26.21
Non-Mill Use	15.00	21.50
Total Domestic Demand	324.00	310.41
Available Surplus	92.00	94.28
Exports	70.00	58.21
Closing Stock	22.00	36.07

(in lakh bales)

## Balance Sheet of 10 months i.e. from 1.10.2017 to 31.07.2018 for the season 2017-18

Details	(in lakh b/s of 170 kg)	(in '000 Tons)
Opening Stock as on 01.10.2017	36.00	612.00
Arrivals upto 31.07.2018	353.45	6008.65

Imports upto 31.07.2018	11.00	187.00
Total Available	400.45	6807.65
Consumption (27 Lakhs X 10 months)	270.00	4590.00
Export Shipment upto 31.07.2018	67.00	1139.00
Stock with Mills	42.65	725.05
Stock with CCI, MNCs & Ginners	20.80	353.60
Total	400.45	6807.65

### As per Cotton Association Of India Stock as on 31.07.2018

(Figures in lakh bales of 170 kg.)

State	Ginners	MNC	CCI	Total
NORTH	0.40	2.15	NIL	2.55
GUJARAT	3.00	2.00	0.10	5.10
MAHARASHTRA	2.50	2.50	0.10	5.10
ANDHRA PRADESH	0.25	1.00	0.15	1.40
TELANGANA	1.25	2.50	0.80	4.55
MADHYA PRADESH	0.85	0.15	NIL	1.00
ORISSA	0.20	0.20	0.10	0.50
KARNATAKA	0.20	0.30	0.10	0.60
TOTAL	8.65	10.80	1.35	20.80

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(₹\Quintal)		<ul> <li>M(P)/K/T</li> <li>ICS-107</li> <li>Fine</li> <li>34 mm</li> <li>3.0-3.8</li> <li>33</li> </ul>							•	17350	17322	17350	17434	17491	17434	17378	17378	17378	17378	17350	17350	17350	17350	17434	17434	17434	17434	17434	17491	17294	17368	
(F) (		A/K/T/O ICS-106 Fine 32 mm 3.5-4.9 31	13976	13919	13919	13919	13919	13976	14088	14088	14060	14088	14229	14313	14313	14257	14257	14257	14257	14229	14229	14229	14229	14229	14229	14229	14229	14285	14313	13919	14152	
		M/M/A/K/T/O / ICS-105 Fine 31 mm 3.5-4.9 30	13554	13498	13498	13498	13498	13554	13666	13610	13582	13610	13751	13835	13835	13779	13779	13779	13722	13694	13694	13694	13694	13751	13751	13751	13751	13807	13835	13498	13678	
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		GUJ ICS-105 Fine 3.5-4.9 28	13216	13132	13132	13132	13132	13188	13301	13301	13273	13357	13498	13638	13582	13526	13526	13469	13469	13441	13441	13441	13441	13498	13526	13526	13526	13582	13638	13132	13396	
		M/M/A/K ICS-105 Fine 29 mm 3.5-4.9 28	12935	12795	12795	12795	12795	12851	12935	12935	12907	12935	13076	13160	13216	13160	13160	13160	13104	13104	13104	13104	13104	13188	13216	13216	13216	13273	13273	12795	13048	
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POT	018								• •	10826 11	10798 11	10826 11	10995 11	11051 11	11051 11	10995 11	10995 11	10995 11	10995 11	11164 11	11164 11	11248 11	11248 11	11332 11	11332 11	11332 11	11332 11	11389 11	11389 11	10714 11	11011 11	= Lowest
RY S	July 2018	17							•			• •							•										• •			L = Lc
IND		20 P/H/R ICS-105 Fine 27 mm 3.5-4.9 26	13020	12991	12991	12991	12991	12991	12991	13020	13020	13020	13188	13188	13160	13076	13104	13132	13132	13104	13020	12963	12963	13020	13020	12935	12879	13020	13188	12879	13036	lest
UPCC		M/M/A ICS-105 Fine 26 mm 3.5-4.9 25	10854	10798	10798	10798	10798	10854	10911	10911	10882	10911	11051	11135	11135	11079	11079	11079	11079	11220	11220	11135	11135	11192	11192	11192	11192	11248	11248	10798	11034	= Highest L
		M/M/A ICS-105 Fine 26 mm 3.0-3.4 25	10264	10208	10208	10208	10208	10264	10320	10320	10292	10320	10489	10545	10545	10489	10489	10489	10489	10657	10657	10742	10742	10826	10826	10826	10826	10882	10882	10208	10505	Η
		P/H/R ICS-202 Fine 3.5-4.9 26 mm 3.5-4.9 26	12963	12935	12935	12935	12935	12935	12935	12963	12963	12963	13132	13132	13104	13020	13048	13076	13076	13048	12963	12907	12907	12963	12963	12879	12823	12963	13132	12823	12979	
		M/M ICS-104 Fine 4.0-5.5 23	11023	10967	10967	10967	10967	10967	10995	10995	10967	10967	11051	11107	11107	11051	11051	11051	11051	11051	11051	11051	11051	11051	11051	11051	11051	11107	11107	10967	11029	
		KAR ICS-103 Fine 23 mm 4.0-5.5 21	10179	10123	10123	10123	10123	10123	10151	10151	10123	10123	10208	10208	10208	10151	10151	10151	10151	10151	10151	10151	10151	10179	10179	10179	10179	10236	10236	10123	10159	
		GUJ ICS-102 Fine 22 mm 20 20	8942	8802	8802	8802	8802	8802	8830	8830	8802	8802	8886	8886	8886	8830	8830	8830	8830	8830	8830	8886	8886	8942	8668	8668	8668	9055	9055	8802	8870	
		P/H/R ICS-201 Fine 22 mm 5.0-7.0 15	12738	12738	2738	12738	12738	12/38	12738	12738	12738	12738	12738	12738	12738	12738	12738	12738	12738	12738	12738	12738	12738	12738	12738	12738	12738	12738	12738	12738	12738	
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				UPC	OUNTRY	SPOT R	RATES				(F	ks./Qtl)
		etres based		er Half M	de & Staple Iean Length		9	Spot Rate JU		ntry) 201 GUST 2(		р
Sr. No.	Growth	Grade Standard	Grade	Staple	Micronaire	Strength /GPT	30th	31st	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
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	8998 (32000)	9055 (32200)	8998 (32000)	8998 (32000)	9055 (32200)	9055 (32200)
4	KAR	ICS-103	Fine	23mm	4.0-5.5	21	10179 (36200)	10236 (36400)	10095 (35900)	10039 (35700)	10039 (35700)	9983 (35500)
5	M/M	ICS-104	Fine	24mm	4.0-5.0	23	11051 (39300)	11107 (39500)	11023 (39200)	10967 (39000)	10967 (39000)	10911 (38800)
6	P/H/R	ICS-202	Fine	26mm	3.5-4.9	26	12823 (45600)	12963 (46100)	12963 (46100)	12935 (46000)	12935 (46000)	12879 (45800)
7	M/M/A	ICS-105	Fine	26mm	3.0-3.4	25	10826 (38500)	10882 (38700)	10939 (38900)	10939 (38900)	10939 (38900)	10939 (38900)
8	M/M/A	ICS-105	Fine	26mm	3.5-4.9	25	11192 (39800)	11248 (40000)	11248 (40000)	11248 (40000)	11248 (40000)	11192 (39800)
9	P/H/R	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.5.4.9	26	12879 (45800)	13020 (46300)	13020 (46300)	12991 (46200)	12991 (46200)	12935 (46000)
10	M/M/A	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.0-3.4	26	11332 (40300)	11389 (40500)	11445 (40700)	11445 (40700)	11445 (40700)	11445 (40700)
11	M/M/A	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.5-4.9	26	11754 (41800)	11810 (42000)	11810 (42000)	11810 (42000)	11810 (42000)	11810 (42000)
12	P/H/R	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.5-4.9	27	12935 (46000)	13076 (46500)	13076 (46500)	13048 (46400)	13048 (46400)	12991 (46200)
13	M/M/A	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.5-4.9	27	12795 (45500)	12851 (45700)	12851 (45700)	12851 (45700)	12851 (45700)	12851 (45700)
14	GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.5-4.9	27	13104 (46600)	13160 (46800)	13160 (46800)	13132 (46700)	13132 (46700)	13104 (46600)
15	M/M/A/K	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.5-4.9	28	13216 (47000)	13273 (47200)	13273 (47200)	13273 (47200)	13273 (47200)	13273 (47200)
16	GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.5-4.9	28	13526 (48100)	13582 (48300)	13582 (48300)	13554 (48200)	13554 (48200)	13526 (48100)
17	M/M/A/K	ICS-105	Fine	30mm	3.5-4.9	29	13554 (48200)	13610 (48400)	13610 (48400)	13610 (48400)	13610 (48400)	13582 (48300)
18	M/M/A/K/T/O	ICS-105	Fine	31mm	3.5-4.9	30	13751 (48900)	13807 (49100)	13807 (49100)	13807 (49100)	13807 (49100)	13807 (49100)
19	A/K/T/O	ICS-106	Fine	32mm	3.5-4.9	31	14229 (50600)	14285 (50800)	14341 (51000)	14341 (51000)	14341 (51000)	14341 (51000)
20	M(P)/K/T	ICS-107	Fine	34mm	3.0-3.8	33	17434 (62000)	17434 (62000)	17575 (62500)	17575 (62500)	17575 (62500)	17575 (62500)

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