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Cotton Association of India

Cotton Exchange Building, 2nd Floor,
Cotton Green, Mumbai - 400 033
Phone: 3006 3400
Fax: 2370 0337
Email: cai@caionline.in
www.caionline.in

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Cotton Statistics And News

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Edited & Published by Amar Singh

A Brief Look at Cotton in China

In the world of cotton, China occupies a unique status. It is the highest producer of cotton in the world. It is the largest consumer of the fibre in the world. Ironically, it also the largest importer of cotton in the world, as its domestic production, the highest in the world, is not adequate to meet the demand of its very strong and robust textile industry which caters not only to the huge domestic demand for textile but also carries on a flourishing world trade in textile goods. It will, therefore, be interesting to take a look at the cotton in China.

According to the data published by the International Cotton Advisory Committee, China produced 6.4 million tonnes (mt) of cotton in 2010-11, constituting about a fourth of the world production of 24.88 mt. Its cotton consumption amounted to 9.59 mt in 2010-11, which was 39 percent of the world consumption of about 24.5 mt. China imported about 2.61 mt of cotton in 2010-11 or about 34 percent of the world's total imports of about 7.63 mt. China imports a sizable quantity of cotton from India which takes almost a similar share in imports by China as US. As exports from India went up over the years, China's imports from India also moved up. In 2010-11, China's imports from India amounted to 0.87 mt, amounting to 31 percent of total cotton imports by China. It was only five percent less than the share of imports from US.

China has a long tradition in growing cotton. According to historical records, China took to cotton forming about two thousand years ago. By the 6th Century, area under cotton started to expand and by the 13th Century cotton became one of the main economic crops. Presently, it is the second largest crop after grain crops. It forms the main raw material for the country's textile industry which plays important role in the development of national economy. About 0.1 billion farmers are dependent on cotton.

The three main zones of cotton farming include Yellow River Valley, Yangtze River Valley and North-West Inland district. The last one leading zone and the biggest province here is Xinjiang and to a smaller extent Gansu. About 50 percent of the country's total cotton area is Xinjiang. It is also where maximum superior long staple cotton is grown. China plants mainly Upland cotton and superior long staple cotton occupies about 67,000 hectares in Xinjiang. According to the data released by the Statistics Bureau of China, the country planted 4.85 million hectares under cotton in 2010, about two percent lower than in the previous year. Production touched 6.7 million tonnes, about four percent lower than in the previous year. Cotton area in the past decade has been fluctuating depending on the prices and net returns to the farmers. Since the country joined the WTO in 2001, production has been moving up and down. The highest production touched was 7.2 mt in 2007, while the lowest was 4.87 mt in 2003. With the development of technology cotton yield per hectare has improved. The average yield was 1305 kg per hectare in 2008 but it declined marginally

CAI WISHES ALL OUR READERS

A Happy and Prosperous New Year 2012

in the subsequent two years due to the unfavourable weather conditions.

China's cotton season is from September to August. Sowings normally take place during April and May. Harvesting is during September-October. Most of the cotton is hand picked in China which is least harmful to the fibres and is also helpful in avoiding trash and contamination. However, machine harvesting is being promoted for cost reduction and about 0.25 million hectares were mechanically harvested in 2010.

Producers sell cotton to brokers or deliver to the ginning factories directly. Factories start procuring seed cotton from farmers from mid-September and the peak procurement period is during October and November. By December, procurement nearly comes to a close. Seed cotton is normally processed in saw gins while superior long staple cotton are roller ginned. There are about 2313 ginning factories in China and modernisation of factories is an ongoing process for adopting national standard. At present, there are some 87 HVI testing laboratories with a testing capacity of 5.3 mt. During 2010-11 season, 2.67 mt were tested through HVI system, about five percent more than in the previous year. Cotton is usually graded and the average grade come to 3.

(Source: China Cotton Times, 2011)

Brazil Makes Remarkable Progress in Cotton Development and Export

Brazil had in the past been languishing in cotton production. However, during the last few years, it has come a long way to emerge as the fourth or fifth largest cotton producer in the world. Since 1994, cotton production in Brazil has quadrupled. Likewise, it has been able to make an entry into the world cotton market. While it did not export any cotton until a few years ago, it exported about eight lakh tonnes in 2010-11 and 2011-12.

The progress made by cotton in Brazil was due to the fundamental changes made during the last decade, according to the President of the Brazilian Cotton Institute. The cotton growing areas have been shifted from the South and Southwestern parts of the country to the Central and Western parts. This proved to helpful in more ways than one. For instance, the Central and Western parts were more conducive to cotton farming with favourable agro-climatic conditions. Also, only small farmers were planting cotton earlier when it was grown in the south and southwestern parts whereas large growers took to cotton farming in the central and western parts of the country.

In addition to these, a cotton producers' association was formed to take up various issues of the farmers with the Government. The association also created a foundation for research that would work in tandem with growers. The growers' body apprises the research association of farmers' needs and latter takes necessary action accordingly. On its part, the Government also supports research. Significantly, it is stated that growers contribute $ 30 a hectare for research.
All these initiatives are stated to have raised productivity from 770 kg a hectare to 1450 kg now. Interestingly, genetically modified Bt cotton did not have much role to play in boosting production and productivity. More than three-fourth of the area under cotton in Brazil is under traditional varieties while Bt cottons cover only about 10 percent. During 2011-12, cotton has been grown over an area of 1.4 million hectares compared to 0.84 million hectares in the previous year. Production this year is estimated at about 1.8 million tonnes of which 8,00,000 tonnes are expected to be exported. Next year, Brazil hopes to raise production to 2.2 million tonnes. As for expansion of area, it will depend on prices of Soyabean, the competing crop. Higher cotton prices last year had led to a shift from soyabean to the fibre crop resulting in an increase of 67 percent in area this year.

Brazil has been making earnest efforts to raise its cotton exports to other countries since the domestic textile industry is weak, unable to compete with the industries of leaders liKe China and India. The main reason is said to be the high labour and social costs, besides the currency factor. However, the marketing efforts made have helped in establishing Brazil as a supplier of quality cotton. Brazil's credibility is said to be high as it has set up an organisation to ensure that contracts entered into are executed. This organisation, called Ethics Committee, has representations from producers, textile industry, brokers and exporters. Its mandate is to solve problems concerning commercial contracts.

(Source: Business Line - 18.11.2011)

Area under Cultivation of Bt. Cotton to be Around 94 Lakh Hectares in 2011-12

Bt. cotton is the only crop approved for commercial cultivation in nine states by Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC). The area under Bt. cotton is targeted to be around 95.04 lakh ha for the year 2011-12.

The findings of laboratory and field studies conducted and also commissioned by Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR), Nagpur showed that Bt. cotton was toxic to bollworms but did not have any direct effect on any of the non- targeted beneficial insects and was also nontoxic to birds, fish, cow, goat and soil microorganisms. Studies conducted by CICR showed that Bt. Cotton has been playing a major role in effectively protecting the crop from bollworms, especially the American Bollworm, Helicoverpa armigera, thus preventing yield losses. The biggest gain from the technology was in the form of reduced insecticide usage from 46% in 2001 to less than 26% after 2006 and 21% during the last two years 2009 and 2010. The introduction of Bt. cotton hybrids has helped in production increase from 156 lakh bales (170 kg lint per bale) in 2001 to an estimated 356 lakh bales in 2011. Bt. cotton was introduced in 2002 and the area increased from 0.29 lakh hectares in 2002 to 95.04 lakh hectare in Kharif 2011(target). The productivity was 309 kg per hectare in 2001 before the introduction of Bt. cotton which increased to 495 Kg/ha in 2010.

Studies conducted by CICR showed that there was enormous farmer support for Bt. cotton as is evident from the fact that more than 90% of the area in all the cotton growing states in India is now under Bt. cotton. Maximum gains in yield increase have been obtained in Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Haryana, Punjab and Tamil Nadu. There have been a few stray reports of opposition to the technology from NGO groups, but these have had a minuscule impact on the spread of Bt. cotton in India. Farmers are being constantly educated by CICR, State Agricultural Universities, Krishi Vigyan Kendras through front line demonstrations and training programmes on all aspects pertaining to GM crops, its bio-safety and suitable methods for harnessing sustainable benefits through appropriate crop production technologies.

(Source: Ministry of Agriculture - 20.12.2011)

No Shortage of Quality Seeds

No shortage of good quality seeds has been felt in the country. The Government is already implementing a Central Sector Scheme titled "Development and Strengthening of Infrastructure Facilities for Production and Distribution of Quality Seeds". Under this scheme there is a separate component "Establishment and Maintenance of Seed Bank" for meeting the requirement of seeds during natural calamities like flood, drought and other unforeseen conditions and also to meet the shortage of seeds, if any, in the country. Seed Banks maintain seed stock of foundation and certified seeds of short and medium duration varieties which are locally suited to the area and are able to withstand stress of heat, submergence etc. The scheme is implemented through State Seeds Corporations, State Governments and two national seed producing Public Sector Undertakings namely National Seeds Corporation of India (NSC) and State Farms Corporation of India (SFCI). Government provides revolving fund to the implementing agencies for procurement of raw seeds and reimbursement of the expenditure incurred on the maintenance of seeds including transportation, grading & packing, insurance and seed losses during storage.

(Source: Ministry of Agriculture - 20.12.2011)

Forty Four Agriculture Information Centres set up in the Country

Agriculture Technology Information Centres have been setup under the Innovations in Technology Dissemination (ITD) component of National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP). Forty four Agricultural Technology Information Centres (ATIC) were established with the financial support from National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP) of ICAR in various institutions including 28 State Agricultural Universities and 16 ICAR Research Institutes. In addition, three ATICs, one each by Anand Agricultural University, Navasari Agricultural University and Junagadh Agricultural University were established by the respective Universities on their own without any financial assistance from ICAR.

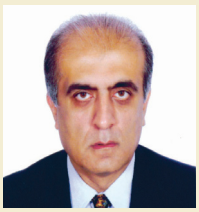
(Source: Ministry of Agriculture - 20.12.2011)

CAI is grateful for the outstanding contributions of the outgoing Additional Vice-President

Shri Sanjay V. Udeshi
Immediate Past Additional Vice-President

CAI extends warm welcome to the office bearers for the year 2011-12

Shri Dhiren N. Sheth
President



Shri Nayan C. Mirani
Vice-President

Shri Bhadresh V. Mehta
Additional Vice-President

Shri Shirish R. Shah
Hon. Treasurer

CAI also extends warm welcome to the newly elected members of its Board of Directors

UPCOUNTRY SPOT RATES

(Rs./Qtl)

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) 2010-11 CROP
December 2011

Sr. No.	Grade Standard	Staple	Micronaire	Strength/ GPT	Trade Name	17th	19th	20th	21st	22nd	23rd
03.	ICS-102	22mm	4.5-5.9	19	V-797	6524 (23200)	6524 (23200)	6524 (23200)	6524 (23200)	6524 (23200)	6524 (23200)
04.	ICS-103	23mm	4.0-5.5	19	Jayadhar	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
05.	ICS-104	24mm	4.0-5.5	20	Y-1	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
07.	ICS-105	25mm	3.5-4.9	22	NHH-44	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
08.	ICS-105	27mm	3.5-4.9	24	LRA-5166	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
					2011-12 CROP						
01.	ICS-101	Below 22mm	5.0-7.0	15	Bengal Deshi (RG)	9336 (33200)	9392 (33400)	9533 (33900)	9617 (34200)	9814 (34900)	9814 (34900)
02.	ICS-201	Below 22mm	5.0-7.0	15	Bengal Deshi (SG)	9589 (34100)	9645 (34300)	9786 (34800)	9870 (35100)	10067 (35800)	10067 (35800)
06.	ICS-202	25mm	3.5-4.9	23	J-34	8605 (30600)	8633 (30700)	8745 (31100)	8773 (31200)	8970 (31900)	8830 (31400)
09.	ICS-105	28mm	3.5-4.9	25	H-4/ MECH-1	9055 (32200)	9139 (32500)	9195 (32700)	9195 (32700)	9336 (33200)	9336 (33200)
10.	ICS-105	29mm	3.5-4.9	26	Shankar-6	9476 (33700)	9561 (34000)	9645 (34300)	9701 (34500)	9898 (35200)	9954 (35400)
11.	ICS-105	31mm	3.5-4.9	27	Bunny/ Brahma	9589 (34100)	9589 (34100)	9701 (34500)	9701 (34500)	9842 (35000)	9842 (35000)
12.	ICS-106	33mm	3.3-4.5	28	MCU-5/ Surabhi	10151 (36100)	10151 (36100)	10236 (36400)	10236 (36400)	10376 (36900)	10376 (36900)
13.	ICS-107	35mm	2.8-3.6	31	DCH-32	11754 (41800)	11754 (41800)	11754 (41800)	11670 (41500)	11670 (41500)	11670 (41500)

Note: Figures in bracket indicate prices in Rs./candy * - Nominal