



The Decline in Cotton Exports

According to the **Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council** the cotton yarn exports declined by 44% in July 2019, compared with the same month in 2018.

- According to it, Cotton yarn exports are at a **five-year low**.
- Along with this India's share in global textile and clothing exports has also seen a downfall.
- While India was the **second-largest exporter of textile and clothing in 2014-2017, it has come down to the fifth position in 2019**.

Cotton Cultivation

- India is believed to be the original home of the cotton plant. Cotton is one of the main raw materials for the cotton textile industry.
- Cotton grows well in **drier parts of the black cotton soil** of the Deccan plateau.
- It is a **Kharif crop (grown with the onset of monsoon and harvested in September-October)** and requires 6 to 8 months to mature.
- Major cotton-producing states are- **Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh**.
- Conditions required for the cultivation of cotton are:

Temperature

- Cotton grows in the **tropical and sub-tropical warm humid climate**. Annual temperature requirement is 20°-28°C. Equitable temperature distribution and bright sunshine is desirable.

Rainfall

- Annual rainfall of 55-100 cm is ideal for cotton Cultivation.
- However, the Rainfall during harvesting is harmful.

Frost-free Days

- About 180 frost-free days are the minimum requirement for cotton cultivation. While, 200 frost-free days are desirable for cotton cultivation.

Soil

- **Fertile, saline soil with high water-retention capacity** is ideal for cotton cultivation. Loamy soil with high calcium carbonate is best for cotton cultivation.

Relief

- The slight slope of the land drains the soil and is good for cotton cultivation.

[Source: TH](#)

PDF Refernece URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/the-decline-in-cotton-exports>

