



Kastoori Cotton

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Why in News

Union Minister for Textiles unveiled a brand and a logo for **Indian cotton** recently on the occasion of 2nd **World Cotton Day** on 7th October 2020.

The branding, **Kasturi Cotton**, would initially be applicable to long-staple cotton that is grown in India and meets prescribed standards.

Key Points



- **World Cotton Day**
 - **Theme for World Cotton Day, 2020:** Cotton: The Fibre that Moves Me
 - **Launched:** By World Trade Organisation in 2019 on the initiative of **Cotton-4 (Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad and Mali)**.
 - **In Collaboration with:** United Nations **Food and Agriculture Organization** (FAO), the **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development** (UNCTAD), the **International Trade Centre** (ITC) and the International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC).

- **Cotton**

- **Kharif Crop** which requires 6 to 8 months to mature.
- **Drought – resistant** crop ideal for arid climates.
- **Occupies 2.1%** of the world’s arable land, meets **27%** of the world’s textiles need.
- **Temperature:** Between 21-30°C.
- **Rainfall:** Around 50-100cm.
- **Soil Type:** Well-drained **black cotton soil (Regur Soil)** (E.g. Soil of Deccan Plateau)
- **Products:** fibre, oil and animal feed.
- **Top Cotton Producing Countries:** China > India > USA
- **Top Cotton Producing States in India:** Gujarat > Maharashtra > Telangana > Andhra Pradesh > Rajasthan.
- **Four cultivated species** of cotton: *Gossypium arboreum*, *G. herbaceum*, *G. hirsutum* and *G. barbadense*.
 - ***Gossypium arboreum* and *G. herbaceum*** are known as **old-world cotton** or **Asiatic cotton**.
 - *G. hirsutum* is also known as **American cotton or upland cotton** and *G. barbadense* as **Egyptian cotton**. These are both **new world cotton species**.
- **Hybrid Cotton:** Cotton made by crossing two parent strains that have different genetic characters. Hybrids are often **spontaneously and randomly created in nature** when open-pollinated plants naturally cross-pollinate with other related varieties.
- **Bt Cotton:** It is a genetically modified organism or genetically modified pest-resistant variety of cotton.

- **Cotton in India**

- Cotton is an important **fibre and cash crop** which plays a dominant role in the industrial and agricultural economy of India.
- India is the **largest producer of cotton** in the world and the **third largest exporter**. It is also the **largest consumer of cotton** in the world.
- The pest-resistant **Genetically Modified (GM) Bt cotton hybrids** have captured the Indian market (covering over **95%** of the area under cotton) since their **introduction in 2002**.
- India produces about 6 million tons of cotton every year which is about 23% of the world cotton.
- India produces about 51% of the **total organic cotton production** of the world.

Government Initiatives for Cotton

- **National Food Security Mission-Commercial Crops (NFSM-CC):**
 - In the **12th Five Year Plan**, under the **NFSM**, a cropping system approach is being adopted by including commercial crops like cotton, jute and sugarcane.
 - Cotton Development Programme (CDP), launched in 2014-15 is being implemented under NFSM-CC for enhancing production and productivity.
- Ministry of Textiles in collaboration with **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)** under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has prescribed a **certification system for organic Cotton**
- **Cotton Corporation of India (CCI)** has developed a mobile application called “**Cott-Ally**” to provide the latest news on weather conditions, the crop situation and best farm practices.
- CCI has also opened 430 procurement centres in all cotton-growing states and payments are being made digitally to farmers’ accounts within 72 hours.

Cotton Corporation of India

- CCI was established in 1970 under the administrative control of the **Ministry of Textiles** as a **Public Sector Undertaking** under the **Companies Act 1956**.
- **Headquarters:** CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai (Maharashtra)
- **Role:** To undertake price support operations, whenever the market prices of cotton fall below the **Minimum Support Prices (MSP)** announced by Govt. of India, without any quantitative limit.

Cotton Research

- The **Central Institute for Cotton Research** has campuses in Nagpur in Maharashtra state and Sirsa in Haryana state.
It is a central research institute established by the **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)**.
- The **ICAR-Central Institute for Research on Cotton Technology** is situated in **Mumbai**.

Source: TH