

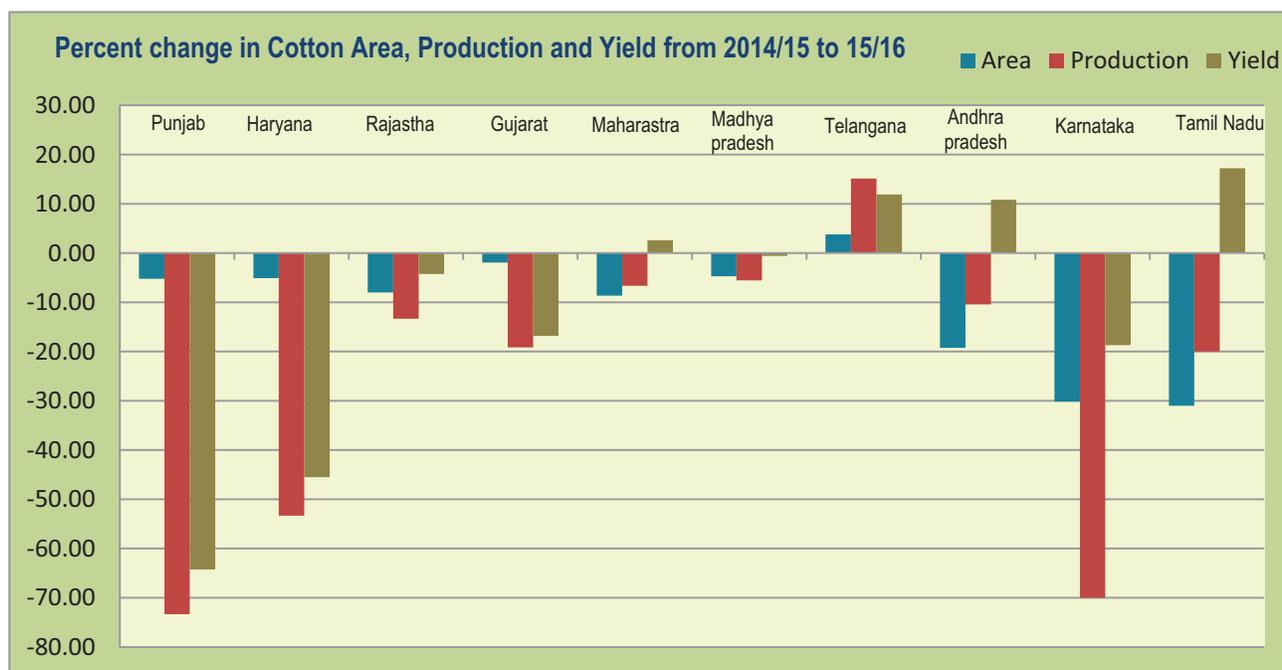


## SLUMP IN COTTON PRODUCTION

M. Sabesh and C. Karpagam, CICR, RS, Coimbatore

Cotton production in India slump to 338 lakh bales during 2015-16 seasons, which is 14% lower than last year and low since 2010-11. The production in Punjab and Haryana in 2015-16 decreased to 5.5 lakh bales (73%) and 8.00 lakh bales (53%) due to decrease in productivity to 64% and 46% respectively, compared to 2014-15. The decrease in cotton production in the country may not be attributing to decrease in cotton production in Punjab and Haryana, but large scale production depletion from the state of Gujarat and Karnataka also. The reduction of cotton production from these two states was respectively, 18 and 14 lakh bales during 2015-16 cropping season, which is huge quantum for Indian cotton basket. It may be attributed that severe devastating whitefly infestation followed by cotton leaf curl virus disease menace in Punjab and Haryana and large scale pink bollworm infestation in Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh. However the situation in Karnataka was different, the reduction in cotton production was due to sizable reduction in area under cotton in 2015-16 estimated as 2.64 lakh hectares which is around 30% compared to 2014-15 coupled with 19% yield reduction. The state of Maharashtra also recorded reduction in cotton production to the tune of 5 lakh bales with 3.63 lakh hectare reduction of area under cotton.

On contrary, Telangana state has recorded increase 9 lakh bales with productivity and area increase respectively, 12% and 3.79%. Telangana is the only state has recorded positive growth in area under cotton, production and productivity during 2015-16 cropping season. The overall picture shows that large scale decrease in cotton productivity in Punjab, Haryana, Karnataka and Gujarat induced drop in cotton production in the country during 2015-16.



Estimated by M. Sabesh; Source: As estimated by CAB in its meeting held on 13.07.2016.

## Prof. P.K.Chhonkar's Lecture on "Soft skill Development for Attaining Excellence in Science"

ICAR-CICR, Nagpur joint collaboration with ICAR-NBSS&LUP, Nagpur organized a public lecture on "Soft skill Development for Attaining Excellence in Science" on 9th August, 2016, at S.P. Raychaudhury Auditorium, ICAR-NBSS&LUP, Nagpur, Amravati road, Nagpur. Dr. S. K. Singh, Director, ICAR-NBSS&LUP, Nagpur presented welcome address and introduced Prof. P. K. Chhonkar to the audience. Dr. K.R. Kranthi, Director, ICAR-CICR, Dr. M.S. Ladaniya, Director, ICAR-CCRI, Nagpur, Dr. S.K. Shukla, Officer in-Charge, GTC, Nagpur, Heads of different departments, all the scientific & technical staffs of NBSS&LUP, CICR, CCRI& GTC, RAs and SRFs attended the lecture. Prof. P.K. Chhonkar, Adjunct Faculty, ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi delivered the public lecture. In the lecture, Prof. P.K. Chhonkar mentioned that according to a survey, the attitude, happy family life and promotions/awards are some of the critical factors influencing the performance of job. The concerned employee should know the responsibilities, expectation from senior authorities clearly and timely delivery of results. The employee should maintain balance between official and family commitments. In the family, the decisions should be taken based on collective. He stressed upon the energy level, dedication and commitment for excellence in future endeavour. Dr. M.S. Ladaniya, Director, ICAR-CCRI proposed vote of thanks.



### Meeting attended

- Dr. K. R. Kranthi, Director, ICAR-CICR visited Goa on 12th August, 2016 for fixing the venue and other arrangements for ICAR Regional Committee Meeting No. VII
- Dr Rishi Kumar, Principal Scientist, CICR, Regional Station, Sirsa attended a meeting of Interstate Consultative Committee to discuss the incidence of whitefly on 13.08.2016 at Bathinda. The meeting was chaired by V.C. PAU, Ludhiana and addressed by Director Agriculture, Punjab and JDA Cotton Punjab. The overall situation of whitefly was below ETL but rising thrips population was a concern expressed by the State Agri Department officials.



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