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Tajikistan, Republic of

Cotton and Products

Cotton Update

2001

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Report Highlights:

Tajikistan's MY 2001/2002 cotton production is forecast to increase to 110,000 metric tons (MT), based on increased area and prospects for a return to more normal weather and irrigation supplies. As a result, MY 2001/2002 exports are expected to increase to 90,500 MT.

Includes PSD changes: Yes
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Islamabad [PK1], TI

PRODUCTION

Cotton is the major crop in Tajikistan. MY2000/01 seed cotton production officially is reported at 335,428 MT. Despite a 4-percent reduction in area, production increased 6 percent, mainly as a result of better than expected weather. However, summer drought and inadequate irrigation supplies limited yields throughout most of the cotton-growing areas.

Table 1: Cotton Production, Supply and Demand

PSD Table						
Country:	Tajikistan, Republic of					
Commodity:	Cotton					
		1999		2000		2001
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Market Year Begin		08/1999		08/2000		08/2001
Area Planted	0	0	0	0	0	0
Area Harvested	250000	247800	220000	238608	0	245000
Beginning Stocks	15676	15676	16765	16765	16765	16700
Production	97977	97977	97977	105659	0	110000
Imports	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL SUPPLY	113653	113653	114742	122424	16765	126700
Exports	77293	77293	78382	86129	0	90500
USE Dom. Consumption	19595	19595	19595	19595	0	19700
Loss Dom. Consumption	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL Dom. Consumption	19595	19595	19595	19595	0	19700
Ending Stocks	16765	16765	16765	16700	16765	16500
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	113653	113653	114742	122424	16765	126700

Table 2. Production Statistics

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Hectares	270,000	234,000	218,000	247,347	247,800	238,608
Seed Cotton (MT)	416,000	313,000	346,000	383,721	326,590	335,428
Gin Ratio	31.5	31.3	31.8	31.3	30.0	31.3
Lint Prod (MT)	131,000	98,000	110,000	120,000	97,977	105,000
Lint Yield (MT/Ha)	0.485	0.419	0.505	0.484	0.395	0.44

MY2001/02 cotton areas is expected to increase slightly due to the better returns that can be earned from cotton than from competing crops, such as tobacco, vegetable and fodder crops. Total seed cotton production is estimated at around 350,000 MT. Dry weather, the lack of inputs and inadequate irrigation supplies, however, will limit yields below their potential. Sources report water levels in the major reservoirs are 15-20 percent below last year's drought-reduced levels. Nevertheless, sources are optimistic that this year's target can be achieved.

Production Policy

The Government of Tajikistan has accelerated the process of privatizing large state farms. According to the Ministry of Agriculture, as of May 1, 2001, more than 400 large state farms had been privatized within past two years and 20,000 private peasants farms were created in their place. The remaining 225 state farms are scheduled to be privatized over the next two years.

Contract farming has become very popular in Tajikistan as a means of providing credit to small farmers. Under this system, private entities, generally cotton shippers, provide inputs, including fuel, machinery, seeds, fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides and cash (for labor) in return for (a part of) the crop. Sources estimate that as much as 75 percent of the crop is produced under this system. Ministry of Agriculture officials forecast that Tajik cotton production will reach 600,000 MT of seed cotton within next five years, as a result of privatization and the introduction of better production techniques and incentives through contract farming.

TRADE

Cotton is one of Tajikistan main exports. MY2000/01 cotton exports are estimated 86,000 MT, as a result of better than expected production. Major export destinations include: Hungary, Austria, Italy, Poland, Cyprus and Russia. MY 2001/02 cotton exports are forecast to increase to 110,000 MT, due to the anticipated increase in production.