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Cotton Exchange Building, 2nd Floor, Cotton Green, Mumbai - 400 033
Telephone: 8657442944/45/46/47/48 Email: cai@caionline.in
www.caionline.in

Indian Cotton - A Composite Economy to Spread Prosperity

Widely acknowledged as the 'Cotton man of India', Shri. Suresh Kotak has been involved with the cotton, agriculture, textiles business and industry and its research in various capacities for the past 60 years. He has been connected with various commodity associations, National and International Chambers of Commerce, NGO's and others alike. An ardent believer in alternate yet fair and balanced means of dispute and differences resolutions; he has been an active Arbitrator with International Cotton Association and has been co-arbitrator at various arbitrations conducted abroad and in India.

He is recipient of life time achievement award by The Textile Association (India), Ahmedabad and also by the Indian Cotton Federation. He was conferred the

Lifetime Achievement Award by the then Hon'ble Vice-President of India, Shri. M. Venkaiah Naidu during the Global Textile Conclave organised by CITI in 2018. He was also conferred "Cotton & Finance Merit Award" by the then Chief Minister of Gujarat, Hon'ble Shri Narendra Modi. He has been the past president of many prestigious institutions in India, including Cotton Association of India, International Chamber of Commerce (India Chapter), IMC, etc. He was also a Director on the

Board of International Cotton Association, Liverpool and has served on Private Sector Advisory Panel (PSAP) of ICAC. The Government of India appointed Shri. Kotak as the Chairman of Textile Advisory Group (TAG) in 2022.

EXPERT'S Column



Shri. Suresh Kotak
*Chairman, Kotak Group of Companies
and Chairman, Textile Advisory Group (TAG)*

Cotton - Universal - Unique - Fibre

1. Cotton is one of the vital most agricultural produce affecting production and consumption nationally and globally. It is a premier fibre which profoundly impacts eco systems of producing countries.
2. Throughout many centuries, cotton has been linking farmers to the international

consumers. For the producing nation, it has spelled prosperity with its linkages across many sectors.

Koray Caliskan in his book "Market Threads" depicts how cotton farmers, industry and traders create global textile universe through cotton, which serves and subs serves the clothing needs of mankind.

3. The cotton commodity chain includes various factors involved in the production, marketing, trading and processing of cotton including seed research institutions, input suppliers, cotton farmers, ginneries, local traders, exporters, international traders, and at the processing and conversion stage spinners, weavers, knitting, apparel manufacturers.

As more specific needs arise, this chain gets elongated and develops its dynamic effect evolutionally.

Economist View for Cotton in a Spectrum of Opinions

- Cotton like any cash crop is not just a lowly plant in the ground, it is subject to international attention, debates, discussions and controversies.
- Most importantly, the crop is depicted as an agent of development and prosperity, creator of jobs and a remover of poverty and change inducer to increase income and create jobs.
- Globally, cotton has the largest area under a single crop and is grown across 100 countries and traded by 150 countries, making it the world's most widely traded commodity, considering its deliverability, liquidity and tradability and usability.
- It has great propensity to create opportunity and wealth for the nation.

Technological Views

In essence, heritage cotton is always an innovative and technologically driven regenerative crop which necessitates continuous research and upgradation in practices.

The history of technology changes in cotton is a huge subject, suffice to say in the Indian context, we have had successful diversification through hybrid technology, interrogation methods as well as introduction of BT technology for crop protections after India's partition.

Now we are also in the experimentation of High Density Planting and relevant hybrids and advancement in crop protection methods and deployment of various irrigation methods. There is a continuity in the development of new seeds

as required for consumption. Seed development is a very time consuming job but can pioneer many new applications.

It also requires efforts and high degree of extension services to take up changes and new practices to the farmer who are more inclined to status quo thinking and just following the herd mentality with neighboring farmer.

Australia has solved this problem wonderfully by assiduously collecting the improvements in practice, inputs and researches, and have created a technological mastery. They also publish it in an annually revised manner as BMP i.e. Best Management Practices of the crop with a follow up extensively with the farmers.

This practice needs to be adopted by all the state government to become locationally effective.

This practice provides super and unmatched synergy and therefore, Australia with the least of rain, gets productivity of 2200/kg and is scaling heights.

New technology like Gen edited fibre crop, leveraging genome editing for fibre crop, improvement in relation to cotton crop must be adopted. This technology has potential to address issue of decreasing yield.

Precision agriculture needs to be introduced and we have to work out with integrated data and analytics with crop science to enable scientific decision making and use technology such as GPS, soil sensors, Weather Data and drive substantial yield gain, whilst optimising for resource use.

Relook to Cotton in India

The cotton plant was first cultivated in India before 1500BC as per the Rigved hymn. Since then it has gone through evolutionary changes in growth and development and there was a time when India was almost solo and supreme in cotton. The other countries came up later on, after many years.

In recent years, Indian cotton has not kept pace with the developments which are taking place in other countries especially in terms of productivity, etc. presently low productivity is bane of our cotton eco system.

COTTON ASSOCIATION OF INDIA



**COTTON
ASSOCIATION
OF INDIA**
Established in 1921
ISO 9001:2015

**A CHILD'S CHILDHOOD IS FOR LEARNING
DON'T USE THEIR CHILDHOOD FOR EARNING
SAY NO TO CHILD LABOUR**

We need to relook at cotton in India and also capture its value to create prosperity stimulative.

By and large, we have looked at cotton very narrowly, only merely as a fibre to be exported and supplied to the domestic industry.

We need to realise that cotton is bi-component crop in nature. 33% fibre on one side and 67% seed on another side.

As a fibre, we only consider it to be spun, weaved and clothing prepared out of it. Here also our product range in textile is small and here also status quo mentality prevails. We need to broaden our base of products.

We have to actualise that cotton has diversified facets. Actually, cotton is fibre, Food, Feed, Fodder and also

Fuel. It is multiplex, multisectorial and multi-functional.

In America, there is a department called fibre Engineering and Research on Cotton Applications, which develops the various aspects of cotton and of course now in India there is a realisation that cotton is versatile, multi sectorial, multi-functional and it can be put to multiple uses, cotton is also highly blendable and various combination and association with other products is possible.

We should increasingly use forward economies for specific industrial and technological fabrics in the 12 identifiable areas,

drive on to create opportunities and augment the wealth and value in the textile economy.

The backward economies of cotton is further sequencing itself into many products out of cotton seed which is 67%.

The cotton seed can be used for oil to a very large extent. It will augment and improve our total oil economy, it can be mixed with hydrocarbon oil i.e. petrol and can vitally improve our economics of edible oil's import as well as hydrocarbon oil's import through judicious mixture.

The lint i.e. the fuzzy hairy particle on the seed are a rich source of cellulose and cellulose, an attribute of cotton is of very high grade and is capable of creating many products where linters can be utilised.

Even the synthetic rayon, linzing of Australia and Chinese factories use the linters in a great way, still delinting has to be accepted in a general way, in India. Though in a limited way, it has started in Andhara Pradesh and Telangana. This can be one of the good avenue to create prosperity out of cotton.

Even other components of cotton plant are usable. The husk on the cotton seed is being used to replace the oil extraction property which guam-guvar has. In mills, the cotton seeds are used as livestock, poultry and fish feed and also as fertilizers.

The stock and leaves of cotton plant are ploughed under to enrich the soil.



Residues of plant such as stalk can be used for manufacturing fibre bores and also for generating electricity with its technical applications.

Innovations and Newer and Novel Uses in Cotton Products

The innovation in cotton are taking place on a continuous basis in various institutes like VJTI, CIRCOT and other textile universities.

Dr. Telli in VJTI has created number of products which can be put to use technically like many technical textiles.

There are lot of good results obtained to create product out of its attribute of high absorbability. This attribute of cotton can use used further for technological and environmental products.

Cotton is already used for hygiene products like cotton pads, baby and adult diapers, feminine hygiene, nursing pads, nasal strips, adhesives for dental plates, ear buds.

Cotton is also use for medical wraps used around wounds, heat pack, medical bag liners, fixation tapes and incubation and mattresses to name a few. Even shoe soles has been made with cotton. Fishing nets are also made out of cotton to a large extent.

Auto industry uses cotton in cord of tires and camping industry makes tents and traps from cotton.

It has also started being used as plastic reinforcing as well as stuffing inside pill bottles.

CIRCOT is doing splendid job in creating new cotton based products and intensifying uses of cotton. There are 60 patented, researched and licensed products available. It can open huge and mammoth opportunities for wealth creation through manufacturing, also creating high employability. They have achieved nano cellulose technology application in a significant manner.

I would insist that the entrepreneurs must shed off their status quo attitudes.

Mega Trends In Cotton

Cotton is regenerative every year and is also bio degradable, that makes it highly environment

compatible against any other fibre, manmade fibre in particular.

The cellulosic rich value has great potential.

Circular Economics and Cotton

There has been a turning into a new mega trend i.e. realisation of fundamental economic truth that wants are unlimited but resources are limited.

The economic systems has started modulating towards discarding lineared nature of approach i.e. take - make - use - and dispose - towards Three R principles of Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.

This trend is bound to create new kinds of business will emerge.

Actually the concept of Circular Economy resonates with Mahatma Gandhi's hardened lifelong message for conservation of resources.

Conclusion

We all in India have to realise that we have to prosper through our ingenuity and cognitive abilities that we possess but we have to shed off our inertia and lassitude and status quo thinking very rapidly.

Dear friends our attitudes determine the altitude.

If we change our attitude and approach and adopt out of box thinking, we will have opportunities galore, propensity is in multitude, prosperity is in our hold.

Let us stimulate ourselves - Realise and Seize the opportunities that are in the offing and become Atmanirbhar.

Attitudinally we must become young in thinking as startups and unicorn attitude is prevailing with innovators.

Source : CAI Centenary Special 2022

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



COTTON ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

Cotton Association of India's HVI
Laboratories in the major cotton
growing regions of India





COTTON ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

Cotton Testing and Research Laboratory (NABL ACCREDITED & ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFIED)

The CAI's network of independent cotton testing & research laboratories are strategically spread across major cotton centers in India and are equipped with

State-of-the-art technology & world-class Premier and MAG cotton testing machines
HVI test mode with trash% tested gravimetrically

CAI LABORATORIES AT DIFFERENT LOCATIONS

Sr.No.	Location	Address	Contact Details
1	Mumbai	2nd floor, Cotton Exchange Building, Opp. Cotton Green Railway Station, Cotton Green, Mumbai 400 033.	Mr. Sanket Shingote - 8691068976 laboratory.mb@caionline.in
2	Rajkot	Maruti Nandan Commercial Complex, In Side Ground Floor, Opp. Galaxy Hotel, Jawahar Road, Rajkot 360 001.	Mr. Hemal Vyas - 9924580810 laboratory.rk@caionline.in
3	Aurangabad	Awargaonkar Complex, Basement of Hotel Ramgiri, CIDCO, Jalna Road, Aurangabad 431 003.	Mr. Prasad Deodikar - 9922794884 laboratory.ag@caionline.in
4	Warangal	House No.8-3-163, Sri Krishna Colony, Ground Floor, Warangal 506 002.	Mr. Akash Gudimalla - 7601055471 laboratory.wl@caionline.in
5	Hubli	Center Point Building, Room No. 305, 3rd Floor, Opp. Sanjevani Press, New Cotton Market, Hubli - 580 029.	Mr. Pintu Basak - 8453697954 laboratory.hb@caionline.in
6	Bathinda	2nd Floor, Shop No. 4465, Bank Bazaar, Above State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur Bank, Bathinda 151 001	Mr. Ankit Singh - 9695258862 laboratory.bt@caionline.in
7	Ahmedabad	101, Arth Complex, 1st Floor, Mithakali, 6 Rastha, Opp Passport Office, Near LG Showroom, Navrangpura, Ahmedabad 380 009.	Mr. Brijesh Mishra - 8000090356 laboratory.ah@caionline.in
8	Adilabad	Door No. 3-2-29/13, Ground Floor, Ambedkar Chowk, SBH. Road, Near Canara Bank, Adilabad 504 001	Mr. Satish Bollu - 9640758670 laboratory.ad@caionline.in
9	Khargone	Ground Floor, Hotel P.M. Commercial Area, Opp. Agrawal Hotel, Near Bus Stand, Khargone - 451 001	Mr. Kishna Bisen - 9691073336 laboratory.kh@caionline.in
10	Yavatmal	First Floor, Veer Wamanrao Chowk, Drushti Sankul, Yavatmal 445 001	Mr. Jivan - 9763152502 laboratory.yl@caionline.in
11	Adoni	First Floor, NO. 17/104-7, Agri Market Yard Road, Adoni 518 301.	Mr. Naveen Kumar - 9390240024 laboratory.an@caionline.in
12	Jalgaon	52-B, Karmyog, Jila Peth, Behind Saibaba Mandir, Near Ambedkar Market, Jalgaon 425 001.	Mr. Pushpendra Singh - 8957143110 laboratory.jl@caionline.in

+91-865742947/48 | cai@caionline.in | www.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) 2021-22 Crop January 2023					
Sr. No.	Growth	Grade Standard	Grade	Staple	Micronaire	Gravimetric Trash	Strength /GPT	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th
3	GUJ	ICS-102	Fine	22mm	4.0 – 6.0	13%	20	14482 (51500)	14482 (51500)	-	-	-	-
4	KAR	ICS-103	Fine	23mm	4.0 – 5.5	4.5%	21	-	-	-	-	16028 (57000)	16028 (57000)
								Spot Rate (Upcountry) 2022-23 Crop					
1	P/H/R	ICS-101	Fine	Below 22mm	5.0 – 7.0	4%	15	17969 (63900)	17969 (63900)	17969 (63900)	18025 (64100)	18109 (64400)	18109 (64400)
2	P/H/R (SG)	ICS-201	Fine	Below 22mm	5.0 – 7.0	4.5%	15	18109 (64400)	18109 (64400)	18109 (64400)	18165 (64600)	18250 (64900)	18250 (64900)
3	GUJ	ICS-102	Fine	22mm	4.0 – 6.0	13%	20	-	13216 (47000)	13216 (47000)	13216 (47000)	13076 (46500)	13076 (46500)
4	KAR	ICS-103	Fine	23mm	4.0 – 5.5	4.5%	21	16113 (57300)	16113 (57300)	16113 (57300)	16113 (57300)	-	-
5	M/M (P)	ICS-104	Fine	23mm	4.5 – 7.0	4%	22	16535 (58800)	16535 (58800)	16450 (58500)	16450 (58500)	16731 (59500)	16731 (59500)
6	P/H/R (U) (SG)	ICS-202	Fine	27mm	3.5 – 4.9	4.5%	26	16506 (58700)	16619 (59100)	16619 (59100)	16619 (59100)	16788 (59700)	17013 (60500)
7	M/M(P)/SA/TL	ICS-105	Fine	26mm	3.0 – 3.4	4%	25	-	-	-	-	-	-
8	P/H/R(U)	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.5 – 4.9	4%	26	16647 (59200)	16759 (59600)	16759 (59600)	16759 (59600)	16928 (60200)	17153 (61000)
9	M/M(P)/SA/TL/G	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.0 – 3.4	4%	25	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	M/M(P)/SA/TL	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.5 – 4.9	3.5%	26	-	-	-	-	-	-
11	P/H/R(U)	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.5 – 4.9	4%	27	17041 (60600)	17238 (61300)	17238 (61300)	17238 (61300)	17406 (61900)	17631 (62700)
12	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.5	3.5%	27	16872 (60000)	16928 (60200)	17069 (60700)	17209 (61200)	17294 (61500)	17350 (61700)
13	SA/TL/K	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.5	3.5%	27	16928 (60200)	16984 (60400)	17125 (60900)	17266 (61400)	17350 (61700)	17406 (61900)
14	GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.5	3%	27	16872 (60000)	17013 (60500)	17153 (61000)	17378 (61800)	17378 (61800)	17406 (61900)
15	R(L)	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.5	3.5%	28	17153 (61000)	17238 (61300)	17238 (61300)	17238 (61300)	17491 (62200)	17716 (63000)
16	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.5	3.5%	28	17153 (61000)	17209 (61200)	17350 (61700)	17491 (62200)	17716 (63000)	17772 (63200)
17	SA/TL/K	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.5	3%	28	17209 (61200)	17266 (61400)	17406 (61900)	17547 (62400)	17772 (63200)	17828 (63400)
18	GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.5	3%	28	17153 (61000)	17294 (61500)	17434 (62000)	17659 (62800)	17772 (63200)	17800 (63300)
19	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	30mm	3.7 – 4.5	3.5%	29	17378 (61800)	17434 (62000)	17575 (62500)	17659 (62800)	17856 (63500)	17912 (63700)
20	SA/TL/K/O	ICS-105	Fine	30mm	3.7 – 4.5	3%	29	17434 (62000)	17491 (62200)	17631 (62700)	17716 (63000)	17912 (63700)	17969 (63900)
21	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	31mm	3.7 – 4.5	3%	30	17547 (62400)	17603 (62600)	17716 (63000)	17772 (63200)	17997 (64000)	18053 (64200)
22	SA/TL/K/TN/O	ICS-105	Fine	31mm	3.7 – 4.5	3%	30	17659 (62800)	17716 (63000)	17828 (63400)	17884 (63600)	18109 (64400)	18165 (64600)
23	SA/TL/K/TN/O	ICS-106	Fine	32mm	3.5 – 4.2	3%	31	17940 (63800)	17997 (64000)	18109 (64400)	18109 (64400)	18278 (65000)	18334 (65200)
24	M/M(P)	ICS-107	Fine	34mm	2.8 - 3.7	4%	33	17997 (64000)	17997 (64000)	17997 (64000)	17997 (64000)	18137 (64500)	18137 (64500)
25	K/TN	ICS-107	Fine	34mm	2.8 - 3.7	3.5%	34	18840 (67000)	18840 (67000)	18840 (67000)	18840 (67000)	18840 (67000)	18840 (67000)
26	M/M(P)	ICS-107	Fine	35mm	2.8 - 3.7	4%	35	18559 (66000)	18559 (66000)	18559 (66000)	18559 (66000)	18700 (66500)	18700 (66500)
27	K/TN	ICS-107	Fine	35mm	2.8 - 3.7	3.5%	35	19262 (68500)	19262 (68500)	19262 (68500)	19262 (68500)	19262 (68500)	19262 (68500)

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