

Weekly  
Publication of



**Cotton  
Association  
of India**

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Regd.No.MH/MR/EAST/96/2009-11

Registered with the Registrar of Newspapers for India under R.No.18844/69

Published every Tuesday

Price: Rs.30 per copy

# Cotton Statistics And News

2013 \* No. 48 \* 26/02/2013

Edited & Published by Amar Singh

## ***Cotton Continues to Rule as "King"***

Cotton, for long, has been hailed as the "King of Apparel Fibres".

The three great civilisations of the distant past have left behind three precious legacies to meet the sartorial needs of mankind – silk by the Chinese, flax by the Nile Valley and cotton by the Indus Valley civilisations. Of these, cotton has overtaken the other two and gained total supremacy. Its wearing comfort and moisture absorbing capacity have made it the preferred fibre. And thus, cotton continues to rule as "King of Apparel Fibres".

The world-wide web that cotton weaves is unrivalled by any other crop. It is grown in about 65 countries over an aggregate area of around 36 million hectares. The top five cotton growing countries now are India, China, USA, Pakistan and Brazil in that order. India, with an area of some 12.2 million hectares, grows over a third of the world acreage. The global production of cotton in 2011-12 was 27.4 million tones (mt). The top ranking producer is China with a crop of 7.4 mt, followed by India which contributes 6.0 mt. The third largest producer is USA with an output of 3.4 mt and next in rank is Pakistan, producing 2.3 mt. Uzbekistan is a distant fifth with a crop of 0.8 mt. Although India is the leading grower of this fibre crop, it is relegated to the second rank, after China, in production, owing to its low yield per hectare. The maximum productivity of 1996 kg per hectare is in Australia, followed by Israel with 1930 kg. Next in order is Brazil's 1464 kg. Yields in Turkey and China are quite close at 1384 kg and 1339 kg respectively. The world average yield now is 761 kg per hectare. India has a much lower yield at 493 kg/ha. Thus, while India has a share

of 34 per cent in global acreage, its share in production is only about 22 per cent.

The total supremacy enjoyed by India in the distant past received a severe blow with the advent of the Industrial Revolution in the West in the eighteenth century, which brought in its wake momentous changes in the economic world, by the invention and large scale use of machinery for raw cotton processing and manufacturing fabrics. One author wrote eloquently, "Walt's Steam Engine, Hargreaves Spinning Jenny, Arkwright's Mule, Cartwright's Loom and Kay's "Fly Shuttle" seized the entangled threads of cotton and out of them wove a new destiny". The net result was that cotton textile manufacturing industry in the West landed itself on the high road to prosperity, while its counterpart in India took a turn in the reverse direction, and was speeding towards its doom. Soon enough, India was relegated to the position of a mere supplier of raw cotton to the fast developing textile industry in England.

It goes to the credit of the undaunted spirit of Indian enterprise that this seemingly hopeless situation was overcome in course of time and once again the country was placed on the textile map of the world. The Indian industry took a rebirth in early nineteenth century with the establishment of the first textile mill on modern lines in Calcutta (now Kolkata) in 1817. This was followed by another mill in Broach in 1843 and by yet another one in Bombay (now Mumbai) in 1854. These laid the foundation for the later growth of the Indian Textile Industry. The expansion in recent decades has been so fast and so phenomenal that today India has the largest textile industry in the world in capacity and output.

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

**Statement about Ownership and other particulars about News Sheets ("Cotton Statistics & News")  
to be published in first issue every year last day of February**

**FORM IV (See Rule 8)**

- |    |                                |   |   |
|----|--------------------------------|---|---|
| 1. | Place of Publication           | : | Cotton Association of India,<br>Cotton Exchange Building, Cotton Green, Mumbai-400 033              |
| 2. | Periodicity of its Publication | : | Weekly  |
| 3. | Printer's Name                 | : | Amar Singh  |
|    | Whether Citizen of India       | : | Yes   |
|    | Address                        | : | Secretary<br>Cotton Association of India<br>Cotton Exchange Building, Cotton Green, Mumbai-400 033  |
| 4. | Publisher's Name               | : | Amar Singh  |
|    | Whether Citizen of India       | : | Yes   |
|    | Address                        | : | Secretary<br>Cotton Association of India,<br>Cotton Exchange Building, Cotton Green, Mumbai-400 033 |
| 5. | Editor's Name                  | : | Amar Singh  |
|    | Whether Citizen of India       | : | Yes   |
|    | Address                        | : | Secretary<br>Cotton Association of India,<br>Cotton Exchange Building, Cotton Green, Mumbai-400 033 |

I, Amar Singh, hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature of Publisher

Sd/-  
(Amar Singh)  
Secretary

## Ethiopian Delegation Visits CAI

The Federal Minister of State for Industry of the F.D.R of Ethiopia along with the Director General of Textile Development Institute in the Ministry of Industry and Counsellor II visited our Association on 16th February 2013. They were given a warm welcome by the CAI team led by the President, Shri Dhiren N. Sheth.

The guests were taken around the premises of the Cotton Exchange Building and apprised of the infrastructure and facilities available at the Association.

Shri Sheth made a powerpoint presentation to the visiting guests and apprised about the role and activities of CAI.

The object of the meeting was to discuss and collaborate with the Cotton Association of India in the areas of cotton cultivation as well as in textile & cotton marketing and focus on exchanging experience in other related issues.



## New Mechanical Pickers Designed Specifically for India

New Holland Fiat is planning to launch mechanical cotton pickers in India, hoping to alleviate the rising costs and scarcity of farm labour in the country.

A field-testing of prototype specially designed for the Indian market is underway and pickers should be ready for introduction in two to three years' time, said Mr. Gerald E. Salzman, Senior Director at Case IH.

The proposed cotton picker is said to be completely different from the Case IH Module Express machines currently being sold in the U.S., Australia, and Brazil. The mechanical harvesters designed in those countries are self-propelled with the capacity to pick the seed-cotton from six plant rows at a time and simultaneously compact them as 'modules' for delivery to ginneries. The picker developed for India is tractor-propelled and tailored specifically for the much smaller farms in the region.

India tops the world in cotton acreage and is behind only China in production. But since Indian fields are small, mechanisation is a challenge, requiring modifications in the electronics and hydraulic systems of the machines.

As explained by Mr. Salzman, with the cotton picker, they are basically leveraging the knowledge globally to design a new machine for India, while looking at the past when farms were smaller even in the U.S. He stated that developing a good picker also requires working closely with seed companies, who can breed varieties/hybrids with the right plant architecture and height, making them amenable for mechanical harvesting.

Growers may have to make some adjustments to their fields by widening the rows to allow for space for the picker to come through.

To the extent picking rates have increased in the last five years, there is a large potential market that the likes of New Holland and John Deere are seeking to tap.

Selling harvesting machinery also helps promote the main business of tractors and tillage/planting equipment here, as farmers see the same company doing both, added Mr. Salzman.

India's Chakan plant will ultimately also manufacture the cotton pickers that the company plans to launch by 2015.

*(Source: Business Line - 20.02.2013)*

## SNIPPETS

As per WTO's International Statistics, 2012, in merchandise trade, India is 19th largest exporter in the world with a share of 1.7 per cent and 12th largest importer with a share of 2.5 per cent in 2011, Minister of State for Finance said in a written reply to the Lok Sabha.

In commercial services, the country is the eighth largest exporter in the world with a share of 3.3 per cent and the seventh largest importer with a share of 3.1 per cent, it is reported.

Due to the global demand slowdown, the country's overseas shipment during the April-January period of 2012-13 shrunk by 4.86 per cent to USD 239.6 billion. The exports played an important role in the economic development of countries and the government has regularly undertaken various policy measures to boost exports. Recently, the government has extended a 2 per cent interest subsidy scheme for labour intensive sectors till March 2014. Increase in

exports generates more employment in the country.



After continuous decline for the previous eight months, merchandise exports from the country reportedly showed a rise of 0.8 percent to touch 25.6 billion US dollars (USD) in January 2013. However, imports are stated to have posted a much faster rise of 6.1 percent to reach 45.6 billion USD. Consequently, the trade deficit reportedly rose to nearly 20 billion USD in January 2013 compared to 17.6 billion USD a year ago.



It is reported that the Cotton Corporation of India has released the data on cotton arrivals according to which the total arrivals up to February 10 aggregate to nearly 18.34 million bales as against the arrivals of 18.93 million bales by the same period last year. The CCI has reported that the daily arrivals now are about 2,30,000-2,35,000 bales.



<b>UPCOUNTRY SPOT RATES</b> (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) 2012-13 Crop February 2013					
Sr. No.	Growth Standard	Grade /GPT	Grade	Staple	Micronaire	Strength	18th	19th	20th	21st	22nd	23rd
1	P/H/R	ICS-101	Fine	Below 22mm	5.0 – 7.0	15	9533 (33900)	9533 (33900)	9589 (34100)	9589 (34100)	9589 (34100)	9729 (34600)
2	P/H/R	ICS-201	Fine	Below 22mm	5.0 – 7.0	15	9814 (34900)	9814 (34900)	9870 (35100)	9870 (35100)	9870 (35100)	10011 (35600)
3	GUJ	ICS-102	Fine	22mm	4.0 – 6.0	20	7592 (27000)	7592 (27000)	7677 (27300)	7733 (27500)	7733 (27500)	8014 (28500)
4	KAR	ICS-103	Fine	23mm	4.0 – 5.5	21	N.Q.	N.Q.	N.Q.	N.Q.	N.Q.	N.Q.
5	M/M	ICS-104	Fine	24mm	4.0 – 5.5	23	9251 (32900)	9251 (32900)	9251 (32900)	9280 (33000)	9280 (33000)	9392 (33400)
6	P/H/R	ICS-202	Fine	26mm	3.5 – 4.9	26	10011 (35600)	9954 (35400)	10039 (35700)	10208 (36300)	10208 (36300)	10348 (36800)
7	M/M/A	ICS-105	Fine	26mm	3.0 – 3.4	25	N.Q.	N.Q.	N.Q.	N.Q.	N.Q.	N.Q.
8	M/M/A	ICS-105	Fine	26mm	3.5 – 4.9	25	N.Q.	N.Q.	N.Q.	N.Q.	N.Q.	N.Q.
9	P/H/R	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.5 – 4.9	26	10095 (35900)	10067 (35800)	10179 (36200)	10348 (36800)	10376 (36900)	10489 (37300)
10	M/M/A	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.0 – 3.4	26	N.Q.	N.Q.	N.Q.	N.Q.	N.Q.	N.Q.
11	M/M/A	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.5 – 4.9	26	N.Q.	N.Q.	N.Q.	N.Q.	N.Q.	N.Q.
12	P/H/R	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.5 – 4.9	27	10179 (36200)	10151 (36100)	10264 (36500)	10432 (37100)	10461 (37200)	10545 (37500)
13	M/M/A	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.5 – 4.9	27	9701 (34500)	9701 (34500)	9729 (34600)	9729 (34600)	9786 (34800)	9926 (35300)
14	GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.5 – 4.9	27	9729 (34600)	9729 (34600)	9898 (35200)	9983 (35500)	10011 (35600)	10151 (36100)
15	M/M/A/K	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.5 – 4.9	28	9786 (34800)	9786 (34800)	9842 (35000)	9842 (35000)	9898 (35200)	10067 (35800)
16	GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.5 – 4.9	28	9842 (35000)	9842 (35000)	10011 (35600)	10095 (35900)	10123 (36000)	10264 (36500)
17	M/M/A/K	ICS-105	Fine	30mm	3.5 – 4.9	29	9926 (35300)	9926 (35300)	9954 (35400)	9954 (35400)	9983 (35500)	10151 (36100)
18	M/M/A/K/T/O	ICS-105	Fine	31mm	3.5 – 4.9	30	10039 (35700)	10039 (35700)	10095 (35900)	10095 (35900)	10151 (36100)	10292 (36600)
19	K/A/T/O	ICS-106	Fine	32mm	3.5 – 4.9	31	10320 (36700)	10320 (36700)	10461 (37200)	10461 (37200)	10517 (37400)	10686 (38000)
20	M(P)/K/T	ICS-107	Fine	34mm	3.0 - 3.8	33	13160 (46800)	13160 (46800)	13160 (46800)	13160 (46800)	13160 (46800)	13301 (47300)

(Note: Figures in bracket indicate prices in Rs./Candy) N.Q. = Not Quoted