



11<sup>th</sup> March – 17<sup>th</sup> March 2024

## • Kisan Mela and Team Review Meet organized by CITI-CDRA

CITI-CDRA has been working on a collaborative project to enhance the productivity of cotton in the states of Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Madhya Pradesh since 2006. Besides this, during the last 1 year, CITI CDRA has also been working as an extension partner in the Pilot Project of Cotton which the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare has announced under NFSM with the Ministry of Textiles also part of the review and steering group of the project. The project is aimed at enhancing the cotton productivity of India by using a cluster-based and value chain approach and Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode. The pilot project encompasses three sub-projects, each focusing on specific technologies like HDPS, ELS, and Closer Spacing, targeted at enhancing productivity in identified agro-ecological zones.

To review the progress of both collaborative projects as also the Pilot Project on Cotton, CITI CDRA organized a two-day event in Ratlam, Madhya Pradesh, from 12<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup> March 2024 in Ratlam, MP.

The inaugural day of the event, held on March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024, commenced with a Kisan Mela at Shivgarh, Ratlam. The event facilitated discussions on various topics including:

- Information on online soil testing facilities.
- Importance of quality maintenance in cotton production, illustrated with cultural examples.
- Sharing of CITI's best practices and techniques employed in high-producing areas.



Various Government representatives including Ms. Neelam Chouhan, DDA, Mr. H L Barfa, ADA, from the State Agriculture Department, Dr R K Singh, Soil Scientist from the Soil Conservation Department as also Ms. Bansari Nag, National Project Coordinator, International Labour Organization (ILO) were the distinguished guests during the Kisan Mela.



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A total of 596 farmers participated in the Kisan Mela, demonstrating significant engagement and interest in the discussions and activities.

During the Kisan Mela a lady farmer from CITI CDRA – Rajasthan shared her remarkable achievement of producing 15 quintals of cotton per acre which served as a source of inspiration and motivation to fellow farmers present at the event.

Various stalls were also set up by Solidaridad, Syngenta, Doctor Seeds, etc thus providing attendees with insights and resources relevant to cotton production and technologies.



The second day of the event on 13th March 2024 marked a significant reflection on the journey and achievements of the inaugural year of the Special Project on Cotton, outlining a chart for the future course.

The event was graced by esteemed chief guests including Chairman CITI, Shri Rakesh Mehra, Director CICR, Dr. Y G Prasad, President – MPTMA, Shri Shreyaskar Chaudhary, SG-CITI, Ms. Chandrima Chatterjee & Secretary cum Chief Cotton Breeder-SIMA CDRA, Dr M Asha Rani.

The meeting commenced with welcoming remarks of SG CITI, Ms. Chandrima Chatterjee with an introduction to CITI-CDRA, elucidating the mandates under the project. SG CITI in her address, underscored the success of the CDRA team, highlighting achievements such as 100% target area attainment, a notable increase in yield by 30 to 40% in Maharashtra under HDPS, over 30% yield enhancement in Rajasthan under Closer Spacing, and an 8% improvement under ELS in Madhya Pradesh.

The accomplishments of CITI's mandate, particularly the development of a web portal, were also highlighted.







Shri Rakesh Mehra discussed the industry's expectations from the Pilot Project on Cotton and said that the industry is expecting the project to contribute significantly towards increasing productivity, improving quality, adopting sustainable practices, leveraging technology, enhancing competitiveness, and adding value to the cotton supply chain.

He expressed hope that the Pilot Project on Cotton will be extremely beneficial in

overcoming the shortcomings that the Indian Cotton sector is facing nowadays.

CICR Director, Dr. Prasad commended the hard work and achievements of CDRA, acknowledging the significant contribution, which represents approximately 40% of total farmers in the project.

He underscored the importance of prior arrangements of seeds for which CICR initiated the freezing process, particularly emphasizing the need to ensure seed availability to project farmers at the right time and right price, as prescribed by CITI and the State Agriculture Department.



During the event, Project coordinators of all the 3 states also shared their experience and learnings from the Pilot Project on Cotton.

During the team review meet 2024, CITI also felicitated the work brilliance award to below:

- Best Performer of the Year : Shri PN Sharma, Project Coordinator, Rajasthan
- Project Leadership Award : Shri Govind Wairale, Project Coordinator, Maharashtra
- Leading Mentor Award : Shri R B S Tomar, Sr. Project Officer, Jhabua & Dhar
- Emerging Mentor Award : Shri Rakesh Patidar, Project Officer, Ratlam & Banaswara
- Project Excellence Award : Shri Amit Kawade, Project Officer, Wardha
- Best Supporting Team Member : Shri Pankaj Deval, Data Operator, MP
- Best Extension Assistant Award : Shri Tahjing Katara, Scout, Kushalgarh
- Best Progressive Farmer Award : Smt. Dali Devi, Rajasthan



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The event was concluded with an industry visit to the Ginning & Pressing Industry – Prabhat trading - Siyaram Cotton where participants witnessed the day-to-day operation of cotton Ginning & Pressing.

- **Provisions for exempting inputs imported by Advance Authorization holder, EOU, and SEZ from mandatory QCOs issued by the Ministry of Textiles**

In order to provide relief to the exporters under Advance Authorization (AA), EOU, and SEZ, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) vide notification no71/2023 dated 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024 has enabled provisions for exempting inputs from the mandatory Quality Control Orders (QCOs) issued by the Ministry of Steel, DPIIT and Ministry of Textiles.

Since the implementation of the QCOs, CITI, and various other associations have been continuously requesting the Government to provide this exemption as businesses of several export houses that rely on imports of many inputs under the nominated business have been hit after the implementation of the QCO.

The above relief has been provided with certain pre-import conditions and such inputs shall be utilized in the manufacturing of the export product (making normal allowance for wastage) and shall be exported under the same authorization.

It may be noted that imports of inputs without compliance with the mandatory QCOs under the DFIA scheme are not allowed.

The detailed notification can be found at the link <https://www.dgft.gov.in/CP/> dated 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

- **Second Meeting of the Stakeholders for Cotton Season 2023-24 held under the aegis of the Committee on Cotton Production and Consumption (COCPC)**

The second meeting of the Stakeholders for Cotton Season 2023-24 was held under the aegis of the Committee on Cotton Production and Consumption (COCPC) on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024 under the Chairpersonship of Textile Commissioner Ms. Roop Rashi.

The meeting was attended by various industry associations including CITI, SIMA, CAI, & ICF, etc as also by representatives of the Agricultural Department of Various States. Representatives from institutions like CICR, and GOTS were also present during the meeting.

On behalf of CITI, the meeting was attended was CITI Chairman, Shri Rakesh Mehra. Shri Mehra presented the CITI's cotton estimate for the cotton season 2023-24 which was drawn based on the submissions and feedback received from the various regional associations of CITI operating in various cotton-growing states.



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During the meeting, the Textile Commissioner requested all the stakeholders not to give any unauthorized figures related to cotton production or consumption in the media as it may sometimes lead to price speculation. She also advised the industry and other stakeholders to consider the cotton figures released by the Office of Textile Commissioner only based on the outcome of the meeting of the Committee on Cotton Production and Consumption (COCPC).

Based on the inputs of the various stakeholders, the Office of Textile Commissioner also released the below-given cotton balance sheet and state-wise production of cotton for the season 2023-24:

## Cotton Balance Sheet for 2022-23 and 2023-24 (Oct-Sept)

Particulars	2022-23 (P)		2023-24 (P)	
	(In lakh bales of 170 kg. Each)	(in Thousand Tons)	(In lakh bales of 170 kg. Each)	(in Thousand Tons)
<b>SUPPLY</b>				
Opening Stock	39.48	671.16	61.16	1039.72
Crop	336.60	5722.20	323.11	5492.87
Import	14.60	248.20	12.00	204.00
<b>TOTAL SUPPLY</b>	<b>390.68</b>	<b>6641.56</b>	<b>396.27</b>	<b>6736.59</b>
<b>DEMAND</b>				
Non-MSME Consumption	197.80	3362.60	201.00	3417.00
MSME Consumption	99.83	1697.11	100.00	1700.00
Non Textile Consumption	16.00	272.00	16.00	272.00
Export	15.89	270.13	27.00	459.00
<b>TOTAL DEMAND</b>	<b>329.52</b>	<b>5601.84</b>	<b>344.00</b>	<b>5848.00</b>
<i>Closing Stock.</i>	<b>61.16</b>	<b>1039.72</b>	<b>52.27</b>	<b>888.59</b>

## State Wise Production of Cotton for 2023-24

	Area	Production			Yield
		Pressed bales	Loose Cotton	Total	
Punjab	1.69	4.69	0.20	4.89	491.89
Haryana	6.83	14.02	0.48	14.50	360.91
Rajasthan	7.91	26.77	0.66	27.43	589.52
<b>NORTHERN ZONE</b>	<b>16.43</b>	<b>45.48</b>	<b>1.34</b>	<b>46.82</b>	<b>484.44</b>
Gujarat	26.83	87.66	1.99	89.65	568.04
Maharashtra	42.34	80.97	1.46	82.43	330.97
Madhya Pradesh	6.30	17.47	0.50	17.97	484.90





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<b>CENTRAL ZONE</b>	<b>75.47</b>	<b>186.10</b>	<b>3.95</b>	<b>190.05</b>	<b>428.10</b>
Telangana	18.18	47.21	0.91	48.12	449.97
Andhra Pradesh	4.27	11.28	0.30	11.58	461.03
Karnataka	6.95	16.38	0.55	16.93	414.12
Tamilnadu	0.91	1.81	0.14	1.95	364.29
<b>SOUTHERN ZONE</b>	<b>30.31</b>	<b>76.68</b>	<b>1.90</b>	<b>78.58</b>	<b>440.73</b>
Orissa	2.36	7.36	0.08	7.44	535.93
Others	0.12	0.22	0.00	0.22	311.67
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>124.69</b>	<b>315.84</b>	<b>7.27</b>	<b>323.11</b>	<b>440.52</b>

*Area in Lakh hectares*

*Production in lakh bales of 170 kgs each*

*Yield in Kilogram / Hectare*

## Meeting on Minimum Import Price (MIP) for fabric imports

As members are aware that imports of certain MMF fabric categories, particularly HSN 60063200 (Other Knitted or Crocheted Fabric of Synthetic Fibre, Dyed) have also increased during the last few years. Data analysis shows that the imports of the same have increased at a CAGR of 14.7% in value terms and 27.5% in volume terms from FY 23 to FY 19. The majority of the imports are happening from China and as per the industry, the prices at which imports are taking place are significantly lower than the average prevailing domestic price.

The matter was also discussed in the 3<sup>rd</sup> MMF TAG meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> Jan 2024 and now the Ministry of Textiles held a stakeholder consultation under the Chairpersonship of Trade Advisor, Ms. Shubhra on 13<sup>th</sup> March to discuss the imposition of minimum import price on knitted fabric import.

On behalf of CITI, the meeting was attended by Deputy Chairman CITI, Shri Ashwin Chandran, Shri Prashant Mohota, MD-GIMATEX Industries, and Dr. Selvaraju, SG-SIMA.

During the meeting, various stakeholders suggested imposing a Minimum Import Price (MIP) ranging from US\$ 3/Kg to US\$ 5/Kg for various MMF knitted categories to check their rising imports.

We are pleased to inform the respected members that based on the industry requests, DGFT vide Notification No. 77/ 2023 dated 16.3.2024 has fixed the Minimum Import Price for the below given 5 HS Lines of MMF Knitted Fabrics:



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HSN Code	Item Description	Import Policy	Revised Import Policy	Revised Condition	Policy
60063100	of synthetic fibres – unbleached or bleached	Free	Prohibited	Import is 'Free' if CIF value is US\$ 3.5/Kg or above	
60063200	of synthetic fibres - dyed	Free	Prohibited	Import is 'Free' if CIF value is US\$ 3.5/Kg or above	
60063300	of synthetic fibres – of yarns of different colours	Free	Prohibited	Import is 'Free' if CIF value is US\$ 3.5/Kg or above	
60063400	of synthetic fibres – printed	Free	Prohibited	Import is 'Free' if CIF value is US\$ 3.5/Kg or above	
60069000	Other	Free	Prohibited	Import is 'Free' if CIF value is US\$ 3.5/Kg or above	

Members may kindly take note of the above change in import policy and plan their production schedule accordingly.

## **Meeting on India-Korea Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (IKCEPA)**

In respect to the India-Korea Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (IKCEPA), the Government is reviewing the tariff lines to provide further liberalization under the agreement. There are 478 HSN Lines in which there appears to be little domestic sensitivity in the liberalization of tariffs as there is either negligible trade between India and Korea in these lines or India's global imports are very low in these lines.

However, to discuss the above HSN lines in detail and to get the industry feedback on the same, the Ministry of Textiles held a stakeholder consultation meeting under the Chairpersonship of Trade Advisor, Ms. Shubhra on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

On behalf of CITI, the meeting was attended by SG-CITI, Ms. Chandrima Chatterjee, where she presented the industry viewpoints on the subject matter.

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