

International Multidisciplinary
Research Journal

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RNI MAHMUL/2011/38595

ISSN No.2231-5063

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COTTON PRODUCTION AND MARKETING IN INDIA & KARNATAKA



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Short Profile

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ABSTRACT:

Indian economy is agro-based and agriculture is its mainstay as it constitutes the backbone of the rural livelihood security system. Agriculture has been and still continues to be the life line of the Indian economy since economic security is essentially predicted upon the agricultural and allied sectors. The agriculture sector encompasses crop production, animal husbandry, fisheries, agribusiness, etc. Crop production depends upon crucial inputs such as good seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, irrigation, human labour, machinery and management. The commercial crops are the main source of income for maximum farmers of the country

one of the important crop is Cotton, which is also known as 'white gold', dominates India's cash crops, and makes up 65 per cent of the raw material requirements of the Indian textile industry. China is the largest producer of cotton in the world, whereas India is only the third largest. Interestingly, China today with only half the area under cotton production as compared to India, produces one and-a-half times more cotton, has one-and-a-half times the world market share and three times the yield.

Cotton accounts for 40% of the total global fibre production and is the most important fibre in the world. India is a major player with world cotton market in terms of area and production. India is now the second largest cotton producer, consumer and exporter in the world. Cotton covers around 7% of the total crop coverage and is second to rice in India. Cotton textile is one of the largest industries in India. It provides livelihood of 60 million people depend on cotton cultivation, processing trade and textiles. Textile industry contributes 4% of GDP, 14% of total industrial product, 20% of total work force, 17% of country's exports earning and employment to 30 million people. This paper highlights some of the important aspects such as cotton production, cotton marketing in India and in Karnataka, cotton yield in various districts of Karnataka state.

KEYWORDS

Agriculture, Cotton, Fibre, Production, Marketing, Species, etc.

INTRODUCTION

Cotton, also known as 'white gold', dominates India's cash crops, and makes up 65 per cent of the raw material requirements of the Indian textile industry. In the thirteenth century, the Mongol-Tartar dynasty brought cotton to China from India. Today, China is the largest producer of cotton in the world, whereas India is only the third largest. Interestingly, China today with only half the area under cotton production as compared to India, produces one and-a-half times more cotton, has one-and-a-half times the world market share and three times the yield. India is the third largest producer of cotton in the world after China and USA, accounting for about 13 per cent of the world cotton production. It has the distinction of having the largest area under cotton cultivation in the world, ranging between 8.00 million to 9.00 million hectares, and constituting about 21 per cent of the world area under cotton cultivation. The yield per hectare is, however, the lowest against the world average, but over the last two years has shown a promising potential to touch the world average.

REVIEW OF THE STUDY:

Vishwanath (1986): Marketing of cotton in Karnataka: some reflections on prices and policies pointed out that there were wide spread differences in the cotton of market arrivals of unsigned cotton and ginned cotton in Karnataka. It was found that the arrivals of unginned cotton were at its peak during March-April (140.97) Percent this was 145.95 percent higher than the normal in case of ginned cotton. It was 193.04 percent higher than the normal in April around Raichur market the pattern of market arrivals is more evenly spread out in the case of ginned cotton compared to unginned cotton.

Vastrad(1996):" Marketing of cotton in Tungabhadra ayacut area alleged that there has been a proper understanding and built in adjustment among the marketing agencies purchasers and the authority of the market committees regarding price tender and grading which affect the producer seller adversely. Thus it is felt that the regulatory measures legally enforced by the market committee alone cannot protect the interest of the farmers as the human element is involved in the implementation of these measures.

Kallur and Vastrad (2002):" In their study on working of the regulated markets with particulars reference to cotton market township reveals that the agricultural produce market committee Raichur with all its efforts unable to reduce the fraudulent practices of the agencies operating in the market. Lack of storage and transportation facilities is another major problem of the farmers of the area. Therefore, farmers have been going in for paddy rather than the cotton.

OBJECTIVES:

- 1.To know the importance of cotton production
- 2.To know the status of cotton production in India & Karnataka
- 3.suggest policy proposals to further increase the production and marketing of cotton

HYPOTHESIS:

- 1.Cotton is a very profitable crop
- 2.Cotton production increases the socio-economic status of farmer

METHODOLOGY:

The required information has been collected with help of published books, Journals, Reports, Books, News papers and Internet.

Cotton -a major Agriculture-crop in India:

- 1.Area under cotton cultivation is almost 9 percent of the total area under Agriculture in India
- 2.Cotton crop contributes about 14-16percent to the total agri-crop in India
- 3.India has the largest area under cotton production, it consists 26percent of total world cotton area
- 4.India presently produces 4.59 million tonnes (27 million bales of 170 kgs each)This constitutes 18percent of the world cotton production
- 5.4.5 million farmers in India depend on cotton for their

Livelihood

Cotton species produced in India:

India is the only Country which produces all 4 species of cotton i.e.

- ✦ Gossypium hirsutum (e.g. American cotton)
- ✦ Gossypium barbadense (e.g. Egyptian cotton)
- ✦ Gossypium arboreum (natives of Asia)
- ✦ Gossypium herbaceum (Africa)

Quality of India Cotton:

Quality of cotton is a vital component in the cotton economy. As stated earlier, a record quantity of cotton was exported by India in 2005-06. This amply demonstrates that there has been a marked improvement in the quality of Indian cotton over the years and Indian cotton is now far more acceptable in International Markets. There has been a paradigm shift so far as quality of Indian Cotton is concerned.

Key factors contributing to this process are:

- Cotton production and development measures
- Modernization of factories
- Scientific testing of cotton quality
- Significant reduction in contamination levels over the years

Southern India:

Cotton area in Andhra Pradesh, India's third largest cotton producing state was 2 million hectares in 2013-14. Area is expected to increase by five percent as firm cotton prices prompt farmers to shift some area from crops like pulses, chilies, maize, and soybeans to cotton. Yields are forecast below the five-year average of 554 kg per hectare. Andhra Pradesh often receives late season storms, but if weather conditions are optimal during harvest, yields could be higher. In Karnataka, firm prices are

expected to give a moderate boost to area. While yields have increased from an estimated 300 kg per hectare to over 500 kg per hectare over the past decade with the introduction of biotech seeds, better hybrids and expanded surface irrigation in some areas, there is concern within the industry that yields are stagnating or even declining. The increasing prevalence of “sucking insects” such as whitefly, the need for better micronutrient and fertilizer management, the spread of cotton into more drought prone areas and occasionally inconsistent seed quality are all cited as factors affecting yields. Overall yields are forecast at 521 kg per hectare, down from 2013-14 when favorable monsoon rains pushed yields well above the five year average of 514 kg per hectare. India’s cotton yields continue to be significantly lower than the global average of 761 kg per hectare, a difference due, in part, to the relatively low plant populations that farmers deploy in order to create rows that are wide enough for bullocks to traverse. The advent of biotech cotton has helped to improve the predictability and stability of cotton as a crop which has supported the expansion of cotton area in recent years.

Production:

India’s 2014/15 cotton production is forecast at 36 million 170 kg bales (28 million 480 lb bales/6.3 mmt) from 11.8 million hectares, the third highest area on record. Farmers have shown a consistently strong preference for cotton relative to other crops in recent years. With competitive cotton prices, planted area is expected to increase by 100,000 hectares from 11.7 million hectares in MY 2012-13. Production is expected to decline by 1.2 million 170 kg bales (1 million 480 lb bales/217,000mt) based on a forecast yield of 520 kg (see Table 14). After several years of spotty monsoon performance, yields were exceptionally good in 2013-14 following a strong monsoon. Lower forecast yields assume normal monsoon performance.

Marketing of Cotton in India:

The major planting season in India commences in April – May when most of the irrigated cotton is sown in the North and Central Zones. Sowing of rainfed cotton in Central Zone and part of the South Zone begins with the onset of South-west monsoon in June – July followed by planting of irrigated cotton in parts of South Zone. The cotton marketing season commences in October and extends up to February in the North Zone and upto April – May in the Central Zone and parts of the South Zone. The five months from January – May constitute major marketing months in the South Zone. Cotton in India is primarily marketed in the form of kapas i.e. seed cotton.

There are mainly three marketing agencies:

- Private Sector (traders, ginners, etc.)
- Public Sector (Cotton Corporation of India, Maharashtra Federation, etc. constituted By Central and Maharashtra Governments)
- Co-operative Sector

Only about 25-30percent of the cotton transaction is done in the Public and the Co-operative Sector, while the remaining cotton is handled by the Private Sector. Seed Cotton is sold by the grower to the village merchant as also in the secondary market i.e. important trade centres. The produce is bought by stockists, ready dealers, ginners, brokers or commission agent and by the mills themselves which own ginning factories. Business is conducted in accordance with the local traditional customs and

practices as also as per the By-laws framed by the Market Committees and approved by the State Government. India exports medium-to-long staple cotton (25 to 32 mm length) to China, Bangladesh and Southeast Asian countries. However, India will likely continue to import ELS and quality long staple cotton (28-34 mm), with occasional imports of medium or short staple cotton (below 22 mm) when international prices are favorable. The United States has been the leading supplier of cotton to India over the past few years. Indian mills importing U.S. Pima and upland cotton recognize its quality and consistency, and are ready to pay a premium over competing origins. However, U.S. cotton faces competition from suppliers like Egypt and Australia due to their freight advantage and shorter delivery periods. Due to warm weather conditions and tradition, cotton is typically the preferred fiber in India. However, poly-cotton blends are popular due to their durability and ease of maintenance.

Karnataka:

The area and production in Karnataka showed a downtrend over the years. The cotton growing area has come down to 4 lakh hectares. The area reduction is due to competitive crops like maize and pulses. Inter specific cotton hybrid DCH 32 is superfine cotton fetching premium price. Hence, the farmers continue to cultivate this hybrid, even though the production potential is only about 15 q/ha compared to the high yield potential of other intra-hirsutum hybrids to a tune of 20-25 q/ha. In Karnataka, a vast tract of dry land and dry farming areas occur from Dharwad to Raichur and in this belt the Desi cotton (*G. herbaceum*) is cultivated. Though production potential of this long duration herbaceum cotton is as low as 6-8 q/ha, but it accommodates Onion and Chillies as inter crops and hence the farmers would like to continue to cultivate this cotton. The performance of certain improved herbaceum genotypes in coastal areas of the State offer bright scope for profitable cotton cultivation in hitherto underutilized coastal areas. In the remaining areas, other cotton hybrids as DHH 11, NHH 44 and other private sector Bt hybrids are grown. In Karnataka also, majority of cotton growing area (about 70percent) are under rainfed condition. Augmenting protective and life saving irrigation is the only remedy to raise the cotton production and productivity of the dry land cotton. There is also potential to extend cotton cultivation in the irrigated command areas of Ghata Prabha, Mala Prabha and Thungabadhra ayacuts, provided the farmers leave monocropping of cotton and go for desi varieties of arboreum or desi hybrids to sustain cotton production and to save the crop from severe pest damages. Enhancement in productivity of quality hybrid DCH 32 and desi cottons/long-linted arboreum besides augmenting water resources and adoption of novel intercropping, rotation cropping in rainfed and irrigated command areas will fetch better economic returns to farmers and ensure sustainable production.

Cotton yields in Karnataka over the years:

Curiously enough, the picture of Area, Production and Yield of cotton in the state over the years has different numbers reported by two official sources: (a) Office of the Textile Commissioner further cited by Cotton Corporation of India and (b) Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture.

Table-1
Yields of cotton crop in five top-cotton-growing districts of Karnataka

Year	Dharwad	Haveri	Mysore	Gadag	Raichur
2000-01	229	318	362	258	212
2001-02	84	175	245	117	168
2002-03	77	149	158	81	120
2003-04	106	118	139	36	173
2004-05	147	261	206	127	166
2005-06	166	289	302	144	256
2006-07	207	303	164	84	340
2007-08	225	347	122	277	416
2008-09	297	319	143	407	495
2009-10	305	249	268	240	466
2010-11	323	518	282	304	380

Source: Cotton statistics at a glance (Department of Agriculture & Cooperation) Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi-110001

Table-2
Area, Production & during last 5 years in Karnataka

Year	Area (ha)	Production (bales)	Productivity
2001-02	608479	612415	180
2002-03	392671	330913	151
2003-04	316617	312534	177
2004-05	521290	688451	236
2005-06	413309	573763	240
2006-07	375000	440000	199
2007-08	402000	696000	294

Source: Cotton statistics at a glance (Department of Agriculture & Cooperation) Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi-110001

The contents in the above table explains area and production of cotton since five years in the state, the area under production in 2001-02 was 60, 8479 61, 2415 bales produced same year the productivity was 180 since then the area under production declined but production and productivity has been increased.

Table-3
High productivity districts of the state

Districts	Yield Kg/Ha
Gulbarga	576
Chitradurga	321
Shimoga	313
Haveri	299

Source: Cotton statistics at a glance (Department of Agriculture & Cooperation Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi-110001)

The above shows the districts with highest productivity of cotton in the state Gulbarga district with 576 kgs/hectare Chitradurga 321 Kgs/hectare Shimoga 313kgs/hectare and Haviri 299 Kgs/hectare.

Table-4
Low productivity districts of the state

Districts	Yield Kg/Ha
Chamarajnagar	96
Koppal	118
Gadag	124
Uttarakannada	123
Chikkamagalur	147
Bidar	150

Source: Cotton statistics at a glance (Department of Agriculture Cooperation) Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi-110001

The above shows the districts with low productivity of cotton in the state Chamarajnagar district with 96 kgs/hectare, Koppal 118 Kgs/hectare, Gadag 124kgs/hectare, Uttarkannada 123 Kgs/hectare, Chikkamagalur 147 Kgs/hectare and Bidar 150 Kgs/hectare.

FINDINGS:

1. Insecticide usage in Karnataka in cotton crop has actually increased
2. Cotton was working well only in irrigated conditions whereas a majority of cotton cultivation in Karnataka is unirrigated still
3. Cost of cultivation per quintal of cotton in Karnataka show fluctuating trends
4. Cotton is the major crop which provides more than 65 percent of raw materials to textile industry
5. Biotech Cotton has been widely adopted

SUGGESTIONS:

1. Creating awareness about BT cotton production
2. Production should be increased by using bio-fertilizers
3. Irrigations facilities should be increased
4. Minimum support price for the produce

CONCLUSION:

Cotton production and marketing provides income to the farmers as well as income to the country, textile industries development largely depended on cotton production hence, more facilities should be provided to cotton production such as BT cotton, Irrigation, Bio-fertilizers etc.

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