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USDA Seeks Public Input Regarding Monsanto's Dicamba-Tolerant Technology

By: Beck Barnes

In early March, Monsanto unveiled its plans to introduce triple-mode-of-action herbicide tolerant technology into the cotton market. The company hopes to introduce the technology, known as Bollgard II XtendFlex, into cotton by the 2015 growing season. This timeline is contingent, however, on federal registration of the technology and its accompanying herbicide products.

As part of the approval process for any new agriculture technology, USDA considers public input in its decision making. The federal group values input from the various voices of rural America and others in the agriculture community when, in this case, weighing whether or not to deregulate cotton that is tolerant to dicamba and glufosinate, in addition to glyphosate.

Monsanto is encouraging cotton producers and other agriculture professionals to take part in this process, in hopes that they will voice their support of the new technology.

"Part of this deregulation process is a public comment period, where USDA opens a website where interested folks could go online and state their case of support for the technology, and why its valuable to them, and why they want to see deregulation of that technology to be available for commercial sale," says Jordan Iverson, Monsanto cotton traits marketing manager.

Cotton industry professionals and weed experts have voiced their opinion that a new mode of action, such as dicamba tolerant technology, is needed in cotton production to protect against the further development of herbicide resistance.

Monsanto has developed a website to assist those interested in participating in the public comment process. Those interested are encouraged to visit

www.roundupreadyplus.com/supportdicamba/cotton to develop a comment and find out more about comment submission.

The deadline for all comments to be received is April 29, 2013.

Indian Finance Minister on Cotton and the 2013 Budget

By: [Invest in India, Fibre2Fashion](#)

India's 2013-14 budget was presented to Parliament by Finance Minister, Shri P. Chidambaram with increased support for ag and cotton. While many existing provisions were simply extended, the agriculture ministry as a whole was given a 22% increase in funding.

Regarding textile-specific changes, Mr. A Sakthivel, chairman of the Apparel Export Promotion Council and president of Tirupur Exporters Association, said, "We welcome the move of not increasing direct and indirect taxes, restoring zero excise duty for cotton and manmade sector at the yarn, fabric and clothing stage, continuance of Technology Up gradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) in the 12th Five Year Plan, allotting Rs. 24 billion for the power loom sector, Rs. 500 million for textile processing and Rs. 500 million for apparel park as well as Rs. 10 billion for skill development.

"We welcome the Union Budget and thank the Finance Minister for accepting the long-awaited request of textile and garment industry for removal of excise duty imposed on branded apparels sold in domestic market."

\$31 Million Given To Build Ginning Research Institute in Multan

By: [The Express Tribune](#)

A Ginning Research Institute in Multan, Pakistan will be established by the Ministry of the Textile Industry. In addition, the Ministry will fund and monitor the progress of business centers that will be established for the cotton trade.

Central Cotton Research Institute Director Dr. Dilbaagh Muhammad said that along with the \$31.3 million provided for the institute, six acres of land will be purchased at the decided upon location. The chosen location will be selected based on ease-of-access for researchers and industry professionals, according to the Express Tribune.

The board of directors of the institute will comprise of representatives of farmer groups, ginner, traders, and the district government. The textile ministry will head the board and keep the system operational, after taking all stakeholders into confidence regarding cotton prices. This will, according to Muhammad, give stability to the cotton price and boost exports at the international level.

The business centers will provide services for cotton sales and procurement. In addition, they will provide local cotton producers with an opportunity to trade in the international market, which, according to the Ministry, will also attract foreign investors to the cotton business of Pakistan.

ICAC: Chinese Cotton Reserves to Hit 8 Million Tons

By: [Fibre2Fashion](#)

The International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC) projects that China's cotton stock will reach 8 million tons by the end of the 2013 growing season, equivalent to 47% of global stock. Last season the Chinese government purchased over 3.12 million tons of cotton for state reserves at a price well above the world market price. Consequently, the gap between domestic and world prices triggered record imports of 5.3 million tons, contributing to a buildup of domestic stocks estimated at 6.2 million tons at the end of 2011/12.

ICAC reports that the Chinese cotton reserve continues to expand into this season at a ferocious rate, adding close to 6 million tons of cotton between

September 2012 and January 2013. To a large extent, China's development and trade policies have been shaping the development of cotton in China. In the recent No.1 Central Document, an annual document that details China's policy priorities, the government reiterated ensuring grain security and supplies of major farm produce as this year's top priority, thus China is likely to continue to conduct temporary state reserves of cotton.

On the other hand, with the ending stocks-to-use ratio estimated at 0.97 for the current season, domestic cotton consumption is almost secured, an indication that the cotton reserve build-up could slow down in the coming months, with projected total imports of 2.9 million tons this season.

As for the rest of the cotton world, no major news has been reported since the Secretariat's February report, thus maintaining the world production projection at 26 million tons and the consumption projection at 23 million tons for 2012/13. Global production is forecast to decline 14% to 22 million tons while consumption would remain stable at 23 million tons in 2013/14.

India May Cancel Pakistani Imports, Market at Stalemate

By: [The News International](#)

Reports indicate that India is likely to cancel Pakistani cotton import orders after the fiber's price surged well above the rate the two countries had previously agreed on. Although Pakistan recently placed an order to buy 65,000 bales from India at a price ranging from 70 to 76 cents per pound, the commodity's price has spiked to 85 cents per pound in recent days. India has already delivered some of the agreed upon cotton to Pakistan, but it has since stopped the deliveries to get the benefit of the global price hike, says Shakeel Ahmed Khiji, broker at the Karachi Cotton Exchange (KCE). Furthermore, the Pakistani domestic market saw no trading on Monday as mill owners refused to pay the high price for the fiber. According to KCE

brokers, ginnerers were charging much higher prices for the commodity after the Pakistan Cotton Ginnerers' Association reported a decline of 1.60 million bales to 12.76 million bales during the period from July 1, 2012 to February 28, 2013 against 14.37 million bales produced in the same period last fiscal year.

Armaghan, A new cotton cultivar for short season cropping systems in Iran

By: Omran Alishah

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Armaghan is the name of CRI-863-347 cotton variety, which improved by mass-pedigree breeding method. Primary yield test conducted after quarantine test (1996) and CRI-863-347 was candidate as a high yielding and earliness genotype in 1997-98. Breeding programs were undertaking 2001 until 2004 in Hashemabad cotton research station, Gorgan. Some agronomic and qualitative characters improved during selection program. Yield, earliness and boll weight were improved 1020 (kg/ha), 18 (days early maturity) and 0/9 (gr), respectively. Adaptability and yield stability experiments at nine locations for two years (2005-2006) indicated the general and specific adaptability for CRI-863-347 (Armaghan) variety as compared to other. In addition, this variety has showed more significant yield and earliness than commercial varieties at most locations as well as small leaf, more boll and standard qualitative characteristics.



The seed cotton yield in double cropping experiments (after canola harvesting) and extensional experiment was more than sahel cultivar (check), 1017 and 805 kg/ha, respectively. The results showed that the CRI-863-347 (Armaghan variety) is an earliness genotype with high yield potential and desired adaptability. Early maturity and small plant type will provide escape of pest damage and increasing plant density. This cultivar will be suitable for common agronomic and double cropping (planting after canola or wheat harvesting) systems in Goleatan, North Khorasan, Ardebil and Fars provinces.

India and Bangladesh Ink Pact for Guaranteed Cotton Supply

By: Cotton Guru, [bdnews24](#)

India and Bangladesh have announced a pact for cotton shipments that would guarantee the delivery of a minimum quantity from India every year regardless of export bans. In an interview with The Economic Times, Bangladesh's Commerce Minister Ghulam Muhammed Quader said the deal is expected to be finalized in two to three months and will be signed by India's Cotton Corporation. The agreement was orchestrated by the Commerce and Textile Ministries of the two countries to protect the textile industry from policy uncertainties.

The terms of the agreement state that the price of the cotton delivered as part of the agreement, although flexible, will be slightly higher than existing global prices, as there is a premium for the guaranteed supply. This premium currently remains undetermined.

Last year, Bangladesh imported 35% to 40% of its cotton from India, whose frequent bans and restrictions on export of farm produce over the years have drawn criticism from its regular buyers. The country has said that these bans are put in place to ensure sufficient supply of the fiber for its domestic

textile industry. This issue will be overcome because even if India issues bans on cotton exports, the agreement will mandate that the country is obligated to sell at least the minimum committed quantity, which is approximately 1.5 million bales, to Bangladesh.

Bangladesh plans to negotiate for a higher volume if possible. "Bangladesh wants a business-to-business supply assurance while the Indian government has so far agreed only to a government-to-business supply," he said.

According to the report, Bangladesh is uncomfortable with India's current export guarantee, maintaining that the neighboring country's government takes a lot of time delivering the commodity, whereas private businesses and suppliers are quicker.

India's exports to Bangladesh saw a sharp 55% growth in the April-November period, jumping to \$3.16 billion from \$2 billion during the same period in 2011. Of the total exports, about 25% is cotton and yarn component.

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