

**CAI Celebrates World Cotton Day
on October 7, 2021 with Cotton Workshop
CAI President,
Shri. Atul S. Ganatra's
Welcome Speech**

Respected Shri. Pradeep Kumar Agarwalji, CMD (CCI) Shri.T. Rajkumarji, Chairman of CITI, Shri. Sureshbhai Kotak, Chairman of Kotak Group of Companies and the most respected in Indian cotton industry, Dr. C. D. Mayee, a leading cotton scientist and well-known for his achievements, Presidents and Secretaries of all 10 cotton growing Indian states, our well known expert panellists, my colleagues on the CAI Board, CAI members and dear cotton friends,

Good morning to you all.

On behalf of Cotton Association of India, I cordially welcome you all to this CAI Cotton Workshop, which we have organised on the occasion of World Cotton Day, on 7th October 2021.

I convey our sincere thanks and gratitude to each one of you for accepting my request and joining this workshop at such a short notice.

World Cotton Day is celebrated on October 7th, every year, as a global celebration of cotton and its stake-holders. It was launched by the World Trade Organisation in 2019. World Cotton Day celebration provides an opportunity to recognise the importance of cotton as a global commodity. World Cotton Day is celebrated with great spirit.

In Indian economy, cotton plays an important role. Cotton provides livelihood to about 6 million farmers, with another 40-50 million people engaged in related activities in textile value chain. Indian textile spinning industries using 60% of cotton and 40% of manmade fibre.

India is number 1 cotton producer in the world, with about 30% of the world's total acreage. India is producing around 35 to 37 million bales of cotton yearly from last few years. India's cotton consumption is around 33 million bales and we are 2nd largest consumer of the cotton next only to China. Also, India is 2nd largest cotton exporter next only to USA.

After introduction of BT seeds, India's yield per hectare from 68 kgs is now improved to 450 kgs per hectare. However, our cotton yield is still among the lowest in the world. Therefore, we have today invited industry-leaders to discuss on this subject in this workshop and chart out a path for India to achieve at least the world average productivity mark of over 700 Kgs per hectare. If we succeed to increase our yield even 20% more, then, today we can produce 50 million cotton bales yearly.

Also, today in this workshop we have invited India's all 10 cotton growing states' Presidents and Secretaries to give us their states cotton crop conditions as on today and other details.

When the new cotton season is starting, entire Indian cotton value chain want to know how the market will behave in the coming months. For that, today we have invited India's best trade experts and trade leaders and international merchants who will give us knowledge in the Bulls and Bears panel discussion.

Friends, I would like to inform you all that Cotton Association of India will be completing 100 years of its service to the cotton sector in India on 19th October 2021. CAI was incorporated on 19th October 1921. Since then, CAI has engaged in providing a wide range of services to the entire cotton value chain. All segments of the cotton value chain including mill-buyers, growers, ginners, brokers, merchants, importers and exporters are members of CAI

We hope to celebrate our 100th year in a grand manner. However, due to COVID 19, we have delayed our celebrations so that all our members can participate on this occasion. Soon our events committee will formalise these programmes and I humbly request each one of you to make it convenient to join us in our 100th year celebration.

Once again, I thank everyone for attending today's world cotton day with C.A.I.

Thank you, Thank you very much.

Jai Hind, Jai Maharashtra