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Inauguration of Renovated Survey Room of the Association

The newly renovated Survey Room of the Association was formally inaugurated by Shri Patodia, Immediate Past President on Friday, the 28th August 2009.



Shri P.D. Patodia inaugurating the newly renovated Survey Room

In his welcome address, Shri Dhiren N. Sheth, President, appreciated the initiative taken by Shri P.D. Patodia and stated that the renovation work of the building including the Survey Room was undertaken last year and completed in record time.



CAI President, Shri Dhiren N. Sheth welcoming Shri P.D. Patodia with bouquet of flowers.

In his inaugural address, Shri P.D. Patodia thanked the Association for giving the opportunity to inaugurate the Survey Room. He

stated that last year the Board took up the mission of renovating the premises of the building and it was possible to fulfill this objective in a record time and in a cost effective manner. He thanked all those who contributed to the fulfillment of this objective.



Shri P.D. Patodia addressing the Members

Shri Nayan C. Mirani, Shri Suresh A. Kotak, Shri K.F. Jhunjhunwala and Shri M.B. Lal also spoke on the occasion.



A cross section of Members at the Inauguration of Survey Room

Shri Sanjay V. Udeshi, Addl.Vice-President, CAI, proposed a vote of thanks and expressed his gratitude to Shri P.D. Patodia for sparing his time for inaugurating the Survey Room.

ICAR Pushing Towards Tech-led Agricultural Growth

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) under the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) has been the long standing and reputed institution engaged in high quality research in the field of Agriculture, Dairy, Poultry and Fisheries. Working through a vast network of 97 research institutes including 4 ICAR institutes as deemed Universities, 46 Agricultural Universities including one Central Agricultural University and one deemed University and 568 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) spread across the country, ICAR has undertaken quality agricultural research, education and frontline extension activities.

In a recent article on the subject, the Secretary of DARE and Director-General of ICAR claims that the system has made significant contribution in agriculture production in the country whereby the food grain production has increased by four times, horticultural crops and milk production by six times, fish by nine times and eggs by 27 times since 1950-51. The DARE/ICAR is working in close cooperation with the other Government agencies to meet the new challenges including the impact of climate change on agricultural production. The ICAR is said to be marching ahead in generating technologies towards sustainable advancements in agriculture and allied sectors, improving quality of higher agricultural education, institutional capacity building, fostering international linkages for cooperation in agricultural research. The research and development activities cover wide areas, ranging from optimising resource use, improved cultivation techniques, development of

improved varieties/breeds, excellence in agricultural education, providing improved planting materials, imparting training especially to rural women and youth and various stakeholders through wide network of KVKs as knowledge hubs.

In the field of crop improvement, ICAR has developed innumerable superior varieties combining better productivity, quality and resistance to pests diseases and moisture stress in a number of crops including cotton. One of its major contributions in the field of cotton during 2008-09 is the development of Bt cotton, Bikanevi Narma Bt. It has been commercialised and its seeds are being multiplied. Bikanevi Narma Bt has dual advantages. One is that unlike the existing Bt cottons which are hybrids, it is a composite variety. Its seeds can thus be multiplied by farmers themselves for the next year's sowing without the need for buying fresh expensive hybrid seeds every year. The other advantage is that it belongs to the medium staple group whereas all the existing Bt cottons belong to the long staple group. Owing to their rapid and extensive spread in most of the States, displacing the traditionally grown medium staple cottons in some tracts, a certain degree of imbalance in the quality-wise pattern of cotton production in the country had set in. There has been a large surplus of long staple cotton production whereas the production of medium staple cotton was getting short of requirement hurting the mills. With the spread of Bikanevi Narma Bt in the coming years, this imbalance is likely to be rectified to some extent.

CAB Estimation

Cotton Advisory Board at its meeting held on 29.9.2009 has made downward revision in 2007-08 crop to 307 lakh bales as against earlier estimate of 315 lakh bales. The closing stock for 2007-08 is also revised to 35.50 lakh bales due to revision in consumption, exports and imports.

CAB retained current year's cotton crop at 290 lakh bales. While total supply was estimated at 335.50 lakh bales, total demand was estimated at 264 lakh bales, leaving a closing stock of 71.5 lakh bales. There was also marginal revision in area under cotton for 2007-08 and 2008-09 seasons.

CAB also made preliminary estimate for 2009-10 crop at 305 lakh bales. The total acreage for 2009-10 is placed at 96.46 lakh hectares and is likely to go up to 100 lakh hectares.

(The detailed report in next week)

Glimpses of Cotton Developmental Activities of COTAAP Research Foundation

COTAAP Research Foundation, the research arm of CAI, has been undertaking cotton developmental activities in Jalgaon District in Maharashtra and in Raichur District in Karnataka. These activities include FLDs on Production Technology, IPM Technology, Nutrition Management, Problem Soil Management, Rabi Gram, Summer Groundnut (rotation crop), Awareness Campaign by way of extension activities, kisan melas, visit of cotton farmers to Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) / Agricultural Universities to impart training to farmers to develop them in self-help group and preparation of literature in local languages to promote modern agro-techniques and scientific practices.

During the year 2009-10, the Foundation has undertaken the following developmental activities:-

- 6 FLDs on IPM Technology benefitting 300 farmers;
- 14 FLDs on Production Technology benefitting 700 farmers;
- 10 FLDs on Nutrition Management benefitting 500 farmers;
- 1 FLD on Problem Soil Management benefitting 25 farmers
- 2 FLDs on Rabi Grams benefitting 100 farmers;
- 4 FLDs on Summer Groundnut (rotation crop) benefitting 200 farmers apart from model farm extension activities and awareness campaign. A model farm in Chopda and one FLD each on IPM and production and technology benefitting in all 70 farmers in Raichur.

Set up in the year 1987, the Foundation has several success cotton development projects to its credit viz. demonstration of the benefits of adoption of modern agronomic practices in the irrigated tracts of Sriganganagar in Rajasthan, use of drip irrigation system in the rainfed scanty water conditions of Unali in Gujarat for production of cotton, multiplication of truthfully labelled genetically pure cotton seeds in Nagpur District of Maharashtra, etc.

The Trustees are now contemplating bigger role for the Foundation to enable it to reach out all the cotton growing States of the Country and efforts are on to increase the income stream of the Foundation to meet the expenses for its increasing cotton developmental activities.

The Foundation receives grant from the Government of India, Government of Maharashtra and NGOs.

ICAC to hold Plenary Meet from September 7 - 11, 2009

The 68th Plenary Meeting of International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC) will be held during September 7 - 11, 2009 in Cape Town, South Africa. The theme of the meeting will be "The Role of Cotton in Economic Development and Ensuring Food Security During a Period of Global Economic Crisis".

The major topics for discussion include :

Policies to enhance Food Security, facilitating Small-Holder Cotton Production, Cotton By-Products and Value Addition, The Role of Organizations in the Cotton Economy, Outlook for Supply, Demand and Prices of Cotton and Inputs, Overcoming Impediments to Progress in Multilateral Trade Negotiations, Progress towards Harmonization of Trade Rules, Enhancing Demand for Cotton Products, The Impacts of Carbon Trading on the Cotton Industry, Best Practices in Cotton Ginning and Instrument Testing and The Impacts of Social and Environmental Standards on Demand for Cotton and Textiles.

87th Annual General Meeting of CAI

The 87th Annual General Meeting of the Cotton Association of India will be held on Thursday, the 24th September 2009 at 3.00 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Association, 2nd Floor, Cotton Exchange Building, Cotton Green, Mumbai 400 033.

S N I P P E T S

Imports of raw cotton by the two major importing countries of China and Pakistan have been considerably lower in 2008-09. During this international cotton statistical season from August to July, the total imports by China are estimated at slightly over 1.52 million tonnes, down by 39 per cent compared to 2007-08. Imports by Pakistan during the above period are placed at about 4.9 lakh tonnes, 38 per cent below the 2007-08 imports.



According to reputed global analysts, the worst global recession since World War II may be approaching its end as indicated by a rise in confidence in the world economy. The Global Confidence Index is stated to have surged to 58.12 in August from 39.13 in July. Participants' confidence in US, world's largest economy, reportedly rose to 47.3 in August from 29.5 in July. Significantly, major economies like Germany, Japan and France are

stated to have recorded a positive growth in economy during the second quarter of 2008 after a prolonged period of negative growth.



Commodity exports from the country continued to fall for the tenth month in a row in July, states a report. As against \$18.4 billion in July 2008, exports in July this year are stated to have been only \$13.6 billion, a decline of 26 per cent, due to a slump in global demand. Exports during the April-July period this year are placed at \$49.25 billion, a decline of 32 per cent compared to \$72.5 billion during the corresponding period of 2008-09. Imports dropped by a higher margin of 37 per cent in July 2009 to \$18.31 billion from \$29 billion in July 2008. It has been the seventh successive month when imports showed negative growth, it is reported.



UPCOUNTRY SPOT RATES

(Rs./Candy)

Official quotations for standard descriptions with basic grade and staple in Millimetres based on Upper Half mean Length under By-law 66 (A)(a)(4)					SPOT RATES (UPCOUNTRY) 2008-09 CROP					
					August 2009					
					22nd	24th	25th	26th	27th	28th
01.	ICS-101	Below 22mm	Bengal Deshi(RG)	5.0-7.0 15		23300	23300	23300	23300	23300
02.	ICS-201	Below 22mm	Bengal Deshi(SG)	5.0-7.0 15	H	23800	23800	23800	23800	23800
03.	ICS-102	22mm	V-797	4.5-5.9 19		18200	18200	18200	18200	18200
04.	ICS-103	23mm	Jayadhar	4.0-5.5 19	O	18200	18200	18200	18200	18200
05.	ICS-104	24mm	Y-1	4.0-5.5 20		21500	21500	21500	21500	21500
06.	ICS-202	25mm	J-34 (SG)	3.5-4.9 23	L	22800	22800	22800	22700	22700
07.	ICS-105	25mm	NHH-44	3.5-4.9 22		21300	21300	21300	21300	21300
08.	ICS-105	27mm	LRA-5166	3.5-4.9 24	I	21600	21600	21600	21600	21600
09.	ICS-105	28mm	H-4/ MECH-1	3.5-4.9 25	D	22300	22300	22300	22200	22200
10.	ICS-105	29mm	S-6	3.5-4.9 26		23300	23300	23300	23300	23300
11.	ICS-105	31mm	Bunny/ Brahma	3.5-4.9 27	A	23500	23500	23500	23500	23500
12.	ICS-106	33mm	MCU-5/ Surabhi	3.3-4.5 28	Y	24200	24200	24200	24200	24200
13.	ICS-107	35mm	DCH-32	2.8-3.6 31		33100	33100	33100	33100	33100
14.	ICS-301	26mm	ICC	3.7-4.3 25		22400	22400	22400	22400	22400