



## Kastoori Cotton

### Why in News

Union Minister for Textiles unveiled a brand and a logo for [Indian cotton](#) recently on the occasion of 2<sup>nd</sup> [World Cotton Day](#) on 7<sup>th</sup> 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 **12<sup>th</sup> 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](#)

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