

## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> largest producer of cotton in the world after China(1<sup>st</sup>) 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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