Cotton Productivity Mission

Prelims: *Current events of national importance | Agriculture & Economy*

Why in News?

Recently, The Union Cabinet, has approved the Cotton Productivity Mission to strengthen the cotton value chain in India.

- **Aim –** To address the challenges faced by farmers by increasing their income, ensuring a steady supply of quality cotton and revitalising India's traditional textile sector.

  Existing challenges – Low productivity, resistance of pink bollworm, climate risks, soil degradation, weak crop management practices, limited availability of quality inputs and regional disparities.

- **Type –** Central Sector Mission
- Along with an agreement with Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member countries.
- **Nodal Ministry –** Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
- In collaboration with *Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and (DA&FW) and Department of Agricultural Research & Education (DARE)*
- **Implementing Agencies –** Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and State Governments
    - To ensure new technologies, improved practices and scientific advisory services directly reach farmers.
- **States Covered** – 14 cotton-producing states including Gujarat, Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Punjab, etc.
- **Area & Beneficiaries** – Nearly 24 lakh hectares across 140 districts, benefiting 32 lakh farmers.

Mission Components

- **R&D**– Developing 24 new high-yielding, climate-resilient cotton varieties and hybrids.
- Focusing on Pink Bollworm resistance (pest resistance), higher ginning percentage, superior fibre quality, genome editing and region-specific extra-long staple, coloured and indigenous cotton varieties.
- **Extension & Field Demonstration (DA&FW)** – Large-scale extension of the latest crop production technologies.

- This include demonstration-based promotion of high-density planting systems, narrow-spacing planting systems, extra-long staple varieties and integrated crop management practices at the field level.
- **Productivity Targets** –
    - **Cotton productivity (per hectare) –** 440 kg lint/ha to 755 kg lint/ha by 2031.
    - **Cotton production (national output) –** 297 lakh bales to 498 lakh bales by 2031.

Policy Linkages

- **SCO Agreement on Agricultural Trade & Plant Quarantine** – To promote safe trade, pest-free agricultural exchange, and regional food security among SCO member countries.
- **Atmanirbhar Bharat –** To strengthen India's agricultural independence & economic resilience.
- **The 5F Vision –** A comprehensive development framework to build a *strong value chain* from cotton cultivation to textile exports.

5F Vision of Textile Sector
Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign

Quick Facts

• India is the 2nd largest producer of cotton in the world after China(1st) with 21% of world output. • Gujarat is the largest cotton producing state. • Pink bollworm (*Pectinophora gossypiella*) – It is a highly destructive insect pest that specifically targets cotton crops.	
Cotton	
Genus	Gossypium
Type	Fibre
Season	Monsoon (Kharif)
Soil	Black soil
Climate Zone	Tropical and sub-tropical regions

Reference

- PIB | Cotton Productivity Mission



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