

Weekly Publication of



**Cotton  
Association  
of India**

# COTTON STATISTICS & NEWS

Edited & Published by Amar Singh

2016-17 • No. 38 • 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2016 Published every Tuesday

Cotton Exchange Building, 2nd Floor, Cotton Green, Mumbai - 400 033  
Phone: 30063400 Fax: 2370 0337 Email: cai@caionline.in  
www.caionline.in

## Germany's Textile Partnership

*Ms. Elke Hortmeyer gained her first trade experience during a three-year apprenticeship in wholesale trade, with a focus on tea. She has a university degree in Philosophy from the University of Cologne and has worked for the Bremen Cotton Exchange for more than ten years, where she is Director of Communications and International Relations. She is a member of the Steering Committee of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Global Commodity Forum in Geneva, as well as Vice Chair of the International Forum for Cotton Promotion (IFCP) and a member of the Industry Advisory Board of the Textile Development and Marketing Department, Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT) in New York.*

### What are the consequences for cotton?

As a natural fibre, cotton enjoys great trust in Germany, as consumer surveys show. A 2015 Global Lifestyle Monitor study conducted by Euromonitor International, sponsored by Cotton Council International and Cotton Incorporated, showed that especially German consumers prefer cotton clothing of an appropriate quality and appreciate the value of cotton. This is also confirmed by the share of cotton in imports of finished clothing. In 2015 it amounted to almost 47 percent. According to information from the

industry association German Fashion in 2015, India was fourth in the rankings of Germany's largest clothing importers, with a value of EUR 1.39 billion and an increase of 5.64 percent compared to 2014.

Cotton people know that cotton is an absolute all-rounder: it has been dressing us for thousands of years and is still a very important raw material and the ultimate natural fibre for the textile and clothing industry. We wear it as jeans and t-shirt, as a blouse or as underwear directly on the skin. Cotton is also widely used in domestic and home textiles such as towels, blankets, curtains or furniture fabrics, and even in bandages, hygiene articles and handkerchiefs. Linters end up among other things in the production of high-quality paper and thus also in euro notes, which are particularly durable and hard-wearing.



### GUEST COLUMN

**Ms. Elke Hortmeyer**  
*Director Communications and International  
Relations, Bremen Cotton Exchange*

Cotton people also know the cotton fibre is a true miracle of good properties: it can absorb up to 65 percent of its own weight in water without dripping. Up to 20% water-saturated cotton fabric still feels dry on the skin – a great advantage in warm climates. The fibre is extremely hard-wearing: you can – if it is genuinely dyed – boil cotton clothing without

any reservations. The delicacy and softness of the fibre ensure that cotton does not scratch, itch or cause allergies.

Last but not least, we all know that as a natural, renewable, biodegradable and recyclable raw material, cotton conforms to the increasingly important concept of sustainability. None of it is thrown away after the harvest. The entire plant, including the stalk and the leaf is used - oil can be produced from the seeds resulting from the cotton harvest. Due to its high content of linoleic acid, this can be used for the preparation of cooking fats, as well as stearine and fat for soaps and candle production. The pressed seeds are a valuable animal feed.

The step from the field to the catwalk is a small one - cotton is the most important natural fibre processed by the textile industry.

### German Government Discovers Cotton

The Federal Government has now also adopted cotton on the initiative of the Federal Ministry for Development: In October 2014, the "Partnership for Sustainable Textiles" was established. The goal is to create more transparency in the procurement of textiles by German retailers, wholesalers and industrial companies along the entire production chain. At the request of Federal Minister Dr. Gerd Müller, the aim is to ensure transparency in production chains from the cotton to the finished retail garment. Following the collapse of the Rana Plaza textile factory, the Government wants to set an example for eco-friendly, socially and economically fair textile production, which is also of international relevance in view of global procurement routes, with the Textile Partnership involving industry, civil society and trade unions.

The 188 members to have joined the Partnership, include, in addition to industrial and commercial enterprises and their associations, non-government organisations and lobby groups with different interests, as well as trade unions and the Federal Government. The project is being observed by other European countries.

The Partnership will now also practically be implemented: Members are obliged to make their procurement processes and the steps towards optimisation in the direction of sustainability transparent. Currently, the criteria for the design of the Textile Partnership are being discussed

intensively in individual specialist groups, such as the natural fibre group. Due to the different conceptions of sustainability and often dogmatically coloured demands, a universally accepted definition of a catalogue of criteria that is feasible for industry and commerce is a difficult task in view of the complexity in textile procurement.

The adoption by the government is a challenge for the cotton people. As an internationally recognised and independent authority in the cotton market, the Bremen Cotton Exchange joined the Textile Partnership during the founding phase in 2014. The Executive Committee and the Board of Directors recognised the need to participate in its realisation at an early stage. With the Exchange's expertise in questions of cultivation and quality, it is an indispensable contact for all questions concerning the raw material cotton. Since then, it has been trying to correct the very strong focus of the policy on certain forms of production in the interests of the cotton industry and the realistic conditions.

This effort is proving to be problematic because of the very intensive orientation towards the demands of the NGOs. For this reason, the Cotton Exchange is working hard to prevent criteria adopted within the framework of the Textile Partnership leading to more than 90 percent of the production methods used in cotton farming being discredited. This could make it disproportionately difficult to source cotton for industry and trade. This would ultimately damage cotton severely in competition with synthetic fibres as far as its use in textiles is concerned and put strain on the incomes of cotton farmers.

Whatever will happen in future and wherever the negotiations will lead us, currently, the discussion on sustainability has reached a new level. When we do not speak up loud enough here, cotton's reputation as a responsibly produced fibre with unrivalled properties will be damaged.

As cotton people we should promote cotton as a sustainable fibre wherever and whenever we can. There is enough data available to work with and there are several panels like SEEP, the Expert Panel on the Social Environmental and Economic Performance of Cotton (SEEP) that actually collects the data as well as the International Forum for Cotton Promotion (IFCP) as reliable panels to work with.



## GILL & CO. PVT. LTD

GOVT. RECOGNISED | STAR TRADING HOUSE

Head Office:

N.T.C. House, Narottam Morarjee Marg, Ballard Estate,  
Mumbai – 400 001 (India)

**Phone:** 91-22-22615001 (4 lines) • **Fax No:** 91-22-22620598 / 22655069

**E-mail address:** [gillco@gillcot.com](mailto:gillco@gillcot.com)

**web :** [www.gillcot.com](http://www.gillcot.com), [www.gillcot.cn](http://www.gillcot.cn)

Handling all varieties of World Cottons, Cotton Seed, Staple Fibres, Yarns, Textiles,  
Food Grains, Sugar, Coffee & Corn.

Branches :

Adoni, Ahmedabad, Amravati, Aurangabad, Bhatinda, Hubli, Indore, Jalgaon.

**MOST MODERN & ONLINE GINNING & PRESSING FACTORIES AT :**

- GILL & CO. PVT. LTD. , Rajkot-Gondal., Gujarat.
- GILL SHYAM COTEX PVT. LTD., Ghatanji, Dist.Yeotmal, Maharashtra,

Directors:

Jayant B. Shah-Chairman & Managing Director,  
Mohit D. Shah-Director, Rishabh J. Shah-Director.

**ASSOCIATES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD**

### About the Bremen Cotton Exchange:

For more than 140 years the Bremen Cotton Exchange has offered its members a wide range of services around the theme of cotton and is a nationally recognised association with legal capacity. According to its statutes, its aim is to safeguard and promote the interests of all market participants involved in cotton trading, as well as in the processing and finishing of cotton or products made of other textile fibres.

As an international court of arbitration, the Bremen Cotton Exchange always stands for neutrality. We offer various services to our

members. Clear and neutral data and analyses are a part of this.

As the ICA Bremen, together with the International Cotton Association in Liverpool and in cooperation with the Fibre Institute Bremen, we provide the International Quality Testing and Research Centre in Bremen. The Hanseatic city has now become the international centre for cotton testing and research, quality training and certification.

We represent our members in all the important international bodies in the cotton world.

For more information on the German Textile Partnership, go to [www.textilbuendnis.com](http://www.textilbuendnis.com), or please feel free to contact me directly: [hortmeyer@baumwollboerse.de](mailto:hortmeyer@baumwollboerse.de).

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

Courtesy : COTTON INDIA 2016-17

## Inauguration of CAI's Cotton Testing & Research Laboratory in Guntur

The Cotton Association of India was extremely proud to inaugurate its Cotton Testing & Research Laboratory in Guntur on Saturday, December 3, 2016. CAI already has Laboratories in Ahmedabad, Akola, Aurangabad, Bathinda, Hubli, Indore, Mumbai, Mundra, Rajkot and Warangal.





**COTTON  
ASSOCIATION  
OF INDIA**

*Established 1921*

# COTTON STATISTICS & NEWS

## ADVERTISEMENT RATES

effective from April 2015

### RATES PER INSERTION

	For CAI Members	For Non-Members
Full Page	5,000	5,500
Half Page	3,000	3,300

### RATES FOR FOREIGN ADVERTISERS

Full Page	US \$ 100
Half Page	US \$ 60



Pay for	For CAI Members	For Non-Members
8 Insertions, get 12 (Full Page)	40,000	45,000
8 Insertions, get 12 (Half Page)	24,000	26,000
3 Insertions, get 4 (Full Page)	15,000	18,000
3 Insertions, get 4 (Half Page)	9,000	10,000

#### Mechanical Data:

**Full page print area:** 172x250 mm (Non Bleed Ad)  
210x297 mm (+ Bleed)

**Half page print area :** 172x125 mm (Non Bleed Ad)  
148x210 mm (+ Bleed)

#### To advertise, please contact:

**Shri Divyesh Thanawala**, Assistant Manager  
Cotton Association of India,  
Cotton Exchange Building, 2nd Floor,  
Cotton Green (East), Mumbai – 400 033  
Telephone No.: 3006 3404 Fax No.: 2370 0337  
Email: publications@caionline.in

# New Directions in Cotton Research

(Contd. from Issue No.36)

## Andrew H. Paterson

ICAC Researcher of the Year 2012  
Regents Professor and Head, Plant  
Genome Mapping Laboratory,  
University of Georgia, Athens, GA, USA

With a high quality reference sequence of the cotton D genome in hand that ranks among the best assembled plant genomes, together with draft sequences of the A, D, F and AD tetraploid genomes of *G. hirsutum* and *G. barbadense* now published, what are the next steps toward translating the promise of genomics into impact on both fundamental science and on-farm cotton productivity and quality?

In my view, two questions are central, each with several dimensions as follows:

### What is the Spectrum of Diversity of the *Gossypium* genus, i.e. What is the Raw Material Available for Cotton Improvement by Conventional Means?

A genome sequence provides only one version of the 'spelling' (sequence) of each gene in a genome – variations in the spelling of a gene reflect botanical diversity at an elemental level. Some variations have no functional consequences, encoding the same amino acid or occurring in noncoding DNA. Other variations may have striking consequences, for example causing a truncated protein or one that is chemically incapable of performing its intended function. Indeed, the pattern of variations across a diverse sampling of genotypes is informative – 'essential' genes or nucleotides being intolerant of variations, while genes contributing to diversity may have a superabundance of variations.

With the basic gene set of cotton now known, economical methods for massively-parallel 're-sequencing' can be applied to capture the spectrum of variations in a gene, among genotypes within a species, or species within a genus. Numerous cotton scientists are now engaged in the sequencing and analysis of their favorite cultivar/species, and one can anticipate that most of the relatively common variations on most cotton genes will be identified in the next 5 to 10 years. An essential element for this process is gene banks; the richness of diversity in gene banks will largely determine the richness of our knowledge of cotton diversity.

An intriguing fringe benefit of the rapid characterization of cotton gene sequence diversity

is likely to be much greater insight into the consequences of cotton polyploidy. We now know that the predominant mechanism responsible for allelic differences between tetraploid cottons and their diploid progenitors is not random mutations but unidirectional DNA exchanges between homeologous chromosomes (i.e., homeologous gene conversion events or HeGCE) that have doubled the copy number of specific alleles. Striking spatial (across the genome) and temporal (across cotton evolution) patterns implicate this mechanism both in the generation of diversity that may have facilitated the evolution of the superior fibers of tetraploid cottons, and in silencing of abundant retro transposons derived from the progenitor A genome.

### How Do Scientists Relate *Gossypium* Diversity to its Phenotypic Consequences?

Rich plant genomic resources now available have motivated formulation of a host of 'hypotheses' – about roles of particular genes in the quality and productivity of agricultural crops, the ability to reduce demands on environmental resources, and the opportunity to address challenges posed by global climate change. For example, thousands of genes have been found to show 'footprints of selection', or 'mutations inferred to have striking functional consequences', or 'expression patterns correlated with a phenotype'. How do we bridge the gap between the richness of hypotheses about genes implicated in physiological functions and phenotypes, and the limited time and funding available to thoroughly investigate individual candidate genes for such roles?

Much has been, and will continue to be, learned about the functions of plant genes by analogy – that is, by discovering the function of a similar gene in a botanical model and deducing its function in cotton. Major investments have been made in several botanical models, most notably *Arabidopsis thaliana*, the first plant to have its genome fully sequenced, which may have shared common ancestry with cotton 83 to 86 million years ago, making them rather close relatives in the context of evolution. Most cotton genes have recognizable 'homologs' (relatives) in *Arabidopsis*, and the facility of *Arabidopsis* genomics (and that of other botanical models) will continue to elucidate gene functions that translate with varying degrees of accuracy to the corresponding cotton genes.

While analogy to *Arabidopsis* or other genes will teach us much about cotton, it is not likely to teach us how cotton does things that *Arabidopsis* does not,



ICAC

for example how cotton produces seed-borne single-celled epidermal fibers that are long and strong enough to be spun into yarn and woven into fabric. Nearly 30 years ago, molecular genetics provided the means to identify the locations in the genome of genes conferring variations in agriculturally important traits, and these techniques have long been applied to cotton fiber yield and quality components, as well as many other traits, by using linked DNA markers. Methodological improvements such as 'nested association mapping' are being advanced in cotton, but will require major coordinated efforts to develop the phenotypic information necessary to take full advantage of these techniques.

Likewise, new technologies for disrupting the function of specific genes and observing what task fails to be performed are quickly being adapted from their origins in other organisms for application in cotton. Such techniques as virus-induced gene silencing (VIGS) and CRISPR-Cas system for plant genome editing are likely to find growing application in relating cotton genes to their functions.

## **Yusuf Zafar**

**ICAC Researcher of the Year 2012  
(National Institute for Biotechnology  
and Genetic Engineering,  
Faisalabad, Pakistan)**

**PMO, TCAP, Section 2, Department of  
Technical Co-operation, IAEA, Vienna  
International Centre, P.O. Box 100, 1400  
Vienna, Austria**

### **Focus On - Declining Rate of Cotton Production in Pakistan**

Pakistan is Rapidly Losing its Supremacy in Cotton Production, as Total Production Has Been Either Stagnant or Even Declined in the Last Two Decades. The latest arrival data for 2015/16 show that Pakistan will produce 1.6 million tons in 2015/16 compared to 2.3 million in 2014/15. This decline in production of almost 30% and the cumulative loss of nearly US\$4 billion to the national economy is in addition to negative socio-economic impact in the cotton producing areas. Moreover, the local textile sector has to import about 400,000 tons of raw cotton this year (2015/16) to meet the shortfall. Serious decline in production occurred because of heavy rains, pests attack and harsh weather conditions on cotton crop. Pakistan has a relatively modest infrastructure for supporting cotton research that resulted in generating useful knowledge on cotton genetics and genomics. All these efforts were recognized by different national and international agencies, including two Pakistani researchers were awarded "Researcher of the Year"

by ICAC in 2012 and 2014, respectively. So, what could be the possible reasons for such a dismal performance?

The tetraploid cotton *G. hirsutum* was introduced in the Indian sub-continent during British rule in 1929. The East India Company also laid a strong foundation of commodity-based research centers (cotton, rice, wheat etc.). After independence, Pakistan continued the system with minor changes at various levels. The cotton breeders of Pakistan released over 80 new improved cotton varieties and developed a highly effective integrated plant protection management (IPM) and later integrated crop management (ICM) system. All aspects of cotton production, including fiber quality, made substantial progress. The production of raw cotton began with less than a million bales in 1950 and reached 14 million bales in 1992. Such a spectacular performance was made despite limited funds and various natural and man-made calamities. The onset of a cotton leaf curl virus (CLCuV) epidemic in 1992 jolted the cotton researcher community in Pakistan very badly. However, with the help of international community (CFC/ICAC, USDA, ADB, etc.) and the government of Pakistan's focused attention (though 2-3 years late), this lethal disease was partly overcome. New varieties were developed with moderate resistance to CLCuV, and thus recovered the damage done by the disease. At the same time insect-resistant biotech cotton was introduced in neighboring countries (China and India) and illicit trade and uncontrolled entry of highly susceptible varieties (not well adapted to the local environment) completely collapsed the varietal approval system. Weak implementation of existing Seed Act of 1976 and Cotton Act of 1965 was ignored and cotton production in the last ten years has hovered around two million tons, even exceeding 2.4 million tons in 2004/05, and a long-term average yield just shy of 800 kg/ha of lint.

The reasonable adapted and applied research, presence of cotton research centers with good infrastructure, availability of field research stations in almost all eco-climate zones, a well-placed variety evaluation and approval system, all the required ingredients were present. Still cotton production continues to decline (what about last year?!). The single major reason is "Bad governance." The GoP is unable to cope and adjust to the demands of the recent era (WTO, UN-Cartagena Protocol, IPR etc.). The outdated Seed Act of 1976, which presently suited the bogus seed companies was not modified. The amended draft bill has been with government agencies for the last 16 years and still needs to be enacted. Similarly, the Plant Breeder Rights bill (obligatory under WTO) has been hanging round for the last 10 years. Pakistan made fantastic advances in cotton biotechnology and genetic engineering.

Two national institutes gathered critical mass and sophisticated infrastructure, which paved the way for producing GM cotton indigenously. Pakistan is a signatory of Cartagena protocol and ratified this multilateral agreement in 2010. The federal EPA established a National Biosafety Centre and attended all meetings of the CPB, but was extremely slow in developing rules and placing system for evaluation and granting approval for GM crops in Pakistan. Only temporary approval for 5 years was granted to Bt-cotton developed by a few centers, which covers nearly 98% of the area of nearly 3 million hectares. At present more than 50 cases of GM crop testing, evaluation and final approval are with the NBC, which is reactivated during this month after a dormancy of nearly 3 years.

My analysis of the current situation is that, in the present era of collective governance, the government should be a good facilitator and a strong regulator. These functions must work hand in hand in order to reap the benefits of research, especially of modern biotechnology research wherein Pakistan has invested heavily and technically is very strong. The research, development and release of biotech varieties are heavily regulated and researchers are limited by cumbersome regulations. It is unfortunate that, despite making tremendous success in developing modern tools of cotton R&D in the country, the benefits of such researches are unable to reach the end users (farmers).

The present system inherited some problems from the past while others are related to adherence to international rules and regulations that prohibit fast application and utilization of research results. The best way forward for the present system is to implement recommendations made by the cotton sector in Cotton Vision 2020, enact the Amended Seed Act of 1976, the Plant Breeders Right bill and finally re-activate the National Biosafety Centre with a permanent infrastructure and trained human resources. This action requires little or, in some cases, no extra funding. Once all components are in place, increased investment by the private sector and a revival of public sector research will accelerate. Short-term fixes are temporary solutions and cannot guarantee consistent progressive growth. Long-term vision and solution of issues for a country that has a monocrop (cotton) economy with a textile sector accounting for more than 65% of exports and main contributors to foreign exchange earnings and job providers are very critical for the cotton sector in Pakistan.

*Disclaimer: The opinions expressed here are solely of the author and has no relation in any form to any organization to which he has already served or is presently serving.*

*(To be Continued .....)*

*Source : The ICAC Recorder,  
Vol. XXXIV No.1, March 2016*

## Cotton Yarn Production

(In Mn. kg)

Month	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16 (P)	2016-17 (P)
Oct.	242.26	244.5	273.77	268.06	268.2	316.61	328.68	349.38	333.84
Nov.	257.51	247.76	283.69	255.56	286.19	314.97	332.92	348.14	360.30
Dec.	253.65	248.76	284.79	248.29	288.4	317.69	330.69	346.72	352.87
Jan.	250.28	257.65	302.16	256.73	301.34	332.12	340.00	356.36	343.51
Feb.	242.32	256.19	300.34	262.74	302.85	336.3	338.09	354.67	335.42
March	233.56	252.78	297.68	258.97	296.74	326.09	334.03	338.53	329.63
April	225.51	250.82	301.55	241.83	302.65	328.79	323.53	342.12	
May	235.07	257.44	283.52	243.85	282.88	312.13	335.66	320.06	
June	251.88	267.44	308.78	269.82	314.21	341.67	353.96	353.31	
July	236.7	266.69	296.87	279.19	315.07	340.38	349.82	343.98	
Aug.	224.98	256.58	272.99	269.01	302.59	321.31	330.35	336.55	
Sept.	242.44	272.37	283.63	272.29	321.57	340.2	356.78	347.84	
<b>Total</b>	<b>2896.16</b>	<b>3078.98</b>	<b>3489.78</b>	<b>3126.34</b>	<b>3582.68</b>	<b>3928.27</b>	<b>4054.51</b>	<b>4137.64</b>	<b>2055.57</b>

(P) = Provisional

Source: Office of the Textile Commissioner



# COTTON EXCHANGE MARCHES AHEAD

Madhoo Pavaskar, Rama Pavaskar

## Chapter 2 Improving Cotton Quality

(Continued from Issue No. 36)

### Scheme for Modernization

The E.I.C.A. scheme also suggested that a statutory committee, drawn from the representatives of the trade, industry, public and co-operative sector organizations, government and research laboratories, may be constituted for collection and disbursement of the Fund. The entire programme of modernization was proposed to be implemented by the committee in phases, and to begin with such States were proposed to be selected where ginning was very unsatisfactory.

Subsequently, in January 1991 Mr. Mirani also suggested to the Ministry of Textiles that 'industry' status be given to the ginning and pressing activity so that the factory owners would become eligible for all the benefits, including concessional finance from the public sector term lending institutions and backward area benefits from the Central and State governments as were available to all industries. He also suggested that the Fund to be created by levying a cess on cotton consumed by the textile mills should be utilised every year for (a) erecting 10 new modern ginning and pressing factories with oil mill and delinting units attached to them and (b) modernising 16 existing ginning and pressing factories with the necessary additional and balancing equipment like kapas and lint cleaners etc.

Under the scheme at least 26 modernised units would have emerged every year initially. And after repayments of loans commence from the newly erected and modernised units, more modern units could be set up and many existing ones modernised in later years. It was thus envisaged that within a span of about 15 years, the entire ginning and pressing industry would be transformed to meet the BIS Standards of quality cotton and packing of bales. Disappointingly, the government did not pay any attention to the E.I.C.A. proposed action plan and the ginning and pressing industry continued to languish as a result.

### Creating Quality Awareness

In the absence of any initiative from the government for modernising / upgrading the ginning and pressing units, the Cotton Exchange

was helpless. Nevertheless, within its limited means it thought it can at least create awareness among the factory owners for exercising proper care in ginning seed cotton and pressing cotton lint into bales. For this purpose, the Board of Directors of the E.I.C.A., in its meeting held on July 12, 1991, decided to print and distribute extensively pictorial posters among the ginning and pressing factories in the country to educate the owners and workers in those factories on the manner in which they should handle kapas and lint so as to avoid contamination in raw cotton while ginning and bale packing.

Accordingly, the Association prepared attractive pictorial posters displaying the right methods of ginning seed cotton and pressing cotton lint, and also showing many of the prevailing wrong methods which need to be avoided. The posters were printed in English and vernacular languages and were sent to the upcountry cotton trade associations in all the major cotton growing States for distribution among the ginning and pressing factories within their respective regions. This poster campaign was widely appreciated by the cotton merchants and factory owners all over the country and created considerable awareness among the ginning and pressing factories, although for lack of adequate financial resources and the requisite infrastructural facilities, many of them could not implement all the right methods proposed in the posters. But in undertaking such a poster campaign, the Cotton Exchange contributed its mite towards improving cotton quality.

As a part of the awareness campaign, and especially to prevent impurities in cotton, the Cotton Exchange also prepared a scheme of short and long term measures for implementation at the ginning and pressing stages and circulated it among the ginning and pressing factories in February 1992. While the long term measures called for adoption of modern machinery and additional equipment, the emphasis of the scheme was essentially on short term measures which required improved methods of working by workers and supervisors to keep work



places neat and clean so that contamination of cotton through foreign materials could be avoided. That was evidently a small step of the Cotton Exchange towards a long march ahead.

### Revised BIS Specifications

For the government, however, the old habits die hard. The Central Government came out on November 14, 1991 with yet another proposal for amendment to the Cotton Control Order laying down new specifications for cotton packed for domestic consumption. These specifications permitted trash content ranging from 4 per cent to 10 per cent with tolerance limits varying from 0.5 per cent to 1.5 per cent for cotton of different descriptions and staple lengths. The level of moisture content was allowed upto 9 per cent. The weight of the bale was fixed at  $170 \pm 5$  kg from July to February and  $170 \pm 7$  kg from March to June.

Specifications were also provided for dimension, hessian, iron hoops and stitching of bales. All bales were required to be marked with the name of the cotton variety, the press mark including season, place and country, the press running number and the weight.

In the absence of any efforts at modernization/upgradation of the existing ginning and pressing factories, the new BIS standards, though more liberal than the earlier ones, were still hard to comply with. The difficulty was especially with regard to the norm of dimension, the standard weight and the marking on every pressed bale. As Mr. Mirani succinctly brought to the notice of the Textile Commissioner in his letter dated January 20, 1995 "that due to the poor capacities of the ginning and pressing factories owing to their antiquated and obsolete conditions, coupled with frequent tripping of electric supply, abnormal variations in the atmospheric temperature, difficulties in maintaining the efficiency of the available seasonal unskilled labour and several other reasons, it would be rather impossible for the factories to turn out every bale pressed containing weight of 170 kg plus or minus 5 Kg".

Later, the Working Group on Cotton Procurement - Marketing and Ginning and Pressing Industry set up under the Chairmanship of Mr. B.L. Sharma, the then Joint Secretary (Textiles), and of which Mr. Mirani was a member, admitted in its report submitted in April 1995 that modernization of the ginning and pressing sector has been "adversely affected because of viability of the investment in view of the prescribed processing charges". Since such modernization has to be resource and need based, the Group recommended the short-term

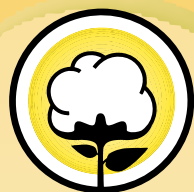
and long-term modernization plans. The short term plan, aimed at processing seed cotton within the acceptable tolerance limits for trash content, suggested development of infrastructural facilities at the ginneries by providing for raised platforms or covered storage for seed cotton, installing pre-cleaners for seed cotton and post-cleaners for cotton lint, introducing conveyor systems for both seed cotton and lint and replacing the old single roller gins by double roller gins. The Group estimated that such modernization would cost between Rs. 30 lakh and Rs 52 lakh, depending on the type of the equipment required and the extent of modernization needed for each unit.

The long term plan proposed by the Working Group involved provision for ventilated covered sheds, pneumatic conveyor systems, pre-cleaners and auto feeders for seed cotton; saw gins for short and medium staple cotton and rotary knife gins for long and extra-long staple cotton; lint cleaners; cotton moisture control systems; and modern single stage double box open system for pressing and baling cotton. The Working Group estimated that the cost of such modern ginning and pressing unit would vary from Rs 1.5 crore to Rs 4.55 crore, depending on the use of indigenous or imported equipment.

### New Quality Standards

In pursuance of the recommendations of the Working Group, the Textile Commissioner constituted a Technical Committee to prescribe new quality standards for ginning and pressing of cotton. Mr. Mirani was also a member of this Committee, though not all its recommendations were acceptable to him. True, the Committee suggested quite a few improvements to the existing BIS norms, considering the realities of cotton marketing in India and the conditions of the ginning and pressing factories. Thus, even though the trash content levels were proposed from 4 per cent to 10 per cent for different cotton staple lengths and selected varieties, the Committee suggested that ginned cotton not meeting the requirement of such trash content may also be allowed to be packed, but the bales so packed should be marked to show that the contents were of the sub-standard quality. The maximum moisture level in the pressed bale was recommended at 8.5 per cent. The weight of the bale was suggested at  $165 \pm 7$  kg from July to February and  $165 \pm 10$  kg from March to June. Standards were proposed for density, use of hessian, cotton fabrics, jute twine and iron hoops for packing, as also for marking of bales with name of the cotton variety, weight, crop year, press mark and press running number.

*(To be continued .....)*



**COTTON  
ASSOCIATION  
OF INDIA**

*Established 1921*

# COTTON STATISTICS & NEWS

## SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Effective from 1st April 2014

### FOR NON-MEMBERS

<b>ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION</b>	<b>Rs.4,000/-</b>
(for 52 issues)	(inclusive of Rs.1,000/- courier cost)

### FOR MEMBERS

<b>ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION</b>	<b>FREE</b>
	Rs.1,000/- for courier cost



**Subscription for three years      Rs.7,500/-\***  
\* Courier Charges Rs.1000/- per year extra

To subscribe, please contact:

**Ms. Sudha B. Padia**

Cotton Association of India,  
Cotton Exchange Building, 2nd Floor, Cotton Green (East), Mumbai – 400 033  
Telephone No.: 3006 3405 Fax No.: 2370 0337 Email: publications@caionline.in

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) 2016-17 Crop DECEMBER 2016					
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	7311 (26000)	7367 (26200)	7367 (26200)	7508 (26700)	7508 (26700)	7508 (26700)
2	P/H/R	ICS-201	Fine	Below 22mm	5.0-7.0	15	7592 (27000)	7649 (27200)	7649 (27200)	7789 (27700)	7789 (27700)	7789 (27700)
3	GUJ	ICS-102	Fine	22mm	4.0-6.0	20	7789 (27700)	7789 (27700)	7789 (27700)	7789 (27700)	7789 (27700)	7789 (27700)
4	KAR	ICS-103	Fine	23mm	4.0-5.5	21	9223 (32800)	9223 (32800)	9223 (32800)	9223 (32800)	9223 (32800)	9223 (32800)
5	M/M	ICS-104	Fine	24mm	4.0-5.0	23	10404 (37000)	10404 (37000)	10404 (37000)	10404 (37000)	10404 (37000)	10404 (37000)
6	P/H/R	ICS-202	Fine	26mm	3.5-4.9	26	10629 (37800)	10714 (38100)	10854 (38600)	10798 (38400)	10798 (38400)	10742 (38200)
7	M/M/A	ICS-105	Fine	26mm	3.0-3.4	25	10067 (35800)	10095 (35900)	10151 (36100)	10095 (35900)	10095 (35900)	10095 (35900)
8	M/M/A	ICS-105	Fine	26mm	3.5-4.9	25	10264 (36500)	10292 (36600)	10348 (36800)	10292 (36600)	10292 (36600)	10292 (36600)
9	P/H/R	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.5-4.9	26	10798 (38400)	10882 (38700)	11023 (39200)	10967 (39000)	10967 (39000)	10911 (38800)
10	M/M/A	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.0-3.4	26	10179 (36200)	10208 (36300)	10264 (36500)	10208 (36300)	10208 (36300)	10208 (36300)
11	M/M/A	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.5-4.9	26	10489 (37300)	10517 (37400)	10573 (37600)	10517 (37400)	10517 (37400)	10517 (37400)
12	P/H/R	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.5-4.9	27	10882 (38700)	10939 (38900)	11079 (39400)	11023 (39200)	11023 (39200)	10967 (39000)
13	M/M/A	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.5-4.9	27	10686 (38000)	10714 (38100)	10770 (38300)	10714 (38100)	10714 (38100)	10714 (38100)
14	GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.5-4.9	27	10770 (38300)	10798 (38400)	10882 (38700)	10770 (38300)	10770 (38300)	10770 (38300)
15	M/M/A/K	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.5-4.9	28	10798 (38400)	10826 (38500)	10882 (38700)	10826 (38500)	10826 (38500)	10826 (38500)
16	GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.5-4.9	28	10882 (38700)	10911 (38800)	10995 (39100)	10939 (38900)	10939 (38900)	10939 (38900)
17	M/M/A/K	ICS-105	Fine	30mm	3.5-4.9	29	10911 (38800)	10939 (38900)	10995 (39100)	10939 (38900)	10939 (38900)	10939 (38900)
18	M/M/A/K/T/O	ICS-105	Fine	31mm	3.5-4.9	30	11051 (39300)	11079 (39400)	11135 (39600)	11051 (39300)	11051 (39300)	11051 (39300)
19	A/K/T/O	ICS-106	Fine	32mm	3.5-4.9	31	11332 (40300)	11360 (40400)	11417 (40600)	11332 (40300)	11332 (40300)	11332 (40300)
20	M(P)/K/T	ICS-107	Fine	34mm	3.0-3.8	33	15325 (54500)	15325 (54500)	15325 (54500)	15325 (54500)	15325 (54500)	15325 (54500)

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