

CICCA Update by Member Organisations



Issue 17 – May 2022

Welcome to this Update, keeping you informed of the new developments at the Member Organisations and Observer Organisations. This publication comes as a result of a decision reached at the 2012 Plenary Meeting that “To facilitate the understanding of the latest cotton related information in the countries of Member Associations and to make CICCA more proactive if necessary, it was agreed that Member Associations would update their countries’ cotton market information on a quarterly basis, and this would be distributed within the CICCA forum.”

Any suggestions and comments would be greatly appreciated. The following Member Associations and Observer Organisations have contributed to this issue:

[ACSA Australia](#), [ACSA USA](#), [AFCOT](#), [ALCOTEXA](#), [APPA](#), [BBB](#), [BBM](#), [CAN](#), [CCA](#), [Cotton SA](#), [GCA](#), [ICA](#), [ICAC](#), [ICE](#), [ITMF](#), [JCTA](#), [KCA](#), [USDA](#).

ACA – African Cotton Association

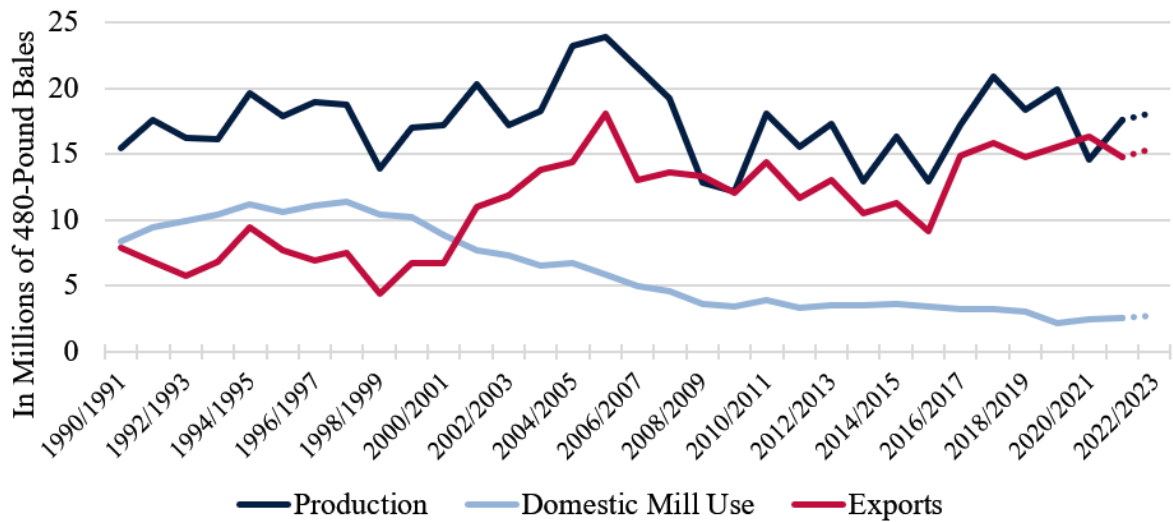
(No update)

ACSA – American Cotton Shippers Association

Planting is currently underway in the United States with 12% of the crop planted as of April 24th, a little ahead of the five-year average of 11%. At the beginning of May, the USDA will release its first projection of the 2022/2023 cotton crop, however, in April, the National Cotton Council projected the U.S. to produce 18.2 million 480-pound bales and export 15.5 million of those bales (Graph 1). The biggest variable going into planting season is the current drought conditions in West Texas (Picture 1).

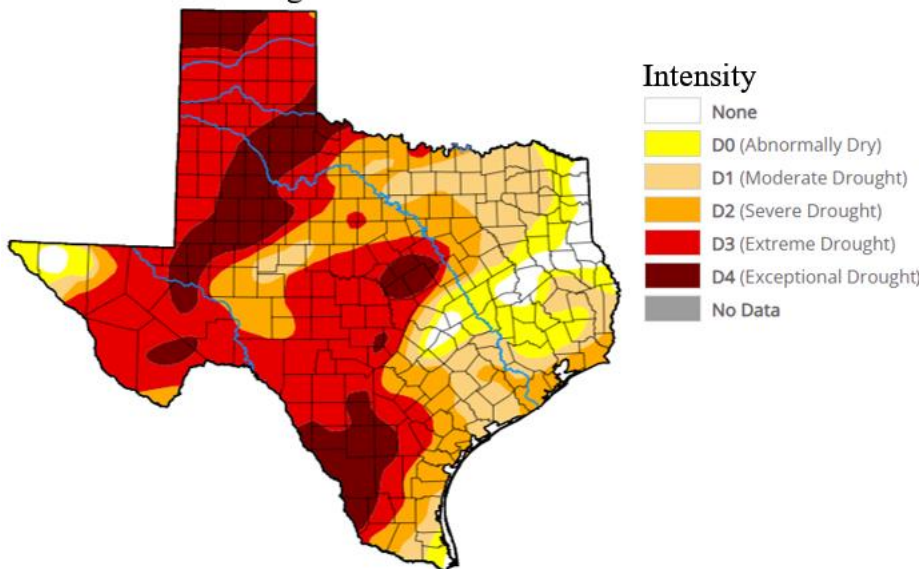
Due to supply chain challenges, cotton shipments have lagged previous years. As of April 14th, current shipments are roughly 1.2 million bales behind the 5-year average, in spite of robust sales and demand. However, in recent weeks, export numbers have increased significantly, which suggest the potential to meet USDA export estimates. In order to reach the USDA 2021/2022 estimate of 14.75 million 480-pound bales, the U.S. will need to ship approximately 413,000 480-pound bales per week for the remainder of the year. ACSA has been working to develop federal, industry, and commercial solutions to help with these challenges. Bipartisan legislation to invest \$1.5 trillion in U.S. infrastructure accompanied by meaningful reform for ocean carrier and other supply chain participants will equip the U.S. industry to meet our customers’ needs.

Graph 1: U.S. Production, Domestic Use, and Exports



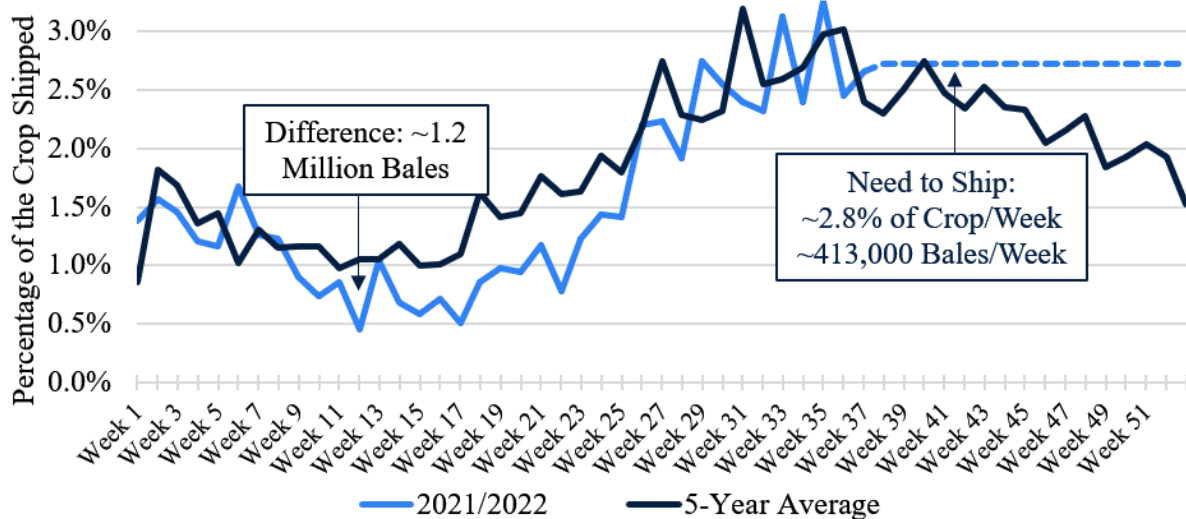
Source: USDA - April WASDE Report

Picture 1: Texas Drought Monitor



Source: National Drought Mitigation Center as of April 26th

Graph 2: Current Year Versus 5-Year Average Shipping



Source: USDA - Foreign Agricultural Service

ACSA – Australian Cotton Shippers Association

The current La Nina weather pattern that has been with us for the past two years (and the associated wetter weather) has provided much needed relief from the prolonged drought that plagued our growing regions and culminated in our smallest crop in over 30 years in 2019/20 season. Since then, production has expanded fivefold with this season predicted to produce a 5.2 million bale crop. With full moisture profiles and water storages the 2022/23 season has the potential to be even larger.

The wetter and cooler conditions associated with La Nina in Australia have resulted in the crop being around 4 weeks later than what is considered a normal start. Ginning has commenced in our more northern regions with all gins expected to be in operation by mid-May.

Whilst it is exciting to see a big crop the industry will be faced with numerous challenges as it endeavours to move bales from gin to warehouse and to export destinations. With unemployment rates as low as 4%, and with Covid induced difficulties in securing overseas labour, our local resources will be surely stretched. That said, we remain confident in our processes and believe we have the means to ensure timely and reliable delivery even in big crop years.

Without a doubt the ongoing international shipping issues will impede our ability to move this year's large crop. The 2021/22 crop has been sold and mostly shipped - predominately to Vietnam, Indonesia, Turkey and Thailand. It is expected these markets will continue to be significant buyers of the Australian new crop along with markets in the Indian sub-continent. Shipper's ability to secure ocean freight and boxes at workable rates may be the ultimate determinant to how many bales are exported to the sub-continent as there are very few lines servicing this trade out of Australian ports and securing rates and space is proving difficult.

AFCOT – Association Française Cotonnière

AFCOT Forum 2022

The AFCOT forum will be held on Thursday October 6 and Friday October 7, 2022 in Deauville. As usual, the morning of October 7 will be devoted to technical seminars

COMETHI

CSR, Corporate Social Responsibility is the company's contribution to sustainable development. A company's strategy and ambition in terms of CSR contribute to its attractiveness to its customers, partners... A guarantee of transparency and progress, CSR is the key to shared and profitable knowledge for all stakeholders.

Among the challenges to be met in order to promote all players in the cotton industry, the AFCOT Ethics Committee has formalized a document in order to identify all types of initiatives and actions, with regard to sustainable development.

The objective is to promote and enhance the CSR approaches of each company in the cotton sector to create a library which will be freely accessible on the AFCOT website.

ALCOTEXA - Alexandria Cotton Exporters' Association

	Commitments (Tons)	Shipped (Tons)	Value (US\$)
1 st Quarter	24,674.50	6,402.50	127,078,795
2 nd Quarter	25,111.50	22,791.59	139,502,886
Total	49,786	29,194.09	266,581,681

APPA – Asociación para la promoción de la Producción Algodonera

The 2021/2022 cotton campaign was characterized mainly in terms of climate by presenting conditions of both hydric and thermal stress in the critical period of cotton cultivation, which in some areas was unprecedented.

As expressed in previous reports, the cotton area increased between 20~25%, reaching, according to estimates, 530,000 to 550,000 ha, in the whole country. This increase was mainly due to forecasts of prices relative to other crops, where cotton was better positioned in terms of better profitability rates, and weather forecasts that defined a campaign with probable water stress where, also facing this situation, the cotton crop has advantages over other crops in the country. However, cotton was affected by thermal and hydric stress in a large part of the planted area in the country during the critical period of the crop in the months of January and February, compromising both the yield (quantity) and the fibre quality.

The start of planting was delayed with respect to other seasons by around 30 days due to the lack of adequate moisture in the soil profile to start planting.

During March, significant rainfall occurred throughout the cotton area, which improved the state of the crop. However, in several areas the stress was so important that the production achieved by the crop was so low that it did not justify the harvest and currently a significant area in the country is in full bloom and the beginning of the filling of bolls, with an uncertain forecast. Because the crop is being affected by low levels of temperature and radiation with risks of frost, which could mean very low levels of fibre production in these fields.

The level of harvest progress is around 5% with an estimated production of around 950,000 to 1,000,000 tons of raw cotton, which would yield between 310,000 and 320,000 tons of fibre. We insist that these are estimated data since harvest progress is very low and the crop situation in several areas is complex and uncertain.

The textile industry and the export of Argentine fibre are very active, with problems in the industry to obtain good fibre and with problems for imports. Producers in general are selling their fibre, which keeps the cotton market very active, since the demand for fibre is very important.

As for the cotton boll weevil, a key cotton crop pest, in the 2021/2022 campaign the economic impact was minimal, greatly helped by weather conditions. Very low levels of capture in traps are recorded. However, this situation of extension of the crop in the fields generates conditions for the multiplication of the pest.

We are convinced that this particular year will be key to reinforce the use of the fibre quality test by HVI instrument, and also we are proud to announce that our Official Laboratory has been certified by ICA Bremen.

In 2018, the Director of the Laboratory, Mr. Nicolas Buyatti (APPA), received the visit of Dr Georges Toby (then Chairman of CICC) and Dr Robert Jiang (ICA), who considered that the APPA laboratory needed to participate in the “ICA Bremen International Laboratory Certification Scheme”, and whom we specially thank for their cooperation.

Since then, the certification process began and ended last November 2021, with the visit for the final audit of the Laboratory by the auditors Dr Robert Jiang and Mr. Axel Drieling (ICA Bremen). The certification of the Official Fiber Quality Laboratory has made possible to increase its level to the maximum, ensuring accuracy and transparency throughout the process, providing an impartial means of dispute resolution. At the same time, promote the increase in the quality of cotton and its export, the development of traceability, water footprint and zero carbon programs; and to be united behind the principle of respect for “the sanctity of contracts”.

BBB – Bremer Baumwollbörse

2022 is the year of the Bremen Cotton Exchange’s 150th Anniversary. The event is celebrated with smaller activities all through the year leading up to its highlight in the last week of September. On September 29 and 30 the International Cotton Conference Bremen will take place on site and online. A look on the agenda promises an insight into topics such as Cotton Quality and Testing, Sustainability and Traceability and Carbon Sequestration. The conference will be surrounded by a variety of meetings. The ITMF Testing Committee meets, CSITC as well as the Spinners’ Seminar and DNFI. In addition, the Cultural Historic Museum Bremen (Uebersee-Museum) opens a comprehensive cotton exhibition where conference participants get early access on September 29 and finally there will be an anniversary dinner in the famous Bremen Town Hall. We look forward to welcoming you (www.cotton-conference-bremen.de).



BBM – Bolsa Brasileira de Mercadorias

The 20/21 season is practically over, with a production figure of 2.36 million tons, export shipments till end of March 22 of 1.38 million tons, domestic consumption of approx. 750 thousand tons. Right now we have very few offers of spot cotton, and when some odd lots appear in the mkt they are mostly directed to the domestic industry.

Despite a slightly improvement recently on the logistics side, it is still far from normal and lack of space/containers for several destinations is still a major problem.

For the new crop, 21/22 season, Brazil has planted about 1.6 million hectares that will be harvested June/July onwards, an increase in acreage of 17% from last season. Expected production is about 2.82 million ton as per last CONAB's figures. This represents about 20% increase due not only to the increase in area but also to better expected yields.

Some sources in the mkt are expecting higher production output up to 3.0 million tons but recent weather changes may have put a damp on these expectations, but general feeling is that it will be no lower than CONAB's figures.

We reckon that something around 65% has been already sold by producers. The lion share has been sold to merchants and a smaller portion to the local industry.

BCA – Belgian Cotton Association

(No update)

CAI – Cotton Association of India

(No update)

CAN - Centro Algodonero Nacional

Our annual meeting will be held in June in Barcelona.

Our estimation for Spanish new crop is 50,000 MT about 15% lower than previous crop.

Our main concern for new crop is the water supplies.

We might become BCI for new crop.

CCA – China Cotton Association

In March, the domestic textile market was running weakly. Due to the high cotton price and the weak price increase of textiles and clothing. The downward transmission of the market was not smooth, and the epidemic situation led to the rise of logistics costs. Textile enterprises were not willing to purchase raw materials, and lint sales were slow.

According to the latest forecast of the China Cotton Association, the domestic textile market in 2021/22 is sluggish, and the consumption will be lower than that of the previous year, reduced to

8.05 million tons, a decrease of 290,000 tons, 4.5% year on year. Since late March, the import has been reduced to 2 million tons, a decrease of 750,000 tons from the previous period, a year-on-year decrease of 27.3%. The ending stock was correspondingly reduced to 7.86 million tons, a year-on-year decrease of 3.5%. The total production was 5.77 million tons, a year-on-year decrease of 2.5%.

Cotton SA

South Africa Cotton Market Report

Local cotton production is estimated at 75 000 lint bales by end of October 2022, with the picking of the seed cotton starting.

RSA CROP	2021/22 3rd Estimate	2021/22 1st Estimate	2020/21 Final Estimate
Ha Irrigation	6 275	5 566	11 543
Ha Dryland	7 769	12 465	16 132
Total Ha	14 044	18 031	27 675
Yield: kg seed cotton per ha			
Irrigation	4 140	4 176	4 500
Dryland	1 523	1 375	1 414
TOTAL LINT BALES	67 668	72 079	76 009

GCA – Gdynia Cotton Association

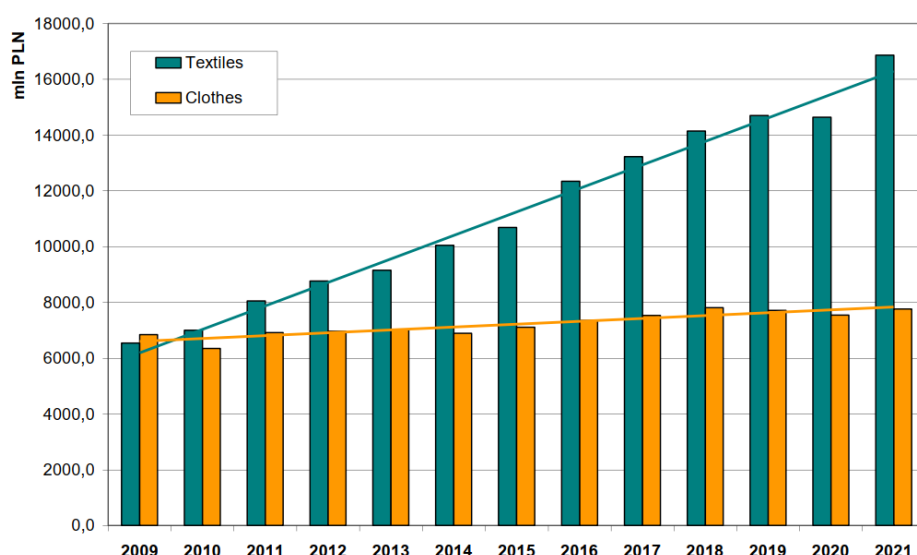
Irrespective of restrictions related to Covid-19 and to disturbances of chains of supply, challenges regarding increased freight costs, hold-ups in ports, and lower availability of containers – Polish textile and clothing industries coped well in 2021.

The Russian crime of aggression in Ukraine and related sanctions which have been imposed on the aggressor by the civilised world will, this year, bring additional turbulences in the world economy. They will certainly negatively affect the Polish textile-clothing sector in the coming months of 2022.

Production Sold

The 12-month period of 2021 brought the increase of the volume of production sold in both industries. The value of production sold of the Polish textile industry, when compared to 2020, increased by as much as 13.9%, whereas the value of production of apparel resulted to be higher by 5.7%.

PRODUCTION SOLD - TEXTILES, CLOTHES WITHIN 2009-2021

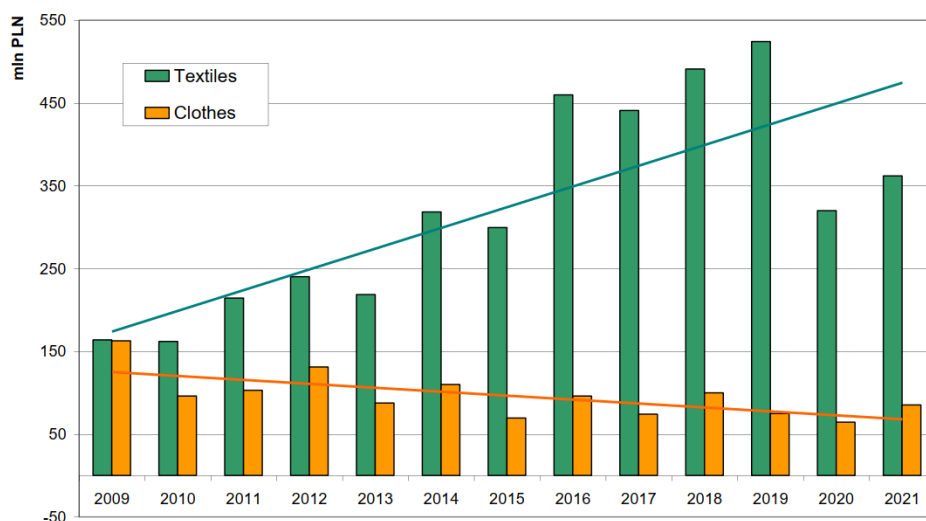


Investment Outlays

The Covid-19 pandemics of 2020 – 2021 has adversely influenced the companies' decisions referring to investments in Polish textile sector.

Nevertheless, in 2021, despite the continued pandemics and related restrictions, the investment outlays in both industries began rising. In the textile branch, they rose by 13.2% but they were still lower than in 2019. In the apparel industry, after the rise by 32%, the investment outlays were higher than before the Covid-19 pandemics in 2019.

TEXTILES, CLOTHES - INVESTMENT OUTLAYS WITHIN 2009 - 2021



Foreign Trade

Foreign trade results for 2021 show that the total value of imports of textiles and clothes (EUR 15.603 billion) was higher by 14.7% than the value of imports in 2020. The total value of exports of textiles and clothes in 2021 (EUR 12.835 billion) rose even more and it was higher by as much as 21.6% than the value of 2020 exports.

Market of Cotton Raw Materials in Poland, in 2021

In 2021, in total, there were 12 072 tonnes of cotton raw materials imported to Poland, for the amount of EUR 20.693 million, including:

- 4 790 tonnes of cotton (CN 5201) – for EUR 8.265 million
- 7 282 tonnes of carded or combed cotton, including combers (5203) – for EUR 12.429 million.

ICA – International Cotton Association

ICA Las Vegas 2022

Registration is now open for our next major event, Las Vegas 2022 – the ICA's first traditional trade event and gala dinner in three years. The event will take place from 8 – 10 November in the Park MGM, Las Vegas. Find out more and register here: <https://ica-ltd.org/together-again-at-las-vegas-2022-trade-event/>

Impact of Delayed Shipment & Lack of Communication

ICA has heard the concerns from cotton buyers in Korea about the impact of much delayed shipment and the lack of direct communication from seller to buyer. We would like to remind our members of their contractual obligation to set realistic shipment dates. And to communicate to the buyer any changes to the delivery that are likely to impact the contractual shipment period. Read the full story here: <https://ica-ltd.org/impact-of-delayed-shipment-lack-of-communication/>

International Women's Day

To celebrate this year's International Women's Day (8 March), we invited some men and women from the industry to share their views on 'breaking the bias'. Read the statements and interviews here: <https://ica-ltd.org/international-womens-day-2/>

Women in Cotton

Women in Cotton have introduced new online events, Women in Action which put the spotlight on women in the industry. The second Women in Action event was held in March and put the spotlight on Şükran Bayçura, General Manager at IPUD – Good Cotton Practices Association. Find out more about Women in Cotton and their online events: <https://ica-ltd.org/women-in-cotton/>

ICA Shortlisted for Diversity & Inclusion Award

The ICA was shortlisted for the Diversity and Inclusion Award as part of the Trade Association Forum (TAF) Best Practice Awards 2022. Now in its nineteenth year, the prestigious TAF Best Practice Awards 2022 are supported by the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, and recognise excellence, innovation and best practice amongst Trade Associations in the UK. Read the full story: <https://ica-ltd.org/ica-shortlisted-for-diversity-inclusion-award/>

Success for first Qingdao training

Organised by the China National Cotton Exchange (CNCE), the first Advanced Cotton Import Training was held on 9-12 December 2021 Qingdao. The course covered many aspects of international cotton trading including; characteristics of the cotton producing countries, cotton and textile supply and demand, customs inspection, cotton import procedures & practices, ICA bylaws & rules and arbitration, risk management, yarn contracts and import procedures & practices. Excellent feedback was received about these modules from the participating delegates. Read the full story: <https://ica-ltd.org/success-for-first-qingdao-training/>

Arbitration

This year to date, we have received a low number of 5 arbitrations for 1st tier disputes. As it is well known, the ICA encourages both parties to resolve disputes amicably which benefits business harmony and cooperation, and arbitration is only the last resort.

ICAC – International Cotton Advisory Committee

The Private Sector Advisory Council (PSAC) has officially been launched and the ICAC is now in the process of establishing the four permanent committees. The first of these committees, representing merchants, elected Mr Cliff White as Chair and Mr Ahmed Elbosaty as Vice Chair. Once all the permanent committees have been established the first meetings to discuss substantive topics will take place by end of June.

One of the benefits for ICAC Member organisations will be the use of the new, interactive data portal to be launched in June and the business-to-business portal which is currently being developed which will be available by September. For a demonstration and walk through of what the data portal can do for you please contact me

The Task Force on Commercial Standardisation of Instrument Testing of Cotton (CSITC) is currently undergoing a major revamp and, after the sad loss of Andrew Macdonald as its Chair, the Task Force elected Mr Rene van der Sluijs as Chair.

Looking ahead, I will be speaking at the Donors Conference pre the Ministerial Conference at the WTO on July 27th to appeal for funding for the African Cotton Sustainability Programme which is the first holistic, pan-African project for Africa covering the whole value chain and worth over \$50m. Led by the ICAC and CIRAD there are also a number of associate partners such as the ITC, ACA and ACF with the Programme involving the private sector through local cotton associations.

The World Cotton Research Conference will be held 4-7 October 2022 in Cairo, Egypt (subject to confirmation on 3 May) and the event would welcome sponsorship from private sector companies. There will be around 70 speakers talking about the latest research and developments in the cotton sector.

This event culminates on the 7th of October which is of course, World Cotton Day. What are you doing on WCD? Need inspiration and want to advertise your organisation or company at the same time, then visit www.WorldCottonDay.com for inspiration and a look at what happened last year

where over 30 countries were represented. The theme for this and future WCDs will be 'Cotton For Good'

Finally, please don't forget that there are a number of ICAC publications available including monthly publications like Cotton This Month to quarterly publications like The ICAC Recorder and the Review of the World Situation and finally, annual publications such as the report on government assistance measures.

The ICAC Flagship publication is the Cotton Data Book which regroups the data and analyses of three major ICAC technical publications, previously released every three years. With this compilation, our subscribers will be updated yearly on the cost of production, the production practices and research in cotton with the addition of the sustainability aspect of the cotton industry. The new improved report contains data from more than 30 countries on the costs of all field operations — starting from pre-sowing to harvesting and ginning — as well as economic and fixed costs are determined and computed to calculate the cost of production of cotton per hectare and per kilogram. It also includes data per country on varieties of cotton and their fibre characteristics, insects, diseases, weeds and the methods used to control them; the use of fertilisers, farm size, rotations, harvesting and ginning. The research part of the publication focuses on research systems, variety approval processes, funding sources, input supplies (seed, fertiliser and pesticides), technology transfer with cotton maps for various countries and a list research institutions/organization, farmers associations, ginners association and textile associations. Released annually during the last quarter of the year.

ICE – Izmir Commodity Exchange

Cotton production in Turkey is expected to increase with the expansion of cultivation areas.

The increase in world cotton prices and exchange rates caused Turkish cotton prices to rise.

It is assumed that cotton planting has reached 60% so far and planting will be completed by May 15.

While a much larger increase in cultivated area was expected, the surprisingly high increase in production costs prevented the producers who was considering switching from corn and sunflower production to cotton production.

Therefore, the expected increase remained at 10%. It is expected that the production will reach 950-975,000 tons in parallel with the expected increase in cultivated area up to 550,000 hectares, in a season with good climatic conditions.

ITMF – International Textile Manufacturers Federation

ITMF did not have any physical events for the past two years.

The Spinners Committee was holding a webinar on the topic of "The future of (cotton) spinning".

Our next physical event will be the ITMF Annual Conference 2022 in September in Davos, Switzerland.

JCTA – Japan Cotton Traders' Association

March Cotton Imports into Japan

March Cotton imports totaled around 5,700 tons, up from 3,800 tons the month before and 3,000 tons. In March 2021 as Japan's economic situation, and especially, consumer demand for cotton products continue to recover from the Covid-19 impacts. During the first 8 months of the 2021/22 marketing year, Japan's cotton imports are nearly 25,700 tons, an increase of 55 percent from the corresponding period a year earlier.

The main sources of supply were the United States, followed by Australia, Greece, and Brazil. These top 4 countries accounted for a combined 89 percent of total imports during the first 8 months this season which suggest that oligopoly is on the rise.

While Covid-19 pandemic spurred a decline in cotton imports in the past 2 years, there are growing expectations that demand for cotton as a natural material will be stimulated by SDGs and the heightened casual orientation, including organic cotton and FAIRTRADE cotton.

Covid-19 Pandemic

Covid-19 infections have almost subsided and things are getting back to normal here in Japan. We and our colleagues have already received booster vaccine and are staying safe. However, booster vaccination rate nationwide are only 47 percent at the middle of April, due to the low vaccination rate of young people.

JCTA Board of Directors

Re JCTA Board of Directors scheduled for May 30, 2022, JCTA is trying to determine the best way to proceed as scheduled.

KCA – Karachi Cotton Association

Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI), the apex trade body of Pakistan held meeting with Khawaja M. Zubair, Chairman, Karachi Cotton Association, the premier body of Cotton Trade in Pakistan to discuss critical issues related to Cotton and allied matters.

Khawaja M. Zubair, Chairman, the KCA along with his delegation briefed about the alarming situation being faced by the Cotton Trade, especially the issue of shortage of cotton in the country, and assures full support and assistance to resolve these issues for the best interest of the Cotton Trade.



Khawaja M. Zubair,
Chairman,
The Karachi Cotton Association

The Summary of the points discussed are as follows:

- The Apex Trade body termed the ever-decreasing cotton production as a direct threat for the economic security of the country, as cotton is one of the most significant cash crops and, above all, it provides indigenous raw material for the country's largest exportable product category, namely textiles.
- The devastated decline in the cotton production was mainly due to reduction in yield per acre, cultivation of sugarcane in the areas earmarked for cotton cultivation and supply of uncertified Cotton Seed & Pesticides etc.
- Textiles exports are all set to cross the \$20 billion mark in the outgoing fiscal year. However, cotton production has been reduced to 6-7 million bales per year.
- Pakistan's textiles products could become much more competitive, provided the entire amount of the raw material required is produced domestically or at least resumption of production of the previous levels of 10-12 million bales per year is ensured.
- Importing 1 million bales results in the outflow of \$1 billion of precious foreign exchange.
- The delegation explained that 60% cost of producing the textile products lay with the raw material of cotton. "Therefore, cotton is our lifeline as far as the lion's share of our exports is concerned.
- Producing more cotton will also strengthen our foreign exchange reserves, improve abysmal trade balance, and put a stop to the incessant rupee depreciation.

- Both the head noted with deep concern that the total area under cotton cultivation has declined by 1 million hectares and, if the government and agriculturalists can collectively reclaim that area
- from other crops like sugarcane, Pakistan could produce an additional 5 million bales per year and save \$5 billion.
- Khawaja Muhammad Zubair, Chairman, the Karachi Cotton Association also maintained that lack of governmental support and non-availability of certified and high-quality cotton seeds were hampering cotton production in the country.
- Chairman, the KCA also added that, given the upward trend in export orders and domestic consumption, the total cotton requirement of the country might climb to 17 million bales, and, Pakistan simply cannot afford to import 10 million bales of cotton.

USDA – United States Department of Agriculture

As of April 26, 2022, the USDA, AMS, Cotton Program classed a total of 17,091,447 bales for the 2021-22 U.S. cotton season. Of this total, 16,771,745 were Upland cotton and 319,702 were Pima. These totals represent 99.8% of the total amount estimated to receive by USDA so a very minimal amount is still expected to arrive to class.

The 2021-22 cotton crop quality was very high, one of the highest in recent years. Additionally, the crop contained less than 4.5 percent extraneous matter, making it one of the cleanest crops in history. Of the overall crop, over 60 percent were of base quality or higher and over 40 percent were of high quality or higher.

The planting for the 2022-23 cotton season is underway across the U.S. Acreage is expected to increase slightly over the previous year but competing crops, elevated market prices for each, and weather conditions could affect the total amount that will be ultimately planted.

The USDA, AMS, Cotton Program is near completion of its new Lubbock, TX Cotton Classification Complex, a state-of-the-art classing facility that will replace its current Lubbock facility (attached photo). The new complex is equipped with the newest automation equipment for cotton testing along with updated analytical capability, energy conservation aspects, and capacity for cooperative research with Texas Tech University and other institutions. The facility will be fully operational by the 2022-23 U.S. cotton season.

Additional automation systems for cotton classing will also be installed in the Program's Florence, South Carolina Classing Office and Memphis Classing Office. AMS Cotton Program plans to equip its remaining classing offices with similar automation equipment by 2025.

On April 6, 2022, representatives from the U.S. cotton industry and the International Cotton Association convened at the USDA's headquarters in Memphis, TN to review the Universal Cotton Standards Guide Boxes to be used to match all of the physical standard boxes for distribution after July 1, 2022. The group reviewed and approved all of the guide boxes. These will serve as the master guides for completing the approximate 1600 physical boxes that will ultimately go around the world.

The Cotton and Tobacco Program is tentatively planning to conduct a Universal Cotton Standards Conference in Memphis, TN in 2023. The conference will be the first since 2013 and will provide the U.S. domestic industry and the international signatories to the Universal Cotton Standards Agreement the opportunity to review the USDA's Universal Cotton Standards and discuss any future plans for needed modifications to the agreement. More information about the conference plans will be coming out in the coming months and discussed at various national and international meetings.



Universal Cotton Standards Guild Box Match



Lubbock Cotton Classification Complex