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News: Cotton

- As the 2024-25 kharif cotton planting season approaches in North India, stakeholders foresee a potential dip in cotton acreages.

Cotton

- Cotton is a **tropical crop grown in the Kharif** season in **semi-arid areas** of the country.
- Cotton is a **drought – resistant crop ideal for arid climates** and requires an average annual rainfall of **50- 100 cm**.
- It requires at least 210 frost free days in a year.
- It occupies just 2.1 % of the world’s arable land, yet it meets 27% of the world’s textiles need. In addition to its fibre used in textiles and apparel, food products are also derived from cotton like edible oil and animal feed from the seed.
- **India ranks second in the world in the production of cotton after China.**
- Cotton occupies about **4.7 percent of the total cropped area** in the country.
- Cotton is a **“pure” raw material that does not lose weight** in the manufacturing process.

- So other factors, like, the power to drive the looms, labor, capital, or market may determine the location of the industry.
- At present, the trend is to locate the industry at or close to markets, as it is the market that decides what kind of cloth is to be produced. Also, the market for the finished products is extremely variable, therefore, it becomes important to locate the mills close to the market.
- The cotton textile industry is one of the traditional industries of India. In the ancient and medieval times, it used to be only a cottage industry.
- India was famous worldwide for the production of muslin, a very fine variety of cotton cloth, calicos, chintz, and other different varieties of fine cotton cloth.
- The development of this industry in India was due to several factors. One, it is a tropical country and cotton is the most comfortable fabric for a hot and humid climate. Second, a large quantity of cotton was grown in India.
- Abundant skilled labor required for this industry was available in this country.
- In fact, in some areas, the people were producing cotton textiles for generations and transferred the skill from one generation to the other and in the process perfected their skills.
- There are three cotton-growing areas, i.e. parts of Punjab, Haryana and northern Rajasthan in the northwest, Gujarat and Maharashtra in the west and plateaus of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu in the south.

- Leading producers of this crop are Gujarat, Maharashtra and Telangana per hectare output of cotton is high under irrigated conditions in the north-western region of the country. Its yield is very low in Maharashtra where it is grown under rainfed conditions.
- Tamil Nadu has the largest number of mills and most of them produce yarn rather than cloth. Coimbatore has emerged as the most important center with nearly half the mills located there.
- While Tamil Nadu accounts for less than 2% of country's total raw cotton production, it has almost half of cotton spinning capacity of the country.
- Initially, the British did not encourage the development of the indigenous cotton textile industry. They exported raw cotton to their mills in Manchester and Liverpool and brought back the finished products to be sold in India. This cloth was cheaper because it was produced at mass scale in factories in the U.K. as compared to the cottage based industries of India. In 1854, the first modern cotton mill was established in Mumbai.
- Between 2011 and 2018, India implemented a Cotton Technical Assistance Programme (Cotton TAP-I) for seven African countries namely Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali and Chad and also Uganda, Malawi and Nigeria. The technical assistance focused on improving the competitiveness of the cotton and cotton-based textiles and apparel industry in these countries through a series of

interventions which had significant outcomes leading to a demand for a follow on project.