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To Attend or Not to Attend:

Should You Attend the Next ICAC Meeting in Pakistan?

With a Ph.D. in Agricultural and Resource Economics from Oregon State University in the USA, Dr. Terry Townsend is a consultant on commodity issues. He is currently working with the African Cotton and Textile Industries Federation (ACTIF). He served as executive director of the International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC) and has also worked at the United States Department of Agriculture for five years, analyzing the U.S. cotton industry and editing a magazine devoted to a cross-section of agricultural issues.

The 74th Plenary Meeting of the International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC) was completed in December in Mumbai, and by all measures the meeting was a fine success. The venue was excellent, the evening programs, spouses program, tour to Elephanta Island and meals were superbly organized, Indian hosts were gracious, and discussions were constructive.

EXPERT's Column

Dr. Terry Townsend

Following earlier ICAC meetings in Mumbai in 2004 and New Delhi in 1992, the 74th Plenary Meeting showcased the economic progress of India over the last two decades for those who have been visiting since the 1980s.

The 74th Plenary Meeting will be remembered as the meeting in which the ICAC Rules and Regulations were amended to facilitate the membership of the European Union, a development that will strengthen the ICAC in the long run by expanding membership to include all 28 EU countries. Other achievements of the 74th Plenary Meeting included progress in gaining international agreement on the metrics used in defining sustainability in cotton production and methods of measuring progress in individual countries, agreement among governments to support standardisation of phytosantiary certificates used in international trade in cotton and to support the trade-facilitation talks in the World Trade Organization (WTO). Strategies and technologies for reducing, and eventually eliminating insecticide use in cotton were endorsed by researchers, and governments agreed to expand the research agenda of the Secretariat to include work on government policies favoring polyester production. Other accomplishments of the meeting ranged from providing information on the economic use of cotton biomass in biodegradable packaging material to information on best practices in collecting statistics.

However, even before delegates had departed Mumbai, there were already murmurs of skepticism and even objection to the venue for the 75th Plenary Meeting in 2016, Islamabad, Pakistan. Of course, no one said anything publicly, and the acceptance of the invitation from Pakistan to host the ICAC in 2016 had already been approved in Thessaloniki in 2014.

Nevertheless, it is evident that many delegates and observers, including both government and private sector representatives, have misgivings about attending a meeting in Pakistan.

So, let's talk about this issue openly and deal with the misgivings forthrightly: should government and cotton industry officials attend the 75th Plenary Meeting of the ICAC in Pakistan in 2016?The metrics by which this question can be evaluated objectively include: purpose, organization and safety.

Purpose of ICAC Meetings

The mission of the ICAC is to assist governments in supporting a healthy world cotton economy by raising awareness of cotton issues, by providing information necessary for decision-making and by facilitating cooperation among industry segments and governments on matters of shared international concern. The purpose of a plenary meeting is to move forward through agreements to cooperate and through the identification of best practices appropriate for national adoption.

It is easy to be cynical and dismiss ICAC meetings as "just for governments," or as "just another meeting," but ICAC meetings are focused, purpose driven and constructive. Even in an age of reliance on the private sector to self-regulate, self-insure, self-finance and self-promote, the role of governments in commodity industries is still great, and the need for cooperation among governments and industry groups is perhaps even greater now than in 1939 when the ICAC was formed.

The ICAC provides public infrastructure in support of the cotton industry that cannot be performed by the private sector. The ICAC supports economic development through technology transfer and improved market transparency. The ICAC is more than just a development agency: the ICAC is an instrument of cooperation and communication to the benefit of all participants in the cotton economy.

ICAC plenary meetings are conducted around focus topics with an emphasis on dialogue, not just passive receipt of information, making actual attendance important. The role of the Committee in fostering cooperation, showcasing best practices appropriate for national adoption, and influencing government attitudes toward cotton and the cotton sector has influenced talks in the WTO and the subsidy programs of individual countries, has changed the trajectory of criticisms of cotton by non-government organisations(NGOs) and influenced national environmental regulatory regimes, has affected funding for cotton production research and the targets of such funding, and has standardised the definitions and measures used in instrument testing of cotton.

Discussions in ICAC focus on the roles of governments and the private sector in adoption of best practices to enhance efficiency, increase productivity and achieve social, environmental and economic objectives in the cotton sector. Those who skip ICAC meetings are allowing others to speak for them and decide issues without them, and this will be just as true in Pakistan as a meeting hosted in any other country.

Organisation of the 75th Plenary Meeting in Pakistan

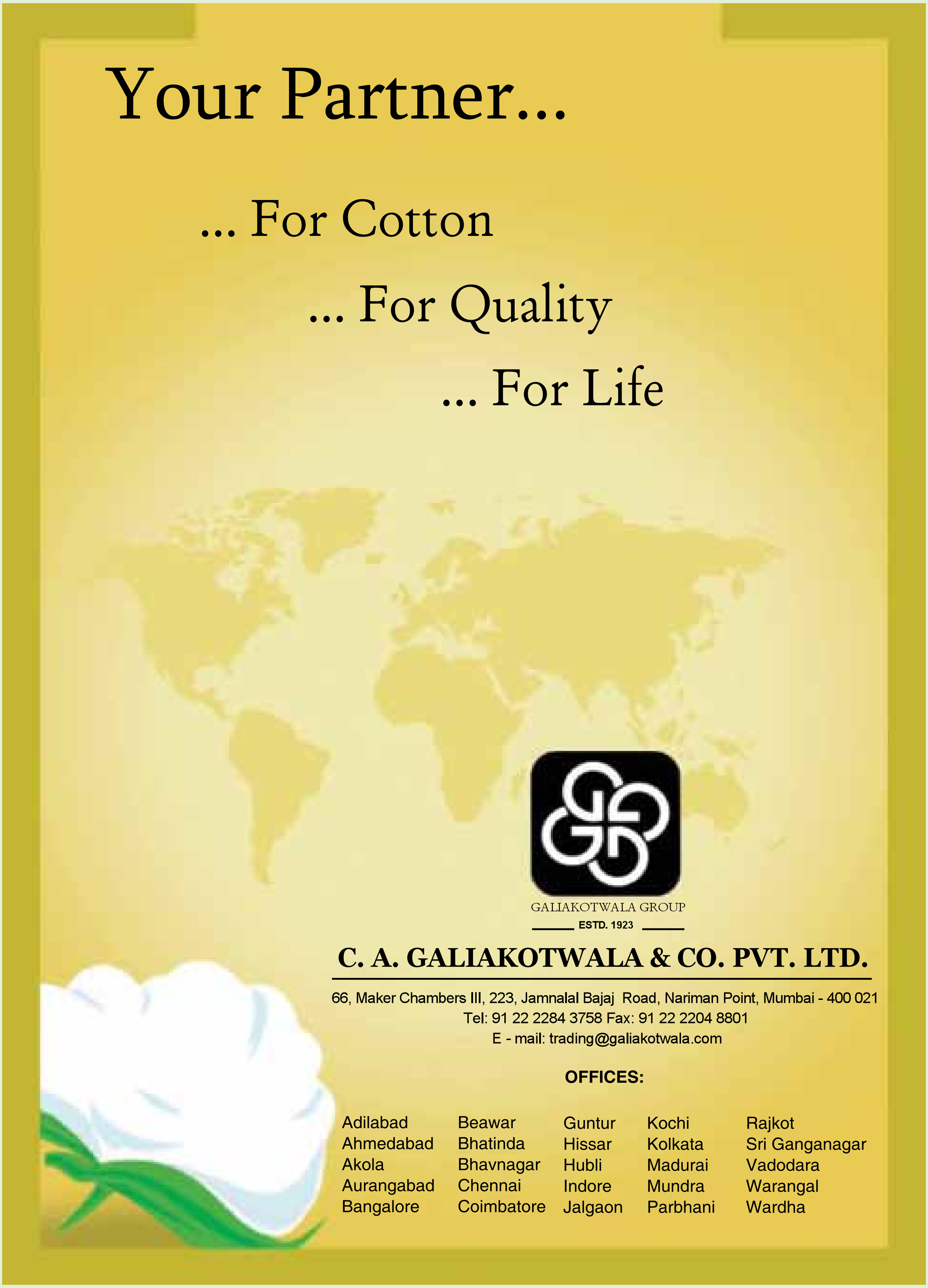
The next ICAC plenary meeting is still a year away; the theme and topics have not been chosen, the agenda is not set, and speakers are not announced. Nevertheless, I know from experience that the venue, meals, social program, arrangements for guest safety and comfort and overall level of support and organisation provided by the hosts in Pakistan will be superb. While Pakistan has not hosted an ICAC plenary meeting since 1951, other meetings including the Asian Regional Technical Network and individual travel have been hosted in Pakistan and have been totally successful.

The cotton industry of Pakistan is large and well organised at both the provincial and national levels, and there is a good degree of cooperation between researchers, government regulators, producers/ginners/merchants and the textile industry. Representatives of the Pakistan Central Cotton Committee, the Karachi Cotton Association and the All Pakistan Textile Mills Association have been attending ICAC meetings and interacting with the Secretariat for years. People in Pakistan know the requirements for hosting a successful ICAC meeting, and every requirement will be met fully.

Safety in Pakistan

Terrorist events draw attention, and the tourist industry of Pakistan faces some "challenges".The United States Department of State warns against all non-essential travel to Pakistan, and many other governments do the same. Nevertheless, a little perspective is appropriate.Caution in traveling to Pakistan is obviously justified. It will not be safe to leave the venue of the plenary meeting and wander around Islamabad to go shopping or sightseeing.

That said, assuming appropriate precautions and the use of common sense, travel to Islamabad for the plenary meeting will be safe and comfortable. According to Wikipedia, Pakistan attracted 1 million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tourists in 2012 (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tourism_in_Pakistan), and the government and cotton industry of Pakistan will ensure the security of delegates from arrival at the airport to departure from the airport, and the venue hotel in Islamabad will be highly secure. Sanctioned travel by plenary meeting participants within Islamabad and to cotton research areas in Pakistan will be escorted by military convoy and conducted by trained guides. Those of us from Western countries not used to such security precautions may find the arrangements unsettling, but to people in Pakistan the arrangements are normal.

Government agencies, including the U.S. State Department, must err on the side of caution, and warnings always envision worst-case situations. While the security situation in Pakistan is serious, it is not as bad as a war zone, and it is not as bad as government warnings imply. As Daniel Sagalyn, correspondent for PBS, the United States Public Broadcasting System, said in May 2013, "During our recent trip, we were able to travel freely around Islamabad and Lahore without a security escort, and there were no incidents jeopardizing our safety." http://www.pbs.org/newshour/rundown/pakistan-safety/

The bottom line is that ICAC meetings are important and productive and the 75th Plenary Meeting will be superbly organised, I have traveled to Pakistan and have felt comfortable and secure, and my wife and I look forward to attending the 75th Plenary Meeting in Islamabad next year. We hope that many others join us.

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

Cotton Yarn Production

(In Mn. kg)

Month	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15 (P)	2015-16 (P)
April	238.93	242.26	244.5	273.77	268.06	268.2	316.61	328.68	351.32
May	246.71	257.51	247.76	283.69	255.56	286.19	314.97	332.92	348.14
June	242.32	253.65	248.76	284.79	248.29	288.4	317.69	330.69	346.72
July	250.36	250.28	257.65	302.16	256.73	301.34	332.12	340.00	356.04
August	249.81	242.32	256.19	300.34	262.74	302.85	336.3	338.09	354.86
September	248.19	233.56	252.78	297.68	258.97	296.74	326.09	334.03	338.85
October	247.18	225.51	250.82	301.55	241.83	302.65	328.79	323.53	339.87
November	230.24	235.07	257.44	283.52	243.85	282.88	312.13	335.66	
December	252.97	251.88	267.44	308.78	269.82	314.21	341.67	353.96	
January	251.1	236.7	266.69	296.87	279.19	315.07	340.38	349.82	
February	243.41	224.98	256.58	272.99	269.01	302.59	321.31	330.35	
March	247.13	242.44	272.37	283.63	272.29	321.57	340.2	356.78	
TOTAL	**2948.36**	**2896.16**	**3078.98**	**3489.78**	**3126.34**	**3582.68**	**3928.27**	**4054.51**	**2435.79**

P - Provisional

Source : Office of the Textile Commissioner

Intensive Cotton Farming Technologies in China

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Abstract

Cotton (Gossypium hirsutum L.) production in China has developed rapidly during the last sixty years. In 2014/15, the planted area and total output in the country were 4.35 million hectares and 6.53 million tons, respectively, and the unit yield was 93% higher than the world average. China currently accounts for about 25% of world cotton production with just over a 12% share of the world area planted to cotton. Enhanced cotton production, particularly the high yield, is largely due to the country's adoption of a series of intensive farming technologies and cultural practices. The main intensive farming technologies employed include double cropping, transplanting of seedlings, plastic mulching, plant training and super-high plant density, all of which have played an important role in increasing yields and production. Although such intensive farming technologies help to meet the needs of a large population with limited arable land, they are labor-intensive and involve large volumes of inputs of various kinds of chemical products, such as fertilizers, pesticides and plastic film. The low profitability of cotton production compared to competing crops has inevitably caused the planted area to decrease year after year. Thus, there arose a need to undertake a series of comprehensive countermeasures to increase the benefits of cotton production by simplifying field operations, mechanization, cropping system reform and reduced soil pollution through rational use of plastic film and chemicals. Cotton production in China can be sustainable and has a bright prospect if supported by new farming technologies.

ICAC

Introduction

China is the largest cotton producer and consumer in the world (Chen et al., 2015; Wang, 2009). The area planted to cotton in China was 4.35 million hectares in 2014/15 with an average lint yield of 1,484 kg/ha and a total output of 6.53 million tons. Based on cotton type, distribution and growth environment, the cotton growing area in China can be divided into three major agro-ecological areas: Northwest Inland Cotton, Yellow River Valley and the Yangtze River Valley regions (Table 1). According to Yang and Cui (2010), these three main cotton regions account for over 99% of cotton area and production in China.

Cotton cultivation has a long history in China, but science-based cultivation methods were adopted only after the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949. Great progress in cotton production was achieved during the more than six decades since 1949, with an average annual yield increase of 3.1%, from 160 kg/ha in 1949 to

Figure 1: Long-term Cotton Production and Yield Trend in China

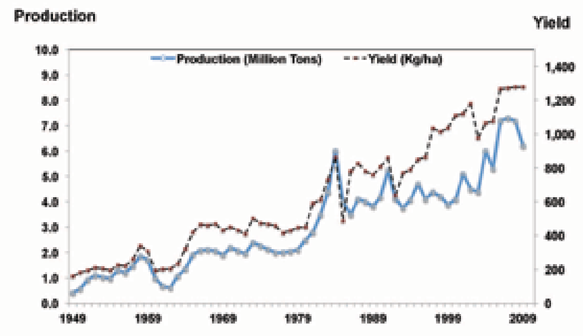


Table 1: Cotton Production by Region in China - 2014/15

Cotton Region	Provinces	Area (million ha)	Production (million tons)	Yield (kg/ha)
Northwest Inland	Xinjiang, Gansu	1.76	3.64	2,068
Yellow River Valley	Shandong, Hebei, Henan, Shanxi, Shanxi, Tianjin	1.45	1.61	1,110
Yangtze River Valley	Hubei, Hunan, Anhui, Jiangsu, Jiangxi, Sichuan	1.11	1.25	1,126

**Source: China Cotton Production Prosperity Index (http://www.ccppi.com.cn/)*

Table 2: Cotton Area, Average Yield and Production in the World – 2014/15

Country	Area (million ha)	Average yield (kg/ha)	Production (million tons)
Brazil	0.98	1,546	1.51
China	4.31	1,495	6.44
India	12.25	534	6.54
Pakistan	2.84	812	2.31
United States	3.93	903	3.55
World	33.51	781	26.18

**Source: International Cotton Advisory Committee*

1,280 kg/ha in 2009 (Fig. 1). China has emerged as one of the highest yielding countries in the world. In 2014/15, the average lint yield was 768 kg/ha in the world, while it was 1,484 kg/ha in China, i.e., higher by 58%, 189%, 90% and 93% than yields in the USA, India, Pakistan and the world average, respectively (Table 2). Many factors contributed to increased yields, including adoption of improved varieties and innovative farming technologies. These technologies include double cropping, transplanting of seedlings, plastic mulching and plant training, which have played more important roles than cotton varieties and other factors that contributed to the significant increase in lint yield over the past sixty years. The following is a summary and review of these intensive farming technologies with Chinese characteristics, and how they not only furthered the improvement of China's cotton production technology, but also that of other countries.

Intensive Farming Technologies and Achievements

Double Cropping

The cotton-growing regions in China are also the main food crop growing regions; hence the competition for land between grain crops and cotton has become increasingly intense. Double cropping of grain and cotton, which improves the soil, and a greater efficiency in the use of solar energy have become the mainstays of the cropping system. It ensures higher total output than single cropping, particularly the cotton-wheat double cropping system (Zhang et al., 2008), because it meets the need of farmers to grow a profitable cash crop while securing their food supply (Zhang et al., 2007). Based on the time (season) when the cotton is planted, the double cropping system is classified into 'spring cotton double cropping' and 'summer cotton double cropping.' Due to its shorter growth period, summer cotton double cropping has the obvious advantages of earliness and reduced susceptibility to plant diseases and insect pests through use of short-season cotton varieties (Lu, 1991). In the past, from the 1980s to the 1990s, it was once prevalent in the Yellow River Valley and Yangtze River Valley cotton regions. However, double cropping of summer cotton and wheat began to be replaced by spring cotton and wheat due to the relatively lower

Figure 2: Intensive Cotton Farming Technologies in China

Legend:

(a) Double-cropping of cotton and wheat
(b) Multi-cropping of cotton, wheat and watermelon
(c) Manual seeding in the nursery bed
(d) Transplantation of seedlings
(e) Seedlings manually freed from mulch
(f) Mechanized plastic mulching
(g) Mechanized plastic film coverage (mulching) before sowing
(h) Furrow seeding and plastic mulching
(i) Manual removal of vegetative branches
(j) Manual removal of growth terminals of the main stem
(k) Drip irrigation under plastic film
(l) Narrow row planting in the Northwest Inland Cotton area

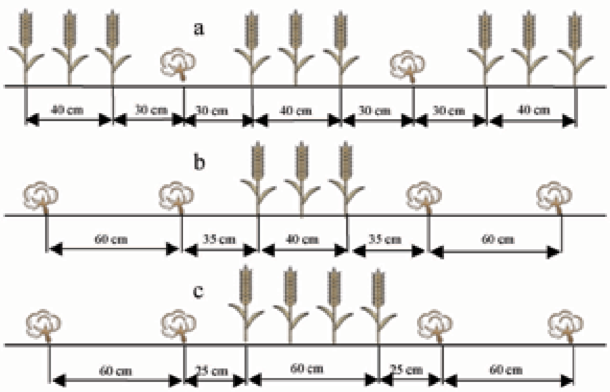
lint yield and poorer fiber quality of short-season cotton (Smith and Varvil, 1982). Currently, double cropping of spring cotton and wheat occupies a dominant position in the cropping system in both the Yellow River Valley and the Yangtze River Valley cotton regions (Fig. 2a, 2b). According to the different cotton-wheat planting modes, China's Huang-Huai-Hai plains generally adopted three different planting modes: the 3-1 planting mode (3 rows wheat and 1 row cotton); the 3-2 planting mode (3 rows wheat and 2 rows cotton); and the 4-2 planting mode (4 rows wheat and 2 rows cotton) (Fig 3).

Compared with solid cotton planting, wheat-cotton intercropping significantly increased multiple crop indexes and reduced competition between grains and cotton for land use in China. For example, the average yield of seedcotton under the wheat-cotton system in the Huang-Huai-Hai Plain since 1959 was 2,836 kg/ha, i.e., roughly 88% of the yield with the solid cotton cropping system. It should be noted that an extra harvest (3,861 kg of wheat per hectare) was also obtained compared to single cropping (CRI, 2013). Consequently, the gross income was greater. However, the planting area and the ratio of cotton-wheat double cropping system to conventional cropping system were sharply reduced owing to certain limitations. Those disadvantages include: a) low lint yield and poorer fiber quality due to delayed seedling growth during the wheat-cotton intergrowth stage and late senescence, both in the spring and summer cotton double cropping systems; b) reduced profitability because of increased demand for manual labor resulting from the lower degree of mechanization of the sowing and harvesting operations of wheat and cotton under the double cropping system.

Transplanting of Seedlings

Although the wheat-cotton double cropping system significantly increased profits relative to solid planting, the conventional process of cotton production also had some disadvantages. In that system, winter wheat is harvested in early or mid June, while cotton is sown in late April. Both crops overlap in the field for almost two months, from April till June (Zhang et al., 2007). Since cotton is sown approximately seven weeks before the harvest date for wheat, strips are left open in the wheat crop at sowing (October/November) to provide space for the cotton plants during their seedling stage (April-June). After the wheat is harvested in June, the cotton plants can exploit the full space, aboveground as well as belowground. A cotton-wheat relay intercropping system is thus characterized by three main phases: a) winter wheat (vegetative stage) grown in strips

Figure 3: Double Cropping of Cotton-Wheat



Legend:

"3-1" mode: 3 rows of wheat and 1 row of cotton
"3-2" mode: 3 rows of wheat and 2 row of cotton
"4-2" mode: 4 rows of wheat and 2 row of cotton

from November till April; b) intercropping of wheat (reproductive stage) and cotton (seedling stage) from April till June; and c) cotton only from June to October (Zhang et al., 2007). The two component crops in the system interact directly during the second phase, thereby delaying plant growth and maturity, as well as reducing cotton yield due to shading and competition between the two crops for water and nutrients (Zhang et al., 2008; Pan et al., 1994). An investigation to determine the relationship between boll weight in wheat-cotton double cropping, on the one hand, and meteorological factors, on the other, showed that the number of hours of sunshine was the key meteorological factor in most wheat-cotton double cropping patterns and in the positioning of the greatest number of bolls on the plant. In double cropped short-season cotton, the temperature that had an important impact on upper and top bolls (Zhou et al., 2000; Hodges et al., 1993). In 2006, Wang et al. found that competition for nitrogen absorption between wheat roots and cotton roots, as well as the translocation of absorbed nitrogen from the wheat roots to the cotton roots, occurred in the wheat-cotton double cropping system and that the nitrogen absorbed by the cotton roots was mostly allocated to the aboveground parts, and less to the roots. The findings also underscored the negative effect of wheat on intercropped cotton during the overlapping period. Although a wider cotton belt might reduce the negative crop interaction, it would undoubtedly decrease wheat yields and therefore cannot be adopted by farmers. Direct-seeded short-season cotton after wheat is harvested can avoid the negative effects of wheat shading on cotton seedlings, but the resulting poor fiber quality and yield stemming from the short growth period is not acceptable to farmers nor encouraged by experts

(Smith and Varvil, 1982). Therefore, transplanting the cotton seedlings just before or after the wheat harvest provides an effective way to prevent or alleviate the interaction effects of both crops (Song, 2010).

The practice of transplanting cotton seedlings began in China in the 1950s, but was not widely adopted until the 1980s, especially in the Yangtze River Valley and the Yellow River Valley regions (Cao et al., 2015). The ratio of total transplanted cotton area to the total area planted to cotton in China amounted to about 0.93 million hectares or 18% in 1980s. The seedling transplanting process consists essentially of three steps (Fig. 2c, 2d): 1) cultivation of the seedlings in the nursery bed, 2) transplanting seedlings to the fields and 3) field management after transplantation (Dong et al., 2007). For cultivation of seedlings, "columned soil blocks" (4-6 cm in diameter by 8-12 cm high), made of soil and organic fertilizer at a ratio of 9:1 (by weight) with the corresponding mold sizes, were prepared in early April, before planting. The soil blocks were then tidily placed into a eutrophic soil bed (10-15 cm deep and 2-3 m wide). After watering, each block was sown with a single cotton seed. The seedling bed was then covered with plastic film, which was supported by bamboo sticks arranged in the manner of a 50 cm high arched hut. Since the temperature inside the greenhouse-like hut was much higher than outside the hut, it provided quite favorable conditions for emergence and growth of the seedlings during the earlier part of the season. The seedlings were allowed to grow in the hut until they were ready to be transplanted. The huts were kept open for at least a week before transplanting to ensure the acclimation of the seedlings to cold temperatures. The soil blocks, together with the seedlings, were then transplanted to the fields manually. Seedling transplantation can generally be conducted about 35 days before harvesting the wheat when spring or full-season cotton is used, or soon after the wheat harvest when summer or short-season cotton is used, as soon as the mean soil temperature at the 5 cm depth reaches 17-19°C and the cotton seedlings have 2-4 true leaves on the main stem. Soon after transplanting, each field plot was watered to enable the seedlings recover their normal growth quickly (Dong et al., 2007). Inter-tillage and irrigation are conducted in a timely manner after transplanting (Sun et al., 1999).

Transplantation has several advantages, over direct seeding before or after the wheat harvest, as follows (CRI, 2013):

- Sowing can be conducted at the precise time in the seedling bed by adjusting soil temperature and humidity; bed cultivation of seedlings can also reduce the quantity of planting seeds consumed, as well as the incidence of diseases and/or insect pests on cotton seedlings. Cotton seedlings in open fields are easily attacked by Rhizoctonia solani Kuhn, Colletotrichum gossypii Southw, Alternaria tenuis Nees and Phytophthora boehmeriae Saw, but they are rarely attacked in nursery beds (Shen, 1992);

- Thanks to the optimal/efficient use of light and temperature by transplanted seedlings, the growing process is accelerated and the blooming and boll-setting periods are prolonged. Thus, the blossoming rate before frost sets in and total seedcotton yields are both greatly increased. The blooming period peaked about five days earlier and lasted about one week longer. The retention rate of early-season blooms and bolls per unit area was significantly greater with the transplanting system than with direct planting (Dong et al., 2005);

- Water and nutrient uptake improved as a result of promoted lateral root growth. Furthermore, root weight and the number of lateral roots in the transplanted soil cubes were 43.4% and 18.8% higher than that in direct seeded cotton (Mao et al., 2008);

- Cotton germination, emergence and early seedling growth are sensitive to salinity stress. Stand establishment was greatly improved by seedling transplantation when non-saline soil was used as nursery substrate; conversely, stand establishment was greatly diminished with direct seeding in saline soils (Zhang et al., 1982). Thus, seedling transplantation may be considered an efficient practice to increase the stand establishment of cotton in saline soils.

Compared with direct-seeded cotton after the wheat harvest, the yield of transplanted seedlings was found to be 20 to 30% higher (Gao and Shang, 1982). Moreover, seedcotton yield and quality parameters improved as a result of the increased number of bolls per square meter and earlier blooming; the net revenue for producers also increased relative to direct planting (Dong, 2012a; Dong et al., 2005). About two million hectares were planted with the seedling transplanting technology in the 1990s (CRI, 2013). It is true that traditional cultivation of seedling nurseries for later transplanting is labor-intensive. However, the process can be simplified by replacing nutrient soil clay with medium, by transplanting naked seedlings rather than combined with soil-clay, and by mechanizing the transplanting operation instead of doing it manually (Mao et al., 2012). Simplified transplantation of seedlings would decrease labor costs and increase efficiency.

(To be continued)

Source: The ICAC Recorder, Vol. XXXIII No.2 – June 2015

PRODUCTION OF MAN-MADE FILAMENT YARN

(In Mn. kg.)

Month	Viscose Filament yarn	Polyester Filament yarn	Nylon Filament yarn	Poly propylene Filament yarn	Total
2005-06	53.09	1075.82	36.84	13.58	1179.33
2006-07	53.98	1270.83	32.25	13.41	1370.48
2007-08	51.07	1420.14	27.62	10.51	1509.34
2008-09	42.41	1330.45	28.07	15.08	1416.01
2009-10	42.72	1434.34	30.32	14.77	1522.15
2010-11	40.92	1462.26	33.45	13.14	1549.77
2011-12	42.36	1379.51	27.94	13.19	1463.00
2012-13	42.78	1287.80	23.03	17.26	1370.87
2013-14	43.99	1213.07	24.00	12.91	1293.97
2014-15 (P)	43.93	1157.41	32.46	12.76	1246.56
2015-16 (Apr-Oct) (P)	26.18	623.20	20.66	7.27	677.31
2013-14					
April	3.51	103.27	1.59	1.36	109.73
May	3.38	108.65	1.87	0.90	114.80
Jun	3.58	105.95	1.82	0.99	112.34
Jul	3.92	99.07	1.91	1.11	106.01
Aug	3.86	106.47	1.98	1.30	113.61
Sept.	3.72	102.65	1.94	1.03	109.34
Oct.	3.77	97.03	1.90	0.83	103.53
Nov.	3.46	93.13	1.88	1.14	99.61
Dec.	3.75	103.81	2.05	1.16	110.77
Jan.	3.72	103.11	2.37	1.14	110.34
Feb.	3.54	91.57	2.25	1.06	98.42
Mar.	3.78	98.36	2.44	0.89	105.47
2014-15 (P)					
April	3.74	94.92	2.30	1.12	102.08
May	3.72	100.28	2.63	1.00	107.63
June	3.60	102.29	2.14	1.01	109.04
July	3.83	107.71	2.49	1.12	115.15
August	3.86	103.92	2.82	1.06	111.66
September	3.83	86.20	2.75	0.99	93.77
October	3.68	86.44	2.53	1.02	93.67
November	3.54	92.25	2.68	1.08	99.55
December	3.56	99.93	2.96	1.14	107.59
January	3.59	92.48	3.16	1.08	100.31
February	3.49	92.19	2.93	0.94	99.55
March	3.49	98.80	3.07	1.20	106.56
2015-16 (P)					
April	3.80	95.97	3.22	1.09	104.08
May	3.70	96.03	3.01	0.99	103.73
June	3.69	82.81	2.69	0.95	90.14
July	3.78	82.67	3.11	1.12	90.68
August	3.75	86.94	2.97	1.13	94.79
September	3.73	89.53	2.81	0.99	97.06
October	3.73	89.25	2.85	1.00	96.83

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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) 2015-16 Crop DECEMBER 2015					
Sr. No.	Growth	Grade Standard	Grade	Staple	Micronaire	Strength /GPT	21st	22nd	23rd	24th	25th	26th
1	P/H/R	ICS-101	Fine	Below 22mm	5.0-7.0	15	8520 (30300)	8520 (30300)	8520 (30300)	8520 (30300)	H	8717 (31000)
2	P/H/R	ICS-201	Fine	Below 22mm	5.0-7.0	15	8661 (30800)	8661 (30800)	8661 (30800)	8661 (30800)		8858 (31500)
3	GUJ	ICS-102	Fine	22mm	4.0-6.0	20	6833 (24300)	6833 (24300)	6833 (24300)	6833 (24300)		6861 (24400)
4	KAR	ICS-103	Fine	23mm	4.0-5.5	21	7508 (26700)	7508 (26700)	7508 (26700)	7508 (26700)	O	7536 (26800)
5	M/M	ICS-104	Fine	24mm	4.0-5.0	23	8661 (30800)	8661 (30800)	8661 (30800)	8661 (30800)		8689 (30900)
6	P/H/R	ICS-202	Fine	26mm	3.5-4.9	26	9308 (33100)	9280 (33000)	9280 (33000)	9280 (33000)	L	9336 (33200)
7	M/M/A	ICS-105	Fine	26mm	3.0-3.4	25	8211 (29200)	8183 (29100)	8127 (28900)	8127 (28900)		8155 (29000)
8	M/M/A	ICS-105	Fine	26mm	3.5-4.9	25	8577 (30500)	8548 (30400)	8492 (30200)	8492 (30200)		8520 (30300)
9	P/H/R	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.5.4.9	26	9505 (33800)	9476 (33700)	9476 (33700)	9476 (33700)	I	9533 (33900)
10	M/M/A	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.0-3.4	26	8464 (30100)	8436 (30000)	8380 (29800)	8380 (29800)		8408 (29900)
11	M/M/A	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.5-4.9	26	8914 (31700)	8886 (31600)	8830 (31400)	8830 (31400)	D	8858 (31500)
12	P/H/R	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.5-4.9	27	9673 (34400)	9617 (34200)	9617 (34200)	9617 (34200)		9673 (34400)
13	M/M/A	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.5-4.9	27	9223 (32800)	9195 (32700)	9139 (32500)	9139 (32500)		9167 (32600)
14	GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.5-4.9	27	9448 (33600)	9420 (33500)	9364 (33300)	9364 (33300)	A	9392 (33400)
15	M/M/A/K	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.5-4.9	28	9364 (33300)	9336 (33200)	9280 (33000)	9280 (33000)		9308 (33100)
16	GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.5-4.9	28	9533 (33900)	9505 (33800)	9448 (33600)	9448 (33600)	Y	9476 (33700)
17	M/M/A/K	ICS-105	Fine	30mm	3.5-4.9	29	9392 (33400)	9392 (33400)	9336 (33200)	9336 (33200)		9364 (33300)
18	M/M/A/K/T/O	ICS-105	Fine	31mm	3.5-4.9	30	9448 (33600)	9448 (33600)	9392 (33400)	9392 (33400)		9420 (33500)
19	A/K/T/O	ICS-106	Fine	32mm	3.5-4.9	31	9701 (34500)	9701 (34500)	9645 (34300)	9645 (34300)		9673 (34400)
20	M(P)/K/T	ICS-107	Fine	34mm	3.0-3.8	33	12795 (45500)	12795 (45500)	12795 (45500)	12795 (45500)		12935 (46000)

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