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Cotton Association of India

COTTON STATISTICS & NEWS

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Frequently Asked Questions About Biotech Cotton II

(ICAC Recorder)

(Continued from issue No.17 dated July 23, 2013...)

How Can Resistance in Weeds Be Delayed or Avoided?

Multiple applications of a particular chemical, whether it is an insecticide or a herbicide, will inevitably increase the chances for development of resistance. It is apparent that more serious efforts have been made to avoid the development of resistance by insects/ bollworms that attack insect-resistant biotech cotton. One psychological reason behind this is the lesson learned from insecticide use on normal cotton. Certain insects were notorious; certain chemicals were more liable to develop resistance in insects, and certain practices in the use of chemicals favored the development of resistance. Insecticide

use is more popular than herbicide use and, therefore, researchers and farmers had a greater amount of experience in handling resistance in insects. Now we have the herbicide resistance problem. It is here and it can be dealt with only by attacking it with the full arsenal of techniques available: alternating herbicides with different modes of action, using the minimum number of applications of any one herbicide per season, mixing herbicides with different modes of action (when possible), opting for short-residual-effect herbicides, rotating crops with different growth seasons, planting crops with different registered herbicides and, by not entirely eliminating tillage from the production system.

Are Biotech Cottons Safe in the Long Term?

By now the cotton industry has 17 years of experience with large-scale commercial production and marketing of biotech cottons. It was claimed by biotech companies that the proteins in the currently available insect-resistant biotech cotton have a history of safe use. Most of the alleged negative impacts have proved untrue, or cannot be authenticated on science based facts. However, reports of the consequences of using cry genes still persist. The resistance problem

was perceived even prior to the introduction of biotech cotton, but the fear that a bacterial gene residing within the cotton genome could have consequences has proved unsubstantiated so far. Earlier reports about excessive boll shedding in biotech cotton (in the USA) were also unrelated to transgenes. The reports have shown that biotech genes interact with different varieties differently and their effectiveness is dependent on growing conditions -- true for any biological trait -- but nevertheless an indication that consequences could be different in different production systems.

There has not been any trade impediment for countries producing biotech cotton. Australia and Burkina Faso export most of their production and have encountered no evidence of market bias against products emanating from biotechnology. But this does not mean that all biotech products are entirely safe and there is absolutely no guarantee that future biotech products will perform satisfactorily on a par with currently commercialized biotech events in cotton. Without any monitoring of instances of misuse, biotechnology can potentially lead to the development of products that may have short-term benefits, but long term negative consequences. While a new gene or event that has been thoroughly tested and approved in one country will probably have minimal implications elsewhere under similar production conditions, newer genes/events definitely require extensive testing, including testing with respect to environmental impacts.

What New Products Can Be Expected to Be Released in the Next Five Years?

ICAC estimates that 37% of the world cotton area lacks assured irrigation and that the 63% that is irrigated also suffers from irregular and/or insufficient supplies of water. It is often the case that irrigation water is not available on time for optimum water uptake and timely application of fertilizers. Assured availability of irrigation water in sufficient quantities and when it is needed can boost the world cotton yield by about 30%. It is estimated that the world average yield under irrigated conditions in 2009/10 was 881 kg lint per hectare, compared to 631 kg/ha under rainfed conditions. A lot of work has been done to identify plant parameters that impact water requirements and use, but exhaustive research efforts to develop drought tolerant varieties through conventional methods have not been successful. Reports show that Monsanto has received regulatory approval for its 'DroughtGard' corn, a variety that contains the first genetically modified trait for drought resistance. DroughtGard is expected to reduce the water requirements of the corn plant and minimize the impact of drought on yield, thus helping to avoid losses. Once the technology is commercially released for corn, it will pave the way for general adoption in cotton. The target of research efforts should be equal performance under irrigated and non-irrigated conditions.

The other new technology that is considered to be close to commercialization is nitrogen-use-efficient cotton. Nutrient use efficiency can be defined in many ways but, in cotton, it may be defined as yield of seedcotton per unit of fertilizers/ nutrients applied. Similarly, nitrogen-use efficiency in cotton might be calculated as a function of kilograms of seedcotton produced per kilogram of nitrogen applied. Nitrogen applications are always required and the most important challenge in this regard is matching the nitrogen needs of the plant as accurately as possible. The plant's need for nitrogen changes with crop growth, so both excessive and insufficient applications of nitrogen can have a negative impact on yield. Nitrogen-use efficiency will depend on the ability of the plant to efficiently take up nitrogen from the soil and effectively transport, store, mobilize and use it inside the plant. Ultimately, nitrogen-use-efficient cotton can even benefit the environment, as it would be able to make better use of naturally available nitrogen and help lower the doses of nitrogen application without affecting yields. In other words, the impact of nitrogen deficiency stress would be minimized. But increased yields and reduced nitrogen application rates are only two of the benefits. Other advantages of nitrogen use-efficient cotton would be: reduction of the impact on climate change (reduced CO2 emissions), less freshwater contamination, less toxification and acidification of soils, as well as reduction of the nutrient content in the soil which leads to oxygen scarcity.

It is believed that both technologies are in what Monsanto describes as phase 3 or phase 4, the advanced development and pre-launch stages, respectively.

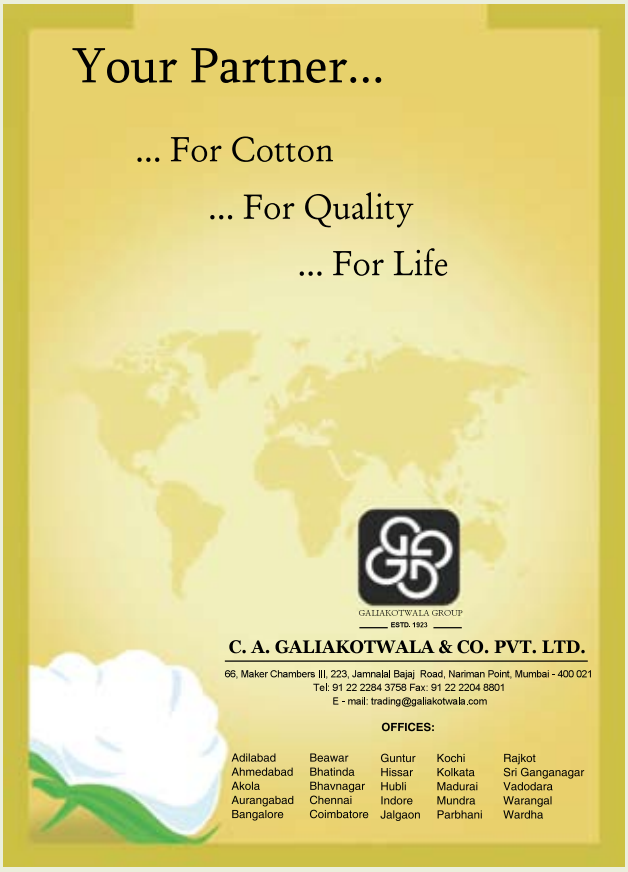
(Concluded)

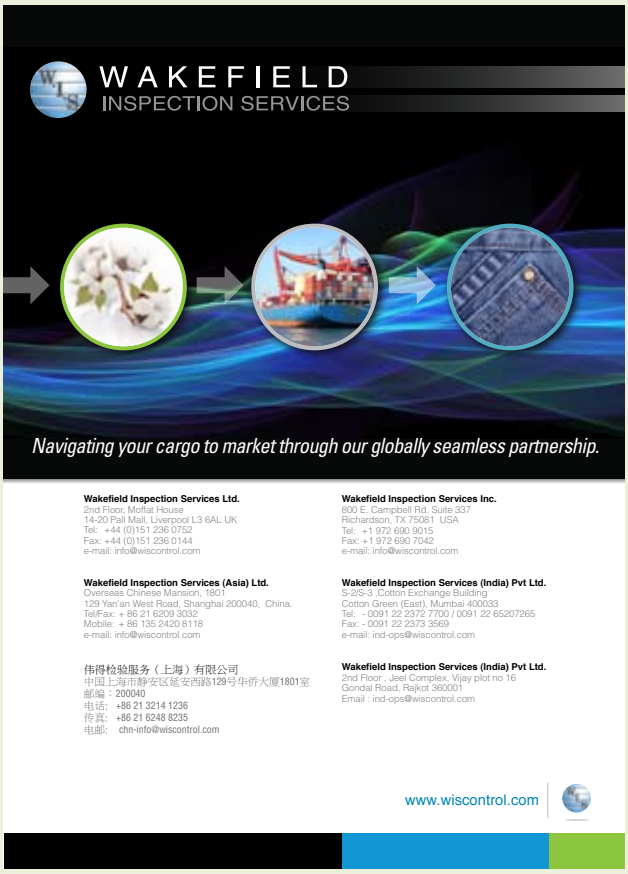
Data of registration of contract for export of cotton yarn

Month	Quantity in Million Kgs.
Apr'2011	71.36
May 2011	63.19
Jun'2011	54.079
Jul'2011	57.212
Aug'2011	97.734
Sep'2011	77.157
Oct'2011	43.69
Nov'2011	76.362
Dec'2011	83.005
Jan'2012	79.148
Feb'2012	60.518
Mar'2012 (Provisional)	64.227
Apr'2012(Provisional)	62.811
May 2012(Provisional)	74.455

Month	Quantity in Million Kgs.
Jun'2012 (Provisional)	82.419
Jul'2012 (Provisional)	94.507
Aug'2012 (Provisional)	83.055
Sep'2012(Provisional)	64.269
Oct'2012 (Provisional)	94.462
Nov'2012 (Provisional)	100.769
Dec'2012 (Provisional)	100.778
Jan'2013 (Provisional)	117.143
Feb'2013 (Provisional)	103.955
Mar'2013 (Provisional)	88.685
Apr'2013 (Provisional)	115.960
May 2013(Provisional)	90.152
June 2013(Provisional)	142.297
July 2013(Provisional)	139.745

(Source: Directorate General of Foreign Trade)

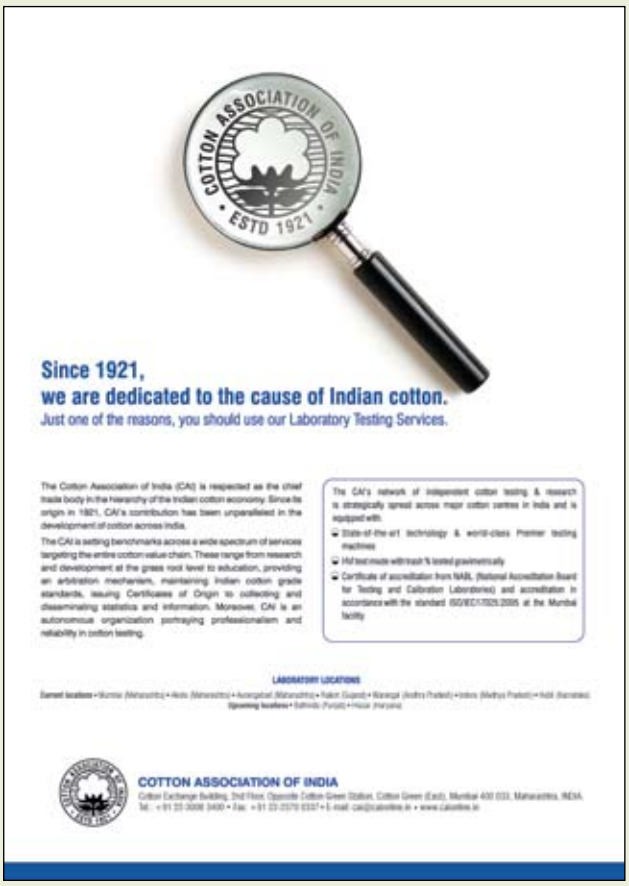




Update on Cotton Acreage (as on August 14, 2013)

Sl. No	States	Normal of Year*	Normal on Week**	Area Sown (During the corresponding week in)	
				2013	2012
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	20.09	17.87	19.41	20.22
2	Gujarat	26.97	25.96	26.63	22.42
3	Haryana	5.82	5.49	5.56	6.03
4	Karnataka	5.28	3.69	5.05	3.41
5	Madhya Pradesh	6.55	6.51	6.21	6.08
6	Maharashtra	40.71	40.42	38.47	40.92
7	Orissa	0.98	0.98	1.24	1.13
8	Punjab	5.24	5.40	5.05	5.16
9	Rajasthan	4.18	4.09	2.93	4.49
10	Tamil Nadu	1.28	0.11	0.05	0.10
11	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0.28	0.23	0.30
12	West Bengal	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
13	Others	0.43	0.00	0.10	0.00
	Total	**117.53**	**110.8**	**110.93**	**110.26**

* *Normal area mentioned above is average of last three years* ** *It is average of last three years*
(Source: Directorate of Cotton Development, Mumbai)



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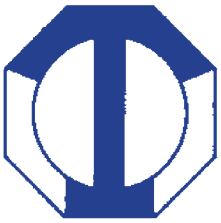

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Indoor Games Tournament 2012-13 was held from 22nd July 2013 in the Premises of Association

The Association organised an In-door games tournament 2012-13 in the premises of the Association from 22nd July 2013. A large number of CAI members participated with great spirit and enthusiasum.

Chess

Winner	: Shri Dhiren N. Sheth
1st Runner-up	: Shri K.F. Jhunjhunwala
2nd Runner-up	: Shri Rajesh K.

Table Tennis Singles

Winner	: Shri Sharad Tikekar
1st Runner-up	: Shri Rishabh J. Shah
2nd Runner-up	: Shri Kunal Thakkar

Table Tennis Doubles

Winner	: Shri Kunal Thakkar and Shri Ravi Thakkar
1st Runner-up	: Shri Drupad Marfatia and Shri Sharad Tikekar
2nd Runner-up	: Shri Amit Thakkar and Shri Manish Daga

Carrom Singles

Winner	: Shri Mahesh T. More
1st Runner-up	: Shri Satish Shirke
2nd Runner-up	: Shri Dhiren N. Sheth

Carrom Doubles

Winner	: Shri Mahesh T. More and Shri Rishit S. Dholakia
1st Runner-up	: Shri Satish Shirke and Shri Drupad Marfatia
2nd Runner-up	: Shri Dhiren N. Sheth and Shri Manoj Bangdiwala

CAI Releases First Estimate for the 2013-14 Cotton Season

The Association has released its first estimate of the cotton crop for the season 2013-14 beginning on 1st October 2013 at 372 lakh bales of 170 kgs. each.

In its press communique, CAI has stated that the acreage under cotton is not expected to exceed that of the cotton season 2012-13. However, timely rains will result in higher yields. Gujarat, the highest yielding State in India, has seen an increase of more than 10% in acreage on the back of a good monsoon compared to drought conditions in 2012-13. All other cotton growing States have also received a good rainfall this monsoon as against a below average rainfall in 2012-13.

The Association has also released its July estimates (as on 31st July 2013) of the cotton crop for the season 2012-13 and placed the cotton crop for the season 2012-13 at 355.75 lakh bales. The State-wise production estimates of the Association along with the market arrivals are given below:

CAI's Estimates of Cotton Crop
as on 8th August 2013
(in lakh bales)

State	Production		Arrivals as
	2012-13	2011-12	on 31.07.13
Punjab	15.50	18.00	15.00
Haryana	24.00	27.50	23.25
Upper Rajasthan	7.50	10.00	7.25
Lower Rajasthan	8.50	7.75	8.50
Total North Zone	**55.50**	**63.25**	**54.00**
Gujarat	85.25	114.00	84.25
Maharashtra	72.50	72.00	71.75
Madhya Pradesh	18.00	18.00	17.75
Total Central Zone	**175.75**	**204.00**	**173.75**
Andhra Pradesh	75.00	58.00	74.00
Karnataka	13.50	13.00	13.00
Tamil Nadu	5.00	5.00	4.25
Total South Zone	**93.50**	**76.00**	**91.25**
Orissa	3.00	2.00	3.00
Others	2.00	2.00	2.00
Total	329.75	347.25	324.00
Loose Cotton	**26.00**	**26.00**	**26.00**
All-India	**355.75**	**373.25**	**350.00**

The Balance Sheet drawn by the Association for 2012-13 and 2011-12 is reproduced below:

(in lakh bales)

Details	2012-13	2011-12
Opening Stock	53.21	53.27
Production	355.75	373.25
Imports	15.00	9.00
Total Supply	**423.96**	**435.52**
Mill Consumption	245.00	217.68
Consumption by SSI Units	22.00	21.63
Non-Mill Use	16.00	16.00
Exports	-	127.00
Demand	**283.00**	**382.31**
Available Surplus	**140.96**	**-**
***Closing Stock**	**-**	**53.21***

Cotton Consumption - Cotton Year-wise

(In Lakh Bales)

Month	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-2010	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13 (P) Oct-Jun
October	17.33	18.32	16.54	18.13	22.09	17.77	21.84
November	17.81	16.94	16.94	18.47	21.09	18.34	21.09
December	18.49	18.86	17.98	19.49	22.57	20.13	22.63
January	18.22	18.54	16.93	19.54	22.10	20.33	22.88
February	17.11	18.14	16.23	18.81	20.23	20.31	21.88
March	18.39	18.45	17.51	20.01	21.77	20.38	23.58
0April	18.06	17.98	17.12	20.53	20.17	20.31	23.10
May	17.89	18.95	17.83	20.93	18.64	21.27	22.59
June	17.85	18.55	18.01	20.71	18.23	21.17	22.44
July	18.42	18.50	18.98	22.11	19.00	22.14	
August	18.58	17.62	18.59	21.73	18.64	22.08	
September	18.03	16.90	18.29	21.42	21.71	21.46	
Total	216.18	217.75	210.96	241.88	246.23	245.47	202.04

(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) 2012-13 Crop AUGUST 2013					
Sr. No.	Growth	Grade Standard	Grade	Staple	Micronaire	Strength /GPT	12th	13th	14th	15th	16th	17th
1	P/H/R	ICS-101	Fine	Below 22mm	5.0 – 7.0	15	11107 (39500)	11107 (39500)	11107 (39500)		11220 (39900)	11332 (40300)
2	P/H/R	ICS-201	Fine	Below 22mm	5.0 – 7.0	15	11360 (40400)	11360 (40400)	11360 (40400)		11473 (40800)	11585 (41200)
3	GUJ	ICS-102	Fine	22mm	4.0 – 6.0	20	8239 (29300)	8239 (29300)	8295 (29500)	H	8380 (29800)	8492 (30200)
4	KAR	ICS-103	Fine	23mm	4.0 – 5.5	21	9532 (33900)	9532 (33900)	9589 (34100)		9673 (34400)	9786 (34800)
5	M/M	ICS-104	Fine	24mm	4.0 – 5.5	23	10826 (38500)	10826 (38500)	10882 (38700)	O	10967 (39000)	11079 (39400)
6	P/H/R	ICS-202	Fine	26mm	3.5 – 4.9	26	11951 (42500)	11979 (42600)	12120 (43100)		12457 (44300)	12738 (45300)
7	M/M/A	ICS-105	Fine	26mm	3.0 – 3.4	25	11754 (41800)	11754 (41800)	11867 (42200)	L	12092 (43000)	12260 (43600)
8	M/M/A	ICS-105	Fine	26mm	3.5 – 4.9	25	12007 (42700)	12007 (42700)	12120 (43100)		12345 (43900)	12513 (44500)
9	P/H/R	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.5 – 4.9	26	12345 (43900)	12373 (44000)	12513 (44500)	I	12851 (45700)	13188 (46900)
10	M/M/A	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.0 – 3.4	26	12007 (42700)	12007 (42700)	12120 (43100)		12541 (44600)	12879 (45800)
11	M/M/A	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.5 – 4.9	26	12260 (43600)	12260 (43600)	12373 (44000)	D	12795 (45500)	13132 (46700)
12	P/H/R	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.5 – 4.9	27	12570 (44700)	12598 (44800)	12738 (45300)		13076 (46500)	13357 (47500)
13	M/M/A	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.5 – 4.9	27	12485 (44400)	12485 (44400)	12598 (44800)	A	13020 (46300)	13357 (47500)
14	GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.5 – 4.9	27	12485 (44400)	12485 (44400)	12598 (44800)		13020 (46300)	13357 (47500)
15	M/M/A/K	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.5 – 4.9	28	12654 (45000)	12654 (45000)	12766 (45400)	Y	13188 (46900)	13526 (48100)
16	GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.5 – 4.9	28	12570 (44700)	12570 (44700)	12682 (45100)		13104 (46600)	13441 (47800)
17	M/M/A/K	ICS-105	Fine	30mm	3.5 – 4.9	29	12766 (45400)	12766 (45400)	12879 (45800)		13301 (47300)	13498 (48000)
18	M/M/A/K/T/O	ICS-105	Fine	31mm	3.5 – 4.9	30	12851 (45700)	12851 (45700)	12963 (46100)		13385 (47600)	13582 (48300)
19	K/A/T/O	ICS-106	Fine	32mm	3.5 – 4.9	31	13048 (46400)	13048 (46400)	13160 (46800)		13582 (48300)	13779 (49000)
20	M(P)/ K/T	ICS-107	Fine	34mm	3.0 - 3.8	33	15185 (54000)	15185 (54000)	15269 (54300)		15466 (55000)	15466 (55000)

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