

11– 10 – 2024

News: World Cotton Day

- On the occasion of World Cotton Day (7th October 2024) the Ministry of Textiles jointly hosted the conference with Cotton Corporation of India and CITI focusing on the theme of "Megatrends Shaping Cotton Textile Value Chain".

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**.
- Cotton can be **successfully grown in a range of soil types, including well-drained deep alluvial soils in northern regions, variable-depth black clayey soils in the central region, and mixed black and red soils in the southern zone**.

- While cotton exhibits some tolerance to salinity, it is highly sensitive to waterlogging, emphasising the importance of well-drained soils in cotton farming.
- 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 first in the world in the production of cotton followed by China and United States.
- Cotton occupies about 4.7 percent of the total cropped area in the country. In India, around 67% of India's cotton is grown in rain-fed areas and 33% in irrigated areas.
- Due to its economic importance in India, it is also termed as "White-Gold".
- 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.**
- India is the **only country in which all four varieties of cotton are grown: G. Arboreum, G. Herbaceum (varieties of Asian cotton), G. Barbadense (Egyptian cotton) and G. Hirsutum (American upland cotton).**

- 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.