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# Report Name: Cotton and Products Update

Country: India

**Post:** New Delhi

Report Category: Cotton and Products

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## **Report Highlights:**

FAS Mumbai (Post) forecasts market year (MY) 2021/2022 cotton production at 28.3 million (480 lb.) bales on an area of 12.6 million hectares. Planted area has declined due to an extended dry spell (which has shortened the planting window) and greater area shifted to pulses and oilseeds due to better prices. Domestic fiber and cotton yarn prices continue to rise due to lower than anticipated production, a recovery in domestic demand, and robust demand for Indian cotton in foreign markets.

Cotton	2019/	2020	2020/2	021	2021/	2022
Market Year Begins	Aug	2019	Aug 2	020	Aug	2021
India	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Planted (1000 HA)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Area Harvested (1000 HA) (a)	13,500	13,400	13,000	13,000	12,900	12,600
Beginning Stocks 1000 480 lb. Bales	9,004	9,004	16,884	16,882	15,884	15,432
Production 1000 480 lb. Bales	28,800	28,800	28,300	27,900	29,000	28,300
<b>Imports</b> 1000 480 lb. Bales	2,280	2,280	800	850	1,000	1,000
MY Imports from U.S. 1000 480 lb. Bales	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Supply 1000 480 lb. Bales	40,084	40,084	45,984	45,632	45,884	44,732
Exports 1000 480 lb. Bales	3,200	3,202	6,100	6,200	6,000	6,200
<b>Use</b> 1000 480 lb. Bales	20,000	20,000	24,000	24,000	25,500	25,500
Loss 1000 480 lb. Bales	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Dom. Cons. 1000 480 lb. Bales	20,000	20,000	24,000	24,000	25,500	25,500
Ending Stocks 1000 480 lb. Bales	16,884	16,882	15,884	15,432	14,384	13,032
Total Distribution 1000 480 lb. Bales	40,084	40,084	45,984	45,632	45,884	44,732
Stock to Use % (PERCENT) (b)	73	73	53	51	46	41
Yield (KG/HA) (c)	464	468	474	467	489	489
Figures in Thousand 480-lb bales, except where indica	ted: (a) thou	isand hect	ares, (b) perce	nt, (c) kilog	rams/hectar	es

India: Commodity, Cotton - Production, Supply and Demand Data Statistics

#### Area

Post estimates area harvested at 12.6 million hectares, 3.1 percent lower than the USDA official number. As of August 27, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare's (MOAFW) reported that cotton sowing area has reached 11.74 million hectares, almost nine percent lower than last year, and five percent below the five-year average. The overall *Kharif* planting season for all major crops is lagging by two percent compared to last year, and one percent below the five-year average. Trade sources indicate that cotton area is estimated between 12.2 and 12.5 million hectares. Post discussions with local farmer contacts indicate that the six percent reduction in area in Maharashtra is largely due to a shift to soybeans as a result prevailing high prices and farmers' fear of pink bollworm infestation. Nonetheless, the current planted crop is in very good condition. In Gujarat, planted area is recovering and is only one percent lower than last year. This slight area decline can also be attributed to a shift to soybeans due to higher prices. Prevailing dry conditions have supported farmers' preference for cotton due to its relative drought tolerance, but yields will be negatively affected. Planting is complete in Northern and Central India, while late planted rain fed cotton sowings in Southern India will continue until the end of August.

Post analysis of the Kharif cotton planting area for the past seven years indicates that from August 20 onwards, there is an additional 6-7 percent of cotton area planted/reported before the sowing estimate is finalized (refer Chart 1). The current MY 2021/22 planting progress is closely following historical averages and may still witness a late expansion in planting area.

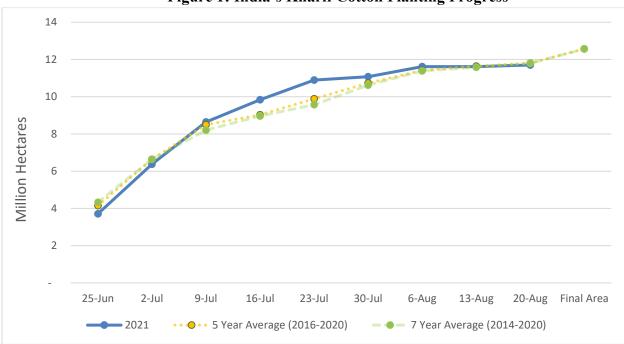


Figure 1: India's Kharif Cotton Planting Progress

Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India

## Production

FAS Mumbai (Post) forecasts market year (MY) 2021/2022 (August-July) cotton production at 28.3 million (480 lb.) bales (36.2 million 170-kilogram bales/6.1 million metric tons), 2.4 percent lower than the official USDA figure. The lower production estimate is based on the lower planted area for cotton. India's average yield is estimated at about 489 kilograms per hectare, one percent higher than the official USDA estimate.

Post's estimate for MY 2020/21 production was revised to 27.9 million 480 lb. bales (35.7 million 170kilogram bales/ 6 million metric tons). This estimate is 400,000 480 lb. bales lower than the official USDA estimate. The yield estimate is two percent lower than the official USDA estimate at 467 kilograms per hectare.

## **Fourth Advance Estimates**

On August 11, <u>the Fourth Advance Estimates of Production for MY 2020-21</u> were published by MOAFW. As per the advance estimates, Indian cotton production has been lowered by five percent from the first advance estimate to 27.6 million 480-lb. bales (35.4 million 170-kilogram bales/6.2 million metric tons), but it is on par with the three-year and five-year average.

## **Government of India Advises Farmers to Monitor Crop for Pests**

Government agencies have issued advisories urging farmers to regularly monitor their crop for whitefly and sucking pest infestation. Farmers have been advised to eradicate all weeds to avoid the spread of whitefly. Due to heavy rains in certain districts in Central and Southern India, specifically districts in the states of Telangana, North Interior Karnataka, and Vidarbha in Maharashtra, farmers have been advised to apply adequate fertilizer and meet cotton nutrient deficiency. Prevailing weather conditions are congenial for incidence of sucking pest in cotton. In central Maharashtra, the crop is at square formation stage, while the crop in eastern Maharashtra (Vidarbha) is at flowering stage. In Gujarat, the crop is at squaring/flowering stage, and there are reports of incidence of sucking pest (thrips and jassids) infestation in certain districts. In North Karnataka, the crop is at vegetative/flowering stage.

According to the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), the rainfall <u>outlook</u> for the next five days (Aug 31 – Sep 4) indicates heavy rainfall in the states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, along with the Saurashtra and Kutch regions of Gujarat. Widespread rainfall is forecast for the Vidarbha region in Maharashtra on August 31.

	RA	INFALL	STATIS	TICS - MONSOON 2021			
JUNE 2021	1- Jun	то	30-Jun	JULY 2021	1- Jul	то	31-Jul
REGION	ACTUAL	NORMAL	% DEP	REGION	ACTUAL	NORMAL	% DEP
COUNTRY AS A WHOLE	182.9	166.9	9.6	COUNTRY AS A WHOLE	266.0	285.3	-6.8
NORTHWEST INDIA	85.7	75.3	13.9	NORTHWEST INDIA	196.8	212.2	-7.3
EAST & NORTHEAST INDIA	357.3	347.1	2.9	EAST & NORTHEAST INDIA	320.6	432.0	-25.8
CENTRAL INDIA	198.8	169.2	17.5	CENTRAL INDIA	298.9	322.8	-7.4
SOUTH PENINSULA	166.2	160.2	3.7	SOUTH PENINSULA	273.8	216.7	26.3
AUGUST 2021	1- Aug	то	30-Aug	×			
REGION	ACTUAL	NORMAL	% DEP	- Carl			
COUNTRY AS A WHOLE	188.2	251.3	-25.1		EAS	<b>T</b> 0	
NORTHWEST INDIA	136.8	198.0	-30.9	NORTHWEST	NORTH	EAST 37	
EAST & NORTHEAST INDIA	346.6	337.2	2.8	INDIA S	1 IND	A A	
CENTRAL INDIA	174.8	298.9	-41.5	CENTRAL	in the	STE	
SOUTH PENINSULA	163.3	183.6	-11.1	INDIA	size	Low	
				T RESTRE	- Company	200	
UMULATIVE SEASONAL RAINFALL	1- Jun	то	30-Aug	*- SOUTH	-	law	
REGION	ACTUAL	NORMAL	% DEP	(INDIA)		é	
COUNTRY AS A WHOLE	637.2	703.7	-9.0			No.	
NORTHWEST INDIA	419.3	485.5	-14.0	1 1 53		0	
EAST & NORTHEAST INDIA	1024.3	1116.3	-8.0	- <u>1</u> 10 10		· 95,E	
CENTRAL INDIA	672.7	790.9	-15.0	FOUR HOMOGENEOUS	REGIONS	OF INDIA	
SOUTH PENINSULA	603.3	561.0	8.0				
(Based on real time data)							

Source: Indian Meteorological Department, Ministry of Earth Sciences

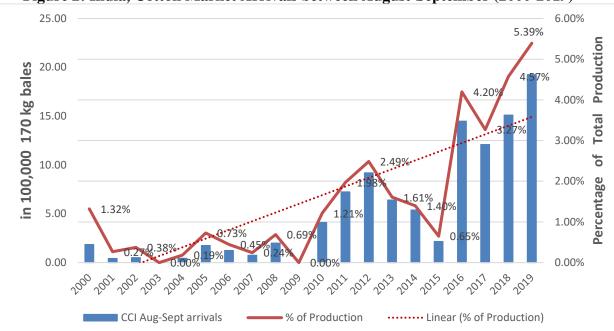


Figure 2: India, Cotton Market Arrivals between August-September (2000-2019)

Source: Cotton Corporation of India, Ministry of Textiles, Cotton Advisory Board, Ministry of Textiles, FAS Mumbai office research.

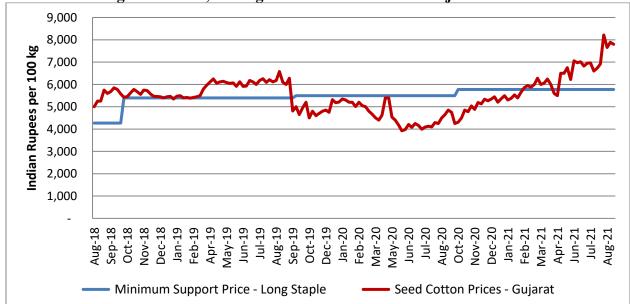


Figure 3: India, Average Seed Cotton Prices in Gujarat Market Yards

Source: Directorate of Marketing and Inspection, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, FAS Mumbai office research.

#### **Arrivals and Stocks**

According to the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI), crop arrivals as of August 27 are estimated at 27.2 million 480 lb. bales (34.8 million 170-kilogram bales /5.9 MMT). Current (MY 2020/2021) crop arrivals represent 96 percent of total estimated production for the marketing year. The pace of arrivals is two percent higher than the same period last year. Unsold stocks with government agencies are around 671,000 480-lb. bales (860,000 170-kilogram bales). According to trade sources, stocks being held by traders, ginners, and merchants are estimated at 8 million 480 lb. bales (10 million 170 kg bales).

## Consumption

Post forecasts MY 2021/2022 consumption at 25.5 million (480-lb.) bales (32.7 million 170-kilogram bales/5.6 million metric tons). Post's mill consumption estimate remains unchanged from the official USDA figure. As of August 26, Indian ex-gin cotton prices are almost 6 cents lower than Cotlook A-Index, but almost 50 percent higher than beginning of the Indian marketing year in October 2020. The spread between the two prices had narrowed in July, but the gap has widened as demand for machine picked cotton has increased globally, while supplies have tightened.

Due to lower than anticipated crop in MY 2020/21, cotton ex-gin prices have been rising steadily. In addition, the recovery from the pandemic has fueled strong fiber demand which has resulted in high prices. Trade sources indicate that large mills are carrying inventory for 2-3 months until the end of September as mill offtake has slowed down considerably, however the demand for exports remains robust as indicated by strong yarn, fabric, and garment exports.

Due to COVID-19 and past lockdowns, industrial operations were disrupted. In June 2021, the textile sector experienced a five percent increase in production volume compared to May (based on the Index of Industrial Production - <u>Quick Estimates of IIP June 2021</u>). Apparel manufacturing similarly rose in June by 10 percent compared to its output one month earlier.

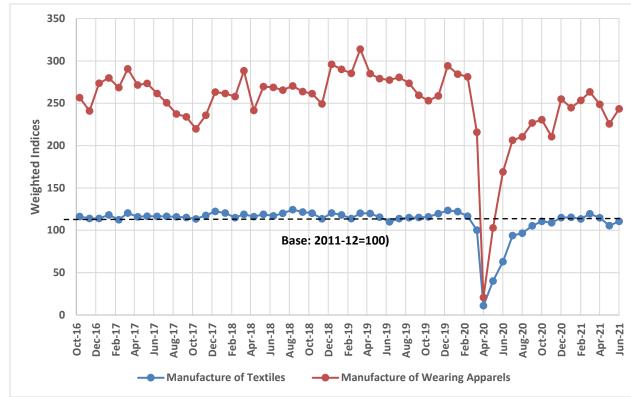


Figure 4: India, Monthly Index of Industrial Production (IIP), October 2016-June 2021

## Trade

Post forecasts MY 2021/2022 cotton exports at 6.2 million (480-lb.) bales (7.7 million 170-kilogram bales/1.3 MMT). Post's estimate is almost 200,000 (480-lb) bales higher than the official USDA figure. India-origin cotton prices remain very competitive compared to those of other origins. Moreover, various government export incentive schemes continue strengthening India's competitive pricing.

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry's trade data indicates that India's MY 2020/2021 cotton exports (Aug/Jul) were 92 percent higher from last year. However, Post analysis indicates that Indian exports (comprised of handpicked cotton) fell significantly in July 2021 as global demand for machine picked cotton increased during the month. Top export destinations included Bangladesh, China, Vietnam, and Indonesia. Exports to Bangladesh and China cumulatively accounted for 77 percent of total shipments in July.

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry's provisional trade estimates put cotton yarn/fabrics/made-ups and handloom products exports up 48 percent (by value) in July 2021 compared to the same period last year. Exports of readymade garments of all textiles are 31 percent higher (by value) in July 2021 compared to the same period last year. Exports of man-made yarn/fabrics/made-ups are up 59 percent (by value) in July. The jump in exports is due to a recovery of foreign demand for Indian textiles. India's national lockdown in June 2020 disrupted international trade, bringing Indian exports then to a standstill. Post analysis indicates that during the first seven months of 2021 (January to July), the exports

Source: Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation, Government of India, FAS New Delhi office research.

of cotton yarn/fabrics/made-ups and handloom products exports (by value) have grown by nine percent on an annual basis.

FAS Mumbai forecasts MY 2021/2022 imports at 1 million (480-lb.) bales (1.28 million 170-kilogram bales/218,000 MT), in line with the USDA official estimate. Post's MY 2020/21 import estimate is at 850,000 480 lb. bales (1 million 170-kilogram bales), which is 50,000 bales higher than the official USDA estimate. Post's estimate is based on the latest shipment data. Trade sources indicate that import shipments in July 2021 have reduced by 27 percent over the previous month. The major suppliers were the United States, Australia, and Turkey.

State	2021/22 as of Aug 27, 2021	2020/21 as of Aug 27, 2020	Normal Area (full season)	Y-o-Y Change	Change from Normal
Andhra Pradesh	446,000	539,100	612,200	-17%	-27%
Gujarat	2,251,000	2,276,600	2,608,600	-1%	-14%
Haryana	688,000	737,000	656,200	-7%	5%
Karnataka	608,700	656,900	646,800	-7%	-6%
Madhya Pradesh	615,100	644,000	605,800	-4%	2%
Maharashtra	3,935,100	4,201,600	4,213,500	-6%	-7%
Odisha	195,000	171,000	146,600	14%	33%
Punjab	303,300	501,000	286,200	-39%	6%
Rajasthan	617,100	697,900	578,400	-12%	7%
Tamil Nadu	9,600	9,300	154,000	3%	-94%
Telangana	2,036,000	2,384,700	1,809,000	-15%	13%
Others	37,100	21,700	42,000	71%	-12%
All India	11,742,000	12,840,800	12,359,300	-9%	-5%

Table 1: India, *Kharif* 2021 Cotton Sowing Position (area in hectares)

Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India Note: \*\*Normal Area is the five-year average during 2016 through 2020.

State	Prices August 2021**	Prices July 2021	Prices August 2020	Change (Over Previous Month)	Change (Over Previous Year)
Gujarat	7,788	7,435	4,267	5%	83%
Karnataka	9,276	7,051	4,728	32%	96%
Pondicherry	-	5,674	4,306	-	-
Rajasthan	6,685	-	-	-	-
Tamil Nadu	7,438	6,918	4,727	8%	57%
AVERAGE	6,282	6,580	4,648	-5%	35%

Source: Directorate of Marketing and Inspection, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, FAS Mumbai. Note: \*\*Prices reported for the period from August 01-30, 2021 (India rupees/100 kilograms).

State	Market Arrivals August 2021	Market Arrivals August 2020	Change (Over Previous Year)
Andhra Pradesh	196	2,783	-93%
Gujarat	562	6,771	-92%
Karnataka	1,957	10,223	-81%
Madhya Pradesh	23	69	-67%
Maharashtra	113	1,661	-93%
Pondicherry	-	9	-100%
Punjab	68	-	0%
Rajasthan	13	131	-90%
Tamil Nadu	2,363	4,694	-50%
Telangana	1,229	3,578	-66%
Uttar Pradesh	580	4	15163%
TOTAL	7,103	29,923	-76%

 Table 3: India, State Seed Cotton Arrivals in Market Yards, August 2021\*\* (metric tons)

Source: Directorate of Marketing and Inspection, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, FAS Mumbai. Note: \*\* Arrivals reported for the period from August 01-30, 2021.

Table 4a. India	, Estimate of 2019/2020	<b>Cotton Exports</b>

	170 kg.	Metric Tons	480 lb.
August Exports 1\	78,033	13,266	60,929
September Exports 1	74,995	12,749	58,557
October Exports 1	115,015	19,552	89,804
November Exports 1\	342,382	58,205	267,333
December Exports 1	604,606	102,783	472,079
January Exports 1\	946,865	160,967	739,316
February Exports 1	566,959	96,383	442,684
March Exports 1\	361,059	61,380	281,916
April Exports 1\	33,792	5,745	26,385
May Exports 1	158,009	26,861	123,374
June Exports 1\	381,766	64,900	298,085
July Exports 1	436,861	74,266	341,103
TOTAL	4,100,343	697,058	3,201,563

1\ Official total reflects estimates from the Directorate General of Foreign Trade, for Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HS) code 5201 – raw cotton.

	170 kg.	Metric Tons	480 lb.
August Exports 1	339,733	57,755	265,265
September Exports 1	448,626	76,266	350,289
October Exports 1\	529,193	89,963	413,196
November Exports 1	782,566	133,036	611,031
December Exports 1	711,686	120,987	555,687
January Exports 1	773,840	131,553	604,217
February Exports 1	820,468	139,480	640,625
March Exports 1	1,074,065	182,591	838,634
April Exports 1\	790,848	134,444	617,497
May Exports 1\	686,664	116,733	536,150
June Exports 2	558,824	95,000	436,332
July Exports 2	347,059	59,000	270,985
PRELIMINARY TOTAL (AUG-JUL.)	7,863,572	1,336,807	6,139,907

Table 4b. India, Estimate of 2020/2021 Cotton Exports

1\ Official total reflects estimates from the Directorate General of Foreign Trade, for Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HS) code 5201 – raw cotton.

2 FAS Analysis.

Table 5a. India, Estimate of 2019/2020 Cotton Imports					
	170 kg.	Metric Tons	480 lb.		
August Imports 1\	974,913	165,735	761,216		
September Imports 1	543,860	92,456	424,648		
October Imports 1	360,272	61,246	281,301		
November Imports 1	222,081	37,754	173,402		
December Imports 1	124,683	21,196	97,353		
January Imports 1	99,325	16,885	77,553		
February Imports 1	96,118	16,340	75,050		
March Imports 1	112,053	19,049	87,491		
April Imports 1	86,721	14,743	67,712		
May Imports 1\	114,727	19,504	89,580		
June Imports 1\	107,271	18,236	83,758		
July Imports 1\	77,978	13,256	60,886		
TOTAL	2,920,003	496,400	2,279,949		

## Table 5a. India, Estimate of 2019/2020 Cotton Imports

1\ Official total reflects estimates from the Directorate General of Foreign Trade, for Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HS) code 5201 – raw cotton.

	170 kg.	Metric Tons	480 lb.
August Imports 1	60,682	10,316	47,381
September Imports 1	88,401	15,028	69,024
October Imports 1\	62,071	10,552	48,465
November Imports 1	42,453	7,217	33,147
December Imports 1	76,437	12,994	59,682
January Imports 1	135,034	22,956	105,435
February Imports 1	81,981	13,937	64,011
March Imports 1	94,613	16,084	73,874
April Imports 1\	76,424	12,992	59,672
May Imports 1\	112,038	19,046	87,480
June Imports 2\	144,118	24,500	112,528
July Imports 2	105,882	18,000	82,673
PRELIMINARY TOTAL (AUG-JUL.)	1,080,134	183,623	843,373

Table 5b. India, Estimate of 2020/2021 Cotton Imports	Table 5b. India	, Estimate of 2020/202	<b>1</b> Cotton Imports
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1\Official total reflects estimates from the Directorate General of Foreign Trade, for Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HS) code 5201 – raw cotton.

2\ FAS Analysis.

Month/Year	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
August	94	117	66	79	108	67	92
September	98	112	77	99	98	66	93
October	101	106	76	98	97	78	86
November	125	105	103	111	95	89	87
December	125	115	129	116	92	91	91
January	113	104	132	87	91	102	82
February	119	100	103	95	100	91	82
March	122	112	89	118	117	73	98
April	104	105	66	106	89	18	89
May	99	94	65	109	76	58	101
June	103	92	78	117	58	96	126
July	118	75	71	101	59	101	
TOTAL	1,321	1,237	1,055	1,236	1,080	929	

## Table 6: India, Cotton Yarn\* Exports by Month (metric tons, thousands)

\*HS code: 5204, 5205, and 5207.

Source: Directorate General of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce, FAS Mumbai.

Month/Year	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
August	92,491	101,609	113,364	107,497	147,673	150,882	146,826
September	98,636	104,032	104,666	123,688	126,498	139,365	155,768
October	108,182	117,744	105,449	109,769	142,260	146,139	160,681
November	103,471	95,225	87,711	118,256	119,215	126,143	144,410
December	105,335	121,134	112,030	132,635	132,049	142,892	162,945
January	93,192	116,656	107,852	125,493	136,899	140,226	151,973
February	96,586	107,487	110,875	113,399	135,495	148,992	146,288
March	105,169	120,461	113,507	133,927	162,676	121,661	155,649
April	87,666	109,535	94,383	114,876	126,001	21,311	145,165
May	104,169	103,373	89,117	119,821	141,129	69,665	144,613
June	104,505	97,043	93,410	122,381	131,541	127,795	
July	97,421	98,914	94,399	113,614	140,850	154,068	
TOTAL	1,196,821	1,293,214	1,226,764	1,435,355	1,642,288	1,489,140	

Table 7. India's Cotton Fabric\* Exports by Month (square meters, thousands)

\*HS code: 5208 and 5209.

Source: Directorate General of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce, FAS Mumbai.

#### Attachments:

No Attachments