

COTTON CROP

Prelims- Economics- Agriculture

Mains - GS3 - Major crops cropping patterns in various parts of the country, different types of irrigation and irrigation systems storage, transport and marketing of agricultural produce and issues and related constraints; e-technology in the aid of farmers.

About

- ✚ It is Kharif Crop.
- ✚ The research system of India has also developed some varieties having three basic colours in naturally coloured cotton -brown, grey and green belong to *Gossypium hirsutum* and *Gossypium arboreum* species.

Condition for Growing Cotton:

- ✚ Long vegetation periods (175 to 225 days) without frost.
- ✚ Constant temperatures between 18 and 30°.
- ✚ Ample sunshine and fairly dry conditions.
- ✚ A minimum of 500 mm of water between germination and boll formation.
- ✚ Deep, well-drained soils with a good nutrient content.

Benefits of Cotton:

- ✚ Edible oil for human consumption
- ✚ de-oiled cake as an animal feed
- ✚ Fabric Making Fibre.
- ✚ Cotton is the backbone of textile industry, which consumes 59 % of the country's total fibre production.

Major Constraints in Cotton Production:

- ✚ Non availability of Canal Water at the optimum sowing time (North Zone)
- ✚ Salinity and Water logging in irrigated areas (North Zone)
- ✚ Acute Moisture stress during flowering and boll formation mainly in central and south zones.
- ✚ Cotton crop is highly prone to insect pests and diseases due to green succulent leaves, Long duration crop, Hot and humid weather, more fruiting bodies, Open flowers and soft Bolls.
- ✚ Inadequate efficient use of irrigation water through Micro irrigation devices.

- ✚ Lack of awareness among the farmers about proper spraying of Pesticides / Bio pesticides.
- ✚ Non availability of standardized package of practices of Bt. cotton and organic cotton cultivation

Pink Bollworm:

- ✚ The **Pink Bollworm** is an insect known for being a pest in cotton farming.

