



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Foreign
Agricultural
Service

Circular Series
WAP 06-07
June 2007

World Agricultural Production

Fifth Consecutive Record For India Cotton Output

India's 2007/08 cotton production is forecast at a record 22.5 million bales, up 1.0 million from last year. The area forecast is a record 9.5 million hectares, up 0.4 million or 4 percent from last year. Assuming a normal 2007 monsoon, production is forecast to increase 5 percent over last season due to a higher sown area and a forecast record yield. According to the FAS Office of Agricultural Affairs in New Delhi cotton planting for the 2007/08 season is forecast to increase to 9.5 million hectares as a result of strong cotton prices and positive returns received by farmers in 2006/07. FAS/New Delhi anticipates that Bt cotton planting in 2006/07 to climb to 6.6 million

hectares, thereby accounting for 70 percent of the expected cotton area. In 2006/07, the government of India (GOI) approved 62 new insect resistant Bt varieties for commercial cultivation. In addition to the approved varieties, there are over 50 Bt

cotton hybrids, illegally bred and marketed by farmers and seed companies, which are available at lower prices versus the officially approved varieties. It is widely accepted that the strong upward trend in India's cotton yield in recent years is a direct result of the increasing adoption of Bt cotton. Given the continuing development of optimally suited Bt varieties for the various production zones within India and the year-to-year increase of Bt area, a record yield of 516 kilograms per hectare is forecast for the season. In the absence of pressure from insects, Bt varieties are not typically higher yielding than other quality hybrids or non-GMO varieties, however a yield advantage is realized in India through the significant reduction of yield losses due to bollworms. *(For more information, contact Jim Crutchfield at 202-690-0135.)*



India Cotton Series: Area and Yield



