

Weekly
Publication of



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Cotton Statistics And News

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Programme on 'Fire Insurance' under "Learn with CAI" Series Organised by CAI

Under the series "Learn with CAI" initiated by the Association, the fifth programme was held on 26th September 2009 on 'Fire Insurance' in the Conference Room of the Association.

Shri Dhiren N. Sheth, President, CAI, welcomed the participants. He introduced the faculty Shri R. Ganatra to the participants and emphasized upon the importance of Fire Insurance to the cotton sector and urged the participants to derive maximum benefit from the vast knowledge and experience of the eminent faculty.



CAI President, Shri Dhiren N. Sheth addressing the participants

The programme was divided into two sessions. Shri R. Ganatra, an eminent faculty in the field of insurance made a detailed presentation on Fire



Shri R. Ganatra was welcomed with a Bouquet of Flowers

Insurance. He elaborately explained the various aspects of Fire Insurance and highlighted the different policy conditions of fire insurance to the participants. The session turned out to be highly interactive. A quiz on the subject was also arranged and it was proved to be an added excitement for the participants.



Shri R. Ganatra interacting with the participants

Shri Rathin Varaiya, Director, M/s. Mankad & Associates, a reputed insurance firm, in his presentation, highlighted the importance of Fire Insurance claims especially for cotton trade.



Shri Rathin Varaiya was welcomed with a Bouquet of Flowers.

The programme concluded with an Open Session where faculty members responded to the several queries raised by the participants.

**CAI Wishes All Our Readers
A Happy Cotton Year 2009-10**

More on Bt Cotton

If there is one factor that has made the maximum contribution to the breakthrough in Indian cotton production in recent years, it is the rapid and extensive spread of Bt cottons. This is not to deny the contribution made by the extension efforts especially after the launching of the Technology Mission on Cotton in 2000. Extension efforts have certainly been helpful but it takes time for the results from them to manifest. In contrast, the results from the spread of Bt cottons manifest almost instantly as can be seen from the following data :

Year	Total Cotton Area	Bt Cotton Area	% of Bt coverage	Production
	(In lakh hectares)			(lakh bales)
2002-03	73.90	0.29	0.39	136
2003-04	78.35	0.93	1.18	179
2004-05	89.70	4.98	5.55	243
2005-06	88.73	10.14	11.42	241
2006-07	91.58	34.61	37.79	280
2007-08	95.06	63.34	66.00	307
2008-09	93.73	69.00	73.00	290
2009-10	96.21	76.28	79.28	305-310 (Est)

In a way, it can even be claimed that Bt cottons have stimulated the increase in total cotton area since 2002-03. On the one hand, they gave higher yield and on the other, the production cost was lower as there was no need for costly pesticide sprays to get at least some control of bollworms that inflict the maximum crop loss. Resultantly, the net returns to farmers from one hectare were much higher and

cotton proved to be more remunerative than several competing crops.

According to published data, while there were 54,000 farmers who grew Bt cotton in 2002-03, their number has swelled to above 5 million in 2009. The average yield increase from growing Bt cotton is placed at 54 per cent while there is a 50 per cent reduction in pesticide spray. The increase in net profit was as high as 60-70 per cent. Currently, the total number of approved Bt cottons in the country comes to 274. Of these, 49 are in north zone, 72 each in the central and south zones while the remaining are recommended for more than one zone each. At present, there are 30 private companies who supply Bt cotton seeds to farmers.

Recently, the Indian Council of Agriculture Research has developed a medium staple Bt cotton, viz, Bikaneri Narma Bt. This has been approved for commercial cultivation and its seeds are currently under multiplication. When it spreads over large areas it can be expected to raise the production of medium staple cottons which has come down in recent years due to the switch over to the long staple Bt cottons by large number of farmers who were traditionally growing short and medium staple cottons. The rapid spread of Bikaneri Narma Bt. in the coming years can thus be expected to mitigate to some extent the problem of imbalance in the production of different staple groups. Another advantage of Bikaneri Narma Bt. is that not being a hybrid, its seeds from one crop can be used for sowing the next season's crop without the need for going in for fresh and costly hybrid seed every year.

Technical Textiles Can Give Boost to Agriculture - Textiles Secretary

The Union Textiles Secretary is quoted to have stated that application of technical textiles in agriculture will give a boost to agriculture and can help in bringing in a second "green revolution". Technical textile products used in agriculture are known as Agrotech and those used for environmental protection are called Ockotech. Textiles have a number of uses in agriculture which help in conserving soil moisture and raising yields and protecting the crops in various ways. They are used for fabricating shade nets, crop covers, mulch nets, anti-hail nets, bird protection nets and green house covers. In cotton, mulch nets can help in conserving soil moisture and prevent losses due to evaporation in arid zones. Soil mulching is practised only on a very limited scale in India but in countries like China extensive use is made of crop

covers and mulch nets for maintaining soil temperatures for proper germination and seedling growth when temperatures are quite low, and for soil moisture conservation.

The Textiles Secretary is quoted to have added that Agrotech textiles have a huge potential and its market size was expected to increase from Rs. 553 crore in 2007-08 to over Rs. 1,300 crore by 2012-13. There was an urgent need to develop standards, procedures and manufacturing capacities of international standards if India is to compete globally and ensure food security and income security to farmers. The judicious use of Agrotech can help in reduction of post-harvest wastage of agriculture products from 7 per cent to 4 per cent, according to the Textiles Secretary.

68th Plenary Meeting of ICAC - A Report

As reported in the last issue of this bulletin, the 68th plenary meeting of ICAC was held at Cape Town, South Africa from September 7-11, 2009. Shri Dhiren N. Sheth, President, Shri Nayan C. Mirani, Vice-President and Shri O.P. Agarwal, Executive Director attended the meeting on behalf of the Association.



Indian delegates including Shri Dhiren N. Sheth at a Plenary Session in progress

During the plenary meeting, Dr. Anupam Barik, Director, DOCD, Dr. K.R. Kranthi of CICR and Dr. A.J. Shaikh of CIRCOT made presentations on various subjects which was appreciated by the participants.

On the sidelines of the plenary meeting, meetings of SEEP, PSAP, IFCP and CSITC were also held. Shri Dhiren N. Sheth attended the PSAP meeting which discussed several international cotton issues particularly with reference to the role of private sector in the development of cotton.

It is a matter of pride for our Association that Shri Sheth was elected as the Vice-Chairman of PSAP.

The meeting comprised of six Open Sessions covering subjects like Policies to Enhance Food Security, Facilitating Small-Holder Cotton Production, Cotton By-Products and Value Addition, Outlook for Supply, Demand and Prices of Cotton and Inputs, Bio-safety Regulations, Implementation and Consumer Acceptance and The Impacts of Social and Environmental Standards on Demand for Cotton and Textiles, etc. In addition, there were Breakout Sessions on The Role of Organizations in the Cotton Economy, Progress Towards Harmonization of Trade Rules, Enhancing Demand for Cotton Products, The Impacts of Carbon Trading on the Cotton Industry, Best Practices in Cotton Ginning and Best Practices in Instrument Testing. A Round Table discussion on the Role of Organic Cotton in the Cotton Industry was also held which was attended by Shri Dhiren N. Sheth and Shri O.P. Agarwal.

Dr. K. R. Kranthi of the Central Institute of Cotton Research, Nagpur, India, was honoured with the award of the first ICAC Cotton Researcher of the year 2009. Dr Kranthi is an entomologist by research & training and has developed Bt toxin detection kits that have been patented in India for the benefit of millions of small cotton growers.

In the first Break Out Session on the Role of Organisations in the Cotton Economy, Shri Dhiren N. Sheth made a comprehensive presentation on the Role of CAI which evoked a lot of interest amongst the participants and several queries were raised by them which were responded to by Shri Sheth.

The meeting of International Forum for Cotton Promotion (IFCP) was attended by Shri Dhiren N. Sheth, Shri Nayan C. Mirani and Shri O.P. Agarwal. Shri Dhiren N. Sheth made a presentation on the plans of CAI to promote cotton as a fibre in India which was highly appreciated by the members of IFCP present at the meeting.

Shri Mirani was re-elected as the Vice-Chairman of IFCP.

CSITC meeting was attended by Shri Dhiren N. Sheth, Shri Nayan C. Mirani and Shri O.P. Agarwal. The meeting reviewed the results of CSITC Round Trial Tests, new parameters for testing and few other important issues relating to instrument testing.

S N I P P E T S

The total procurement of cotton by different agencies in Maharashtra during 2008-09 are placed at about 300 lakh quintals of kapas. Of this quantity, the State Cotton Growers Cooperative Marketing Federation is said to have procured the maximum quantity of 166 lakh quintals, followed by CCI with about 80 lakh quintals and over 50 lakh quintals by private trade.



The National Multi-Commodity Exchange (NMCE) expects to double its daily turnover in the next six months, according to its Chief Executive. Currently, the daily turnover of the Exchange is more than Rs. 1,600 crore compared to around Rs. 240 crore last year. The bourse's daily turnover is

reported to have risen sharply due to introduction of a trading session in the evening.



Signalling a recovery in economic growth, the six key infrastructure industries reportedly posted an impressive growth of 7.1 per cent in August 2009 as against 2.5 per cent in July 2009 and 2.1 per cent in August last year. The best growth performance of 17.6 per cent was in the case of cement output compared to 1.9 per cent in August 2008. Other indicators of economic recovery were the 22.7 per cent increase in excise collection in August compared to the previous month as also the increase in advance tax collections.



UPCOUNTRY SPOT RATES

(Rs./Candy)

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) 2008-09 CROP September - October 2009					
					26th	28th	29th	30th	1st	2nd
01.	ICS-101	Below 22mm	Bengal Deshi(RG)	5.0-7.0 15			22900	22900	-	
02.	ICS-201	Below 22mm	Bengal Deshi(SG)	5.0-7.0 15	H	H	23400	23400	-	H
03.	ICS-102	22mm	V-797	4.5-5.9 19	O	O	18000	18000	18000	O
04.	ICS-103	23mm	Jayadhar	4.0-5.5 19			18000	18000	18000	
05.	ICS-104	24mm	Y-1	4.0-5.5 20	L	L	21200	21200	21200	L
06.	ICS-202	25mm	J-34 (SG)	3.5-4.9 23			21200	21200	-	
07.	ICS-105	25mm	NHH-44	3.5-4.9 22	I	I	20900	20900	20900	I
08.	ICS-105	27mm	LRA-5166	3.5-4.9 24			21000	21000	21000	
09.	ICS-105	28mm	H-4/ MECH-1	3.5-4.9 25	D	D	21600	21600	21600	D
10.	ICS-105	29mm	S-6	3.5-4.9 26	A	A	22400	22400	-	A
11.	ICS-105	31mm	Bunny/ Brahma	3.5-4.9 27	Y	Y	22900	22900	-	Y
12.	ICS-106	33mm	MCU-5/ Surabhi	3.3-4.5 28			23700	23700	23700	
13.	ICS-107	35mm	DCH-32	2.8-3 .6 31			32900	32900	32900	
14.	ICS-301	26mm	ICC	3.7-4.3 25			22200	22200	22200	
2009-10 CROP										
01.	ICS-101	Below 22mm	Bengal Deshi(RG)	5.0-7.0 15			-	-	22900	
02.	ICS-201	Below 22mm	Bengal Deshi(SG)	5.0-7.0 15			-	-	23400	
06.	ICS-202	25mm	J-34 (SG)	3.5-4.9 23			-	-	21200	
10.	ICS-105	29mm	S-6	3.5-4.9 26			-	-	22400	
11.	ICS-105	31mm	Bunny/ Brahma	3.5-4.9 27			-	-	22900	