

**IBTEX No. 94 of 2017**

**May 11, 2017**

USD 64.55 | EUR 70.17 | GBP 83.53 | JPY 0.56

| <b>Cotton Market</b>  |                  |                    |
|---|------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Spot Price ( Ex. Gin), 28.50-29 mm</b>   |                  |                    |
| <b>Rs./Bale</b>   | <b>Rs./Candy</b> | <b>USD Cent/lb</b> |
| 19648   | 41100            | <b>81.15</b>       |
| <b>Domestic Futures Price (Ex. Gin), May</b>  |                  |                    |
| <b>Rs./Bale</b>   | <b>Rs./Candy</b> | <b>USD Cent/lb</b> |
| 20890   | 43697            | <b>86.28</b>       |
| <b>International Futures Price</b>  |                  |                    |
| NY ICE USD Cents/lb ( May 2017)   |                  | 79.76              |
| ZCE Cotton: Yuan/MT ( July 2017)  |                  | 15,995             |
| ZCE Cotton: USD Cents/lb  |                  | <b>85.42</b>       |
| <b>Cotlook A Index - Physical</b>   |                  | <b>87.35</b>       |
| <b>Cotton guide:</b>  |                  |                    |
| <p><b>USDA REPORT: Higher planting amid favorable moisture and average yield estimates US cotton production to exceed 19 Million bales: Relatively bearish for cotton market in the near term. Current Price: 76.35 cents/lb</b></p> <p>The US released its monthly Supply and Demand estimates for May on 10th May 2017. The estimates have mostly surprised the market indicating US cotton production for 2017-18 would be around 19.2 million bales more than 2.2 million bales from the previously released report in February. The higher estimation was based on higher acreage over 12.2 Million Hectares. This week USDA also released its planting report which suggested 21% planting is already done in the US amid</p> |                  |                    |

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favorable moisture and average yield. Further USDA estimates exports at 14 million bales which was 14.5 million bales in 2016-17, ending stocks at 5 million bales while the domestic mill use is expected at 3.4 million bales. The overall data released for US suggesting amicable for cotton market in the country. The World estimates pegged at 113.22 million while consumption at 115.75 million with ending stocks likely at 87.15 million bales for the year 2017-18 season. Meanwhile, China's beginning stocks are expected to fall to 39.65 million.

**Market action:** ICE cotton for July contract that was hovering around 77.50 cents for the past few trading sessions fell on Wednesday to 76.50 posts the USDA supply and demand data was released. We believe market may remain under stress in the near term. For the day we expect cotton price may trade in the range of 76 to 76.80 cents with a negative bias.

**Compiled By Kotak Commodities Research Desk , contact us :**

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Source: Reuters, MCX, Market source

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## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### **VN textile sector urged to diversify raw material import sources**



*The 2017 Textile India, a garment and textile exhibition in Ahmedabad, India, from June 30 to July 2.*

HCM CITY — The Vietnamese textile and garment industry needs to diversify its raw material import sources if it wants to develop, a senior industry figure has said.

Nguyễn Thị Tuyết Mai, deputy general secretary of Việt Nam Textile and Garment Association (VITAS), said with exports of US\$28.5 billion last year, Việt Nam is one of the five biggest exporters in the world. But to achieve this, the country imports large volumes of feedstock including yarn, fabric and others, she said.

“Depending on one or two sources will limit manufacturers’ production capacity and development. Seeking new sources is necessary for the industry to lessen its dependence on traditional sources in ASEAN and China.”

Members of VITAS and the HCM City Association of Garments, Textiles, Embroidery and Knitting (AGTEK) agreed that India is one of the best alternative choices.

Phạm Xuân Hồng, chairman of AGTEK, said many Vietnamese garment companies have visited India to explore co-operation opportunities and returned impressed with the country's garment and textile industry. Many raw materials available in India fit their needs, he said.

“For a long time, Việt Nam has imported garment and textile raw materials from China. It is now time to upgrade technologies as well as have more raw material sources.”

Mai said establishing co-operation with India is a good idea.

Indian products have good quality and prices thanks to the free trade agreement signed between India and ASEAN, she said. Furthermore, garment and textile is among the products on which India would cut taxes in future, she said.

“This is an opportunity for Vietnamese to find a new raw material source.”

The Indian consulate in HCM City has promised strong support for Vietnamese companies seeking to tie up with their Indian counterparts.

The two governments have put garment and textile in the priority list for further development, it said.

It hoped a large Vietnamese delegation would attend the 2017 Textile India, a garment and textile exhibition in Ahmedabad, India, from June 30 to July 2, saying there they could find all the products they need from yarn and fibre and cotton.

The exhibition would also enable the Vietnamese companies to study the Indian garment and textile industry closely and identify new raw material sources, it added.

Source: vietnamnews.vn- May 10, 2017

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## **Pakistan:Cotton trading at KCE remain slow**

Trading activity at the Karachi Cotton Exchange on Tuesday remain slow, while spot rates remained unchanged. The spot rates remained unchanged at Rs6,700/maund (37.324kg) and Rs7,180/40kg.

Ex-Karachi rates also stood firm at Rs6,835/maund and Rs7,325/40kg after an addition of Rs135 and Rs145 as upcountry expenses, respectively.

KCE three transactions amid prices of Rs6,700 to Rs6,800/maund changed hands. Fort Abbas 400 bales were sold at Rs6,940/ maund, Jalalpur's 6,800 bales were exchanged at Rs6,800/maund while Rahimyar Khan's 244 bales at Rs6,700/maund.

According to an analyst, despite government's efforts to boost up cotton production in the country, sugarcane sowing was at peak in some cotton growing areas in Sindh province.

As cotton seed and pesticides still remain an issue for the farmer, so they are switching to other crops.

Source: yarnsandfibers.com- May 10, 2017

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## **Workshop on promoting online trade with EU to be held in Hanoi**

Hanoi (VNA) – A workshop on promoting trade with EU market via Amazon online shopping channel will be held in Hanoi on May 10, according to the Vietnam Textile and Apparel Association (Vitas).

The workshop will be a venue for businesses and experts to discuss online shopping trend on Amazon, the world's leading online shopping website.

It will look into measures to promote advantages of textile of and leather footwear products in export.

Two German experts in e-commerce and marketing strategy, André M. Aslund and Ryan Ong, will share their experience with and give advice to participating businesses.

The signed EU-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement (EVFTA) has opened up many opportunities for Vietnamese commodities to enter the EU market, said Truong Van Cam, Vice President of Vitas, adding that the trend of e-commerce toward this huge market has also grown rapidly thanks to the agreement.

Source: en.vietnamplus.vn - May 08, 2017

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### **US: Invista plans to expand its specialty fiber capacity**

INVISTA plans to expand its capacity of Nylon 6,6 fiber used in a diverse range of applications for which it would be investing over \$65MM in state-of-the-art fiber production equipment at its US based Camden, SC facility.

This investment will significantly increase domestic US capacity of high-tenacity, specialty fibers used in CORDURA fabrics. These durable fabrics offer valuable solutions in military applications such as bags, backpacks and ballistic vest carriers as well as a wide variety of commercial end-uses from hiking boots to hunting gear, workwear to motorcycle, and many other outdoor and lifestyle apparel and equipment products.

The new assets will also be capable of manufacturing bulked continuous filament and high-quality fibers for airbags and industrial sewing threads. According to Jeff Brown, Executive Vice President, INVISTA Performance Materials division, this investment is utilizing a combination of patented and proprietary technology with flexibility such as solution dyeing which enables increased innovation opportunities around fiber properties and performance and creates a strong platform for their future growth.

Brown said that Camden is an ideal location being situated in the heart of the textile industry. As INVISTA's largest integrated nylon polymer and fiber producing facility, this site offers an ideal footprint for reinvesting in high performance solutions for the markets they serve.

This latest investment by INVISTA shows their ongoing commitment to provide with differentiated value added products manufactured by state-of-the-art equipment for its domestic and global customers.

Source: yarnsandfibers.com- May 09, 2017

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### **Italy: 2017 sees growth in textile machinery orders: ACIMIT**

The Association of Italian Textile Machinery Manufacturers (ACIMIT), a private body promoting Italian textile machinery, has announced that 2017 has started off on a positive note for Italian textile machinery manufacturers. For the first quarter, orders have increased both in Italy and abroad. ACIMIT consists of an industrial sector with 300 manufacturers.

The orders index for textile machinery compiled by ACIMIT for the period from January to March, grew 24 per cent compared to the same period in 2016. The index value stood at 113.7 points (basis 2010 = 100).

This growth regarded mostly markets abroad, where the index came in at an absolute value of 124.1 points (+26 per cent). In Italy, the increase compared to the period from January to March 2016 was 16 per cent, with an absolute value of 71.5 points.

ACIMIT president Raffaella Carabelli said, “Orders for the start of 2017 confirm a positive trend in major foreign markets, and a climate of trust for Italy’s textile industry that is on the upswing. The index data for the first three months of the year confirm the positive signs ascertained by our businesses in various foreign markets.”

“A renewed climate of enhanced trust is currently perceived in the textile sector triggered by the government’s commitment to enact a range of significant incentives for the Country’s manufacturing system,” he added.

Source: fibre2fashion.com - May 10, 2017

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## **Africa: Mozambique increases cotton producer price by 50%**

The Government of Mozambique, a country in southeastern Africa, has increased the minimum price paid to farmers by more than 50 per cent for the 2016-17 agricultural season. The minimum price has been raised based on a proposal presented by cotton growers. For Mozambique, cotton is the third largest export earning commodity after coal and shrimps.

For first-grade cotton, the minimum price has been increased from about 22.5 US cents per kilo to about 35 US cents per kilo, Mozambican media reported quoting Cabinet spokesperson Mouzinho Saide.

Likewise, for second-grade cotton, the minimum price has now been raised from 16 US cents per kilo to 24 US cents per kilo, the reports said.

Mozambique has set a target to increase cotton production to 200,000 tons by 2020, compared to the current output of around 70,000 tonnes a year.

Source: fibre2fashion.com- May 11, 2017

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## **Africa:FG commended for promoting sale of locally made textiles**

The Federal Government's decision to promote the sale of locally made textiles is in line with the demands to boost production and capacity in the textile companies. The National Union of Textile Garment and Tailoring Workers of Nigeria (NUTGTWN) on Tuesday commended.

Recently, the Federal Government had directed all public workers to wear locally made fabrics (Ankara) to work twice a week. NUTGTWN believe that if workers patronise more of the local fabrics, it will revive the industries.

Factories will be able to pay wages and more workers will be employed.

According to Mr Issa Aremu, the General Secretary of the union, workers in the private sector should also be directed to wear local textiles throughout the week. The decision would help to diversify the economy as well as improve tax for the country.

Aremu also called on the government to boost energy supply to sustain local production at affordable price. Further to ensure only locally made textiles were sold in the country, the government has been called on to sustain the fight against smuggling.

Source: yarnsandfibers.com- May 10, 2017

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## NATIONAL NEWS

### **20-member Gujarat govt team inspects site of mega textile park at Pinjrat**

SURAT: A 20-member team from the state government departments including the industries commissioner's office conducted the site inspection at Pinjrat near Olpaad for the proposed development of mega textile park by the Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI).

Sources said that the additional commissioner of industries department, JC Chudasama had visited Pinjrat along with the team of 20 officials from district collector's office, SGCCI, Surat Urban Development Authority (SUDA), Gujarat Pollution Control Board (GPCB), Olpaad mamlatdar etc. conducted the site inspection. [tribuneindia.com](http://tribuneindia.com)- May 09, 2017

The SGCCI has urged the state government to allot around 80 lakh square meter of land for the mega textile park.

However, the Khedut Samaj Gujarat (KSG) had opposed the textile park raising concerns over environment, coastal regulatory zone (CRZ) violation and the employment opportunities of the fishermen.

Sources said that the SGCCI has written to the Chennai-based National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM) for providing the demarcation of the CRZ boundary at Pinjrat, in order to begin the process for the mega textile park.

Talking to TOI, president of SGCCI, BS Agarwal said, "Things are moving in right direction and we are getting positive indication from the state government on the allotting of land required for the mega textile park. The additional industries commissioner has asked the district administration, SUDA and GPCB to co-ordinate with us for the proposed park. We are waiting for the NCSCM to provide us the CRZ demarcation at Pinjrat."

Source: [timesofindia.com](http://timesofindia.com)- May 11, 2017

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## **Anti dumping duty imposed on imports of elastomeric filament yarn**

The Finance Ministry has imposed definitive anti-dumping duty on 'Elastomeric Filament Yarn' imports from China, South Korea, Taiwan and Vietnam.

Such filament yarns are commonly referred to as Spandex or Elastane. Based on the recommendations of the Designated Authority in the commerce ministry, the revenue department has imposed anti-dumping duty that ranged from 'Nil' rate to \$ 3.34 per kilogram depending on the producer and the country of export.

The petition to levy anti-dumping duty on 'Elastomeric Filament Yarn' from these four countries was filed by Indorama Industry Ltd.

Elastomeric Filament Yarns find applications in manufacturing of hosiery, swimsuits, aerobic or exercise wear, golf jackets, disposable diaper and waist bands among other garments.

The anti-dumping duty imposed under this notification shall be effective for a period of five years (unless revoked, superseded or amended earlier) from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette and shall be paid in Indian currency.

Source: thehindubusinessline.com- May 09, 2017

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## **India extends dumping duty on China's viscose**

India has extended the anti-dumping duty on viscose filament yarn from China by one year. The duty will now be valid till May 3, 2018. The decision by the Revenue department was taken after the sunset review investigation initiated by the commerce ministry recently. The duty ranging from 5.04 per cent to 16.90 per cent was imposed in May 2012.

The anti-dumping duty, initiated by the country's revenue department in 2012, was valid for five years, according to a report by a leading daily.

The investigation was carried out by a designated authority.

The report said that the petition seeking sunset review investigation was filed by Kesoram Rayon (unit of Cygnet Industries, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Kesoram Industries, and Indian Rayon, a unit of Aditya Birla Nuvo. Century Rayon, a division of Century Textiles and Industries, had supported the petition.

Source: Fibre2Fashion.com- May 10, 2017

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### **Efforts on to promote textile exports to Japan**

Textiles exporters who are focusing on the western market should explore the opportunities in Japan, according to Joint Director of Textiles Committee K.S. Muralidhara.

Textiles Committee and QTEC (Japan Textiles Products Quality and Technology Centre) conducted an industry capacity building programme here on Wednesday.

Mr. Muralidhara, who was in the city for the event, told The Hindu that the potential for exports to Japan is huge. Of the total textile and clothing exports from India, just about 2% goes to Japan. Of the total textile and clothing imports by Japan, only 1% is from India. The major supplier to Japan is China and Japan is now looking at suppliers from other countries too.

But, the Japanese buyers want the products to be tested at QTEC laboratories as their quality requirements are high and some of the standards are different from those accepted in the western markets. The Textiles Committee has 19 laboratories in the country with equipment to test standards for exports to the western markets mainly. “We will look at upgrading the laboratories jointly with QTEC or QTEC can set up its laboratories in the facilities that we have,” he said.

This will be a follow up to the capacity building programmes.

Mr. Muralidhara said that when the Indian Prime Minister visited Japan last November, Textiles Committee and QTEC signed an agreement to sensitise the industry here on quality and regulatory requirements of the Japanese market and their standards. The capacity building programmes are conducted as part of the agreement in nine cities, including Coimbatore. It will conclude in Mumbai next week, he said.

Source: thehindu.com- May 11, 2017

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## **GOTS Certified Entities Increase By 21 Per Cent Globally, India Tops List**

There has been a substantial increase in the number of entities certified by the Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS), where there were about 3,814 entities in 2015, as compared to 4,642 last year, thus an increase of 21 per cent. With GOTS certified entities spread across 63 countries, the countries with the most GOTS certified entities are – India (1,488), Turkey (423), Germany (347), Bangladesh (331), China (269), Italy (195), Pakistan (172), Portugal (96), Korea (61) and Japan (58).

GOTS was developed by leading international standard setters – Organic Trade Association (US), Japan Organic Cotton Association (Japan), International Association Natural Textile Industry (Germany), and Soil Association (UK) – in order to define globally recognized requirements that ensure the organic status of textiles.

According to the Global Organic Textile Standard website, key elements of inspection which lead to the certification include:

- Review of bookkeeping in order to verify flow of GOTS goods (input/output reconciliation, mass balance calculation and trace back lots and shipments)
- Assessment of the processing and storage system through of visits to the applicable facilities
- Assessment of the separation and identification system and identification of areas of risk to organic integrity

- Inspection of the chemical inputs (dyes and auxiliaries) and accessories used and assessment of their compliance with the applicable criteria of the GOTS
- Inspection of the waste water (pre-)treatment system of wet processors and assessment of its performance.
- Check on social criteria (possible sources of information: interview with management, confidential interviews with workers, personnel documents, physical on-site inspection, unions/stakeholders)
- Verification of the operator's risk assessment of contamination and residue testing policy potentially including sample drawing for residue testing either as random sampling or in case of suspicion of contamination or non-compliance

“The Indian textile industry is making large strides in both domestic and international arenas. Consistent growth of GOTS certified facilities in the country also signifies the growing focus of Indian entrepreneurs on social and environment compliances, besides delivering high quality products. I am glad to report this growth and shall keep working to take this further,” says Sumit Gupta, regional representative of India and Bangladesh and deputy technical director of GOTS.

A stringent voluntary global standard for the entire post-harvesting process (including spinning, knitting, weaving, dyeing and manufacturing) of apparel and home textiles made with organic fibre (like organic cotton or organic wool), the GOTS includes both environmental and social criteria. Some key provisions include a ban on the use of highly hazardous chemicals (such as azo dyes and formaldehyde), genetically modified organisms (GMOs), and child labour, while requiring strict waste water treatment practices and strong social compliance management systems.

“The increasing market acceptance is a result that GOTS delivers solutions for sustainability-based problems for both, business need for risk management and credibility and consumers need for transparency,” said Claudia Kersten, GOTS director, marketing and finance.

“The significant growth in numbers of GOTS-certified facilities shows the willingness of more and more decision makers not only to drive change by complying with the strict GOTS criteria but also to prove this change by

undergoing an independent third party certification,” notes Herbert Ladwig, GOTS managing director.

“With enhanced global focus on sustainability, GOTS has never been more relevant and best suited than now,” adds Gupta.

India remained the top country for ninth year in a row with 1,488 GOTS certified facilities. In India the interest in GOTS certified organic textile products is on the rise in both consumers as well as industry. India also witnessed an increase of brands and stores selling GOTS certified textiles in retail.

Upon contacting government officials to ask about the steps the government is taking to increase the number of GOTS certified entities in India, BW Businessworld got no response.

Source: businessworld.in- May 09, 2017

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## **Adidas, IFC, Nike and AFIRM join Planet Textiles line-up**



*BANGALORE – The question of implementation of clean textile technology in the dyeing and finishing sectors will be a major focus of a special breakout session at the forthcoming Planet Textiles event, which takes place on 24th May in India.*

Moderated by James Carnahan, Head of Sustainability at Swiss textile chemicals supplier Archroma, the session will how the textile industry can accelerate implementation within the textile value chain. “Have we been able to eradicate the intentional use of chemicals hazardous to the environment and human health? Has the industry adopted technologies that minimise resources utilisation in the production of textiles? And what are the hurdles preventing overall adoption and implementation?” Carnahan will ask.

See the full Planet Textiles 2017 agenda [HERE](#). Places at the event are now limited.

Other topics under discussion include: additional investments required by stakeholders within the textile chemicals value chain, chemical inventory management, auditing to assure transparency and compliance, testing for quality control and educational programs.

Joining Carnahan in this interactive session will be Tracy Nilsson, Senior Director, Social & Environmental Affairs, for the Adidas Group, who will reveal what actions the sportswear giant has taken with its T2 and T3 supply chain partners on this issue and the lessons Adidas has learnt in the process including key aspects of its chemical management program, along with details of its commitments and key partnerships.

Elaine Gardiner from Pentland Brands – which includes brands such as Berghaus, Ellesse, Speedo and Kickers, among others, will represent the views of the highly-respected AFIRM Group. This collaborative organisation of leading apparel brands and retailers provides a forum to advance the global management of restricted substances in apparel and footwear, and helps to communicate information about RSL (restricted substance lists) to the supply chain.

Also slated to take part is Agata Kostecka, Senior Manager, Sustainability Sourcing Strategy at Gap Inc. which is extending its India Water Partnership program which is wants to expand to 10 laundries later this year). She will be joined on the panel by Mohan Seneviratne, program manager at the International Finance Corporation and the PaCT program in Bangladesh who will give real world examples of reducing resource consumption and wastewater pollution in Bangladesh textile mills.

India textile manufacturers will be represented by Alok Sharma, General manager at Ramkumar Textile Mills, which specialises in dyed and printed 100 per cent cotton fabrics and supplies leading retailers such as Marks & Spencer.

Meanwhile, we can also now confirm that John Rydzewski, Director of Global Water Programs, Sustainable Manufacturing and Sourcing, Nike will join the ZDHC breakout session.

Source: ecotextile.com- May 09, 2017

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## Gujarat handicrafts expo is back in the city



KOCHI: The much awaited annual Gujarat Handicrafts exhibition cum sale organised by the Government of India is on at Ernakulam Women's Association Hall at Diwan's road.

The Indian Tussar and Mooga sarees which were once a symbol of the royal family are being exhibited here. There are an extensive range of

handicrafts and handprinted items from nine states across India at a government rebate of 20% on handlooms and 10% on handicrafts.

The expo opens up a treasure trove of white metal ornaments along with chains, studs and pendants crafted out of Jaipur's precious and semi precious stones. It proudly displays Gujarati bangles, Australian diamonds, necklaces made of authentic Rajasthan diamonds and 22 cent gold covering ornaments made of coral, emerald and other stones.

The Gujarathi handloom section features block, bhandini, brush, batik, kutch, vegetable print, printed or mirror worked cotton and silk sarees. Various types of churidars include tie-dye salwar sets with shawls and ready to wear dresses like ladies tops, Jaipurian chaniya cholis, lehengas, ghagra cholis, kaftans, kurtas and Lucknow dresses etc. Ethnic sarees and kurthas of poolkari designs, chikan work, screen print are the other main attractions available at its highest quality. Applique and embroidery worked bed spreads, cushion covers, designer bed sheets and decorative mats with lace works are also available.

The exhibition which is organised under the development scheme of the Government of India is aimed at improving the livelihood of craftsmen and handloom weavers and completely avoids middlemen. The sale which will conclude on May 14 will be on from 10 am to 8 pm on all days.

Source: [newindianexpress.com](http://newindianexpress.com)- May 10, 2017

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## Cotton sowing begins on strong note



Sowing of cotton has begun on a strong note in the key growing regions of North India such as Punjab and Haryana, and Southern Karnataka, for the 2017-18 season.

Buoyed by the high prevailing prices, farmers are seen bringing in a larger area under the fibre

crop and the seed industry expects acreages this year to increase by up to a fifth over the previous year.

Ashwani Jhamb, Director, Indian Cotton Association (ICA), said the overall cotton acreage will increase on favourable price conditions.

### North to the fore

“But there will be a sharp surge in cotton cultivation in Punjab, where farmers are shifting from paddy, arhar (black gram) guar and partly from maize. The government has set a target of 4 lakh hectares of area in Punjab, as against 2.65 lakh hectares witnessed last year,” said Jhamb.

Last year, North India’s total acreage was about 12 lakh hectares, out of which Haryana had nearly 5 lakh hectares under cotton.

Experts see Haryana and Punjab showing an increase in acreages this year, while Rajasthan may report a modest rise in the cotton area from last year's 4.42 lakh hectares.

Cotton prices are ruling at around ₹41,800 per candy (each of 356 kg), while raw cotton prices are hovering between ₹5,375-5,600 per 100 kg. Prices have stayed firm during most of the 2016-17 season on steady demand.

## **Output estimate**

Latest estimates by the Agriculture Ministry have pegged the output for the 2016-17 season at 325 lakh bales of 170 kg each over previous year's 300 lakh bales.

More than the price support, the availability of sufficient water and the near-normal monsoon prediction have sparked optimism across the cotton growing community.

In the North Region, the sowing, which began in mid-April is in full swing, while first picking is expected in the second half of September.

Cotton Association of India (CAI) President Nayan Mirani maintained that the monsoon would play a crucial role in making the cotton story a success for farmers this year. "Last year, we had seen some decline in acreage in North India, owing to pest attack and erratic weather. This year, the weather seems favourable and also the farmers are geared up to tackle any pest attacks," said Mirani.

Though Mirani maintains that the cotton acreage will go up this year, the quantum of increase in the acreage will only be confirmed after the onset of the monsoon, predicted for later this month.

Gujarat, the largest cotton producing state, may see about a 20 per cent jump in cotton acreage, from about 24 lakh hectares last year.

## **Sowing begins**

Sowing, however, has started in the irrigated farms, while most of the non-irrigated regions will begin sowing after the onset of the monsoon.

The acreage had dropped last year on account of factors such as rising instances of white fly attack and pink bollworm infestation. The likely surge in area under cotton this year is expected to result in a 13-14 per cent increase in sales of seeds.

## Seed sale surge

According to National Seeds Association of India (NSAI), cotton seeds sales will touch about 52 million packs (each of 450 gms) this year, highest since 2014.

“Even if there is a sharp increase in the area under cotton in Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan, the overall increase in the acreage will be around 10-12 per cent over last year.

Even in the regions of Gujarat, Maharashtra and Karnataka, there is not much impact of pink bollworm currently. So, we expect overall good growth in the acreage,” said Dr Kalyan Goswami, executive director, NSAI.

Goswami further added that seed sales in 2017 are estimated at 52 million packets, which was 46.1 million in 2016. Seed sales stood at 51.2 million in 2015 and at 41 million packets in 2014.

“The price controls on seed prices are the same as last year, at around ₹800 per pack, and there is no change so far,” said Goswami.

In Southern Karnataka, sowing is almost complete in the key growing region of HD Kote taluk in Mysore district.

Better known for growing the extra-long staple variety of DCH 32, planting in the HD Kote taluk has been completed in almost 90 per cent of the targeted area of 31,000 hectares, said officials of the State’s agriculture department.

Farmers are seen shifting towards Bt hybrids in the region this year, they added.

Source: thehindubusinessline.com- May 10, 2017

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