

India to tackle challenges of Cotton Production - CITI



Mumbai: The conference on "Game-changing Technologies & Traits For Achieving High Yields And Fine Quality Of Cotton", was organised by the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI).

Prajakta L Verma, the Joint Secretary of Ministry of Textiles said that the Ministries of textiles and agriculture has come together to improve quality and sustainability of cotton production.

The cotton acreage increased by seven per cent as an immediate result of the collaboration between the two ministries.

She also highlighted an area where joint efforts will be focused. There will be live data collection, which is most important for strategic planning to tackle any challenge.

She also appreciated efforts of the industry for improvement in cotton production. She informed that the Southern India Mills' Association (SIMA) has distributed handheld machine for cotton ball plucking to around 75,000 farmers of South India.

Shri. Suresh Kotak, the chairman of the Textile Advisory Group (TAG), had addressed the conference from the perspective of cotton's present and future.

He highlighted that merely productivity enhancement and quality improvement are not enough, and footprint on environment, traceability and circularity are also important issues.

He also briefed about activities of TAG, which was formed by the Central government to know the perception of business and industry community.

Textile Commissioner Roop Rashi said that today sustainability and circularity are more important than the earlier time. Textile industry needs to not only limit its impact on the environment but also cut down its cost of production as it can recycle the materials used in the value chain.

Mr. Vinay Kotak, The additional Vice President of the Cotton Association of India (CAI) remarked on current scenario of domestic cotton.

He estimated cotton production to be around 350 bales of 170 kg in current season 2022-23, which will be little better than last year. But this year, the textile value chain is facing poor demand since May 2022.

USPA India wins 2 Myntra Tech Thread awards

Mumbai: USPA Global Licensing Inc (USPAGL) and Arvind Lifestyle Brands had announced that US Polo Assn, the official brand of the United States Polo Association (USPA) has been awarded the Best Men's Casualwear Brand for the third consecutive year and Best Casual Footwear Brand for the second time, at Indian e-commerce company Myntra's Tech Thread Awards 2022.

Myntra Tech Thread Awards recognises the dynamic shift in the current business world and the necessity of companies having to re-think experiences, build stronger partnerships and adapt to disruptions in the market.

Nonwoven Wipe Innovation for Global Security



By: Seshadri Ramkumar, Professor, Texas Tech University, USA

Mumbai: Recent work by the U. S. Army has shown that FiberTect wipe can decontaminate biological toxin spores as well.

With heightened political tensions in some regions of the world, high-tech sectors like defense, personnel protection and semiconductor are gaining due attention.

Advanced textiles find applications such as decontamination wipes, body armor, medical textiles, wearables, etc.

Investment in science and technology to boost innovation and grow the economy is recognized as a high priority in the United States and United Kingdom amidst dire economic situations.

The Chips Act in the United States and the recent Autumn Statement by the United Kingdom's Chancellor of Exchequer are testimonies to the necessity.

Chantilly, USA-based First Line Technology (FLT) has been working to develop multiple applications for the nonwoven wipe, "FiberTect" that can contribute to global security.

FiberTect technology evolved out of my invention at Texas Tech University. FiberTect is a platform technology based on its universality to wipe away different CBRN agents, as well as with the use of different fibers such as cotton, polyester, and blends as absorbent layers, depending on the application and need.

FLT's continued efforts are taking FiberTect to the next level making it a universal wipe for chemical, biological and radiological protection.

Recent effort by the U. S. Army has shown that FiberTect is able to efficiently wipe away toxic microbes such as bacterial spores just using the dry FiberTect wipe.

This method is advocated for cold weather regions of the world where liquid freezes making wet decontamination methods inefficient, such as Siachen glacier, and other high-altitude regions.

This study showed FiberTect dry wipe can decontaminate *Bacillus atrophaeus* var. *globigii* (BG) spores up to 94.93 percent.

This research proves the applicability of FiberTect nonwoven wipe against biological toxins in addition to its efficacy against chemical agents like mustard gas and fentanyl particles.

"FiberTect was originally developed for toxic liquid chemicals such as chemical warfare agents, but it has proven equally effective at the physical removal of fine powders like fentanyl and weaponized bio-agents," stated Corey Collings, Director of Research and Development at FLT.

"There is a need to develop functional products that can sense and wipe away opioids and fentanyl products.

These products although used in pain treatments are regulated items that need good control and hence there is a need to develop effective decontamination products such as wipes," stated Dr. Vaclav Trojan of the International Clinical Research Center at Brno-based Masaryk University, Czech Republic.

Adsorbent and absorbent wipes like FiberTect can pay vital role in wiping away fine particles that contain fentanyl compounds, added Trojan.

The need for such high-tech wipes has been expressed by Dr. Jan Halamek, Director of the Institute for Forensic Science at Texas Tech University.

"United States is going through unparalleled opioid crisis, where fentanyl and its analogs represent the deadliest drug threat we have ever encountered.

Highly porous and absorbent wipes like FiberTect can be used as a decontamination countermeasure for fentanyl, which gives forensic scientists a tool to detect and decontaminate illicit drugs" stated Halamek.

FLT is advocating "Blot-Apply-Remove," method that uses dry FiberTect wipe to wipe away bulk toxic agents. Small amount of reactive agent is applied followed by again wiping with FiberTect.

"The highly absorptive nature of FiberTect makes it far superior to paper towels or other absorbents in this procedure," stated Corey Collings.

SIMA's plan to increase Annual Cotton Production



Tamil Nadu: The Southern India Mills' Association (SIMA) has submitted a master plan for increasing the annual cotton production from the level of 5 lakh bales to 25 lakh bales in a period of five years. The master plan suggests pilot

projects with necessary funding support to showcase the capability of Tamil Nadu cotton farmers and replicate the same across the state.

Mr. Ravi Sam, the Chairman of the SIMA met the state's Chief Minister M.K.Stalin and shared the details of the programme.

The master plan has been recommended to ensure adequate availability of quality cotton seeds of state-of-the-art technology capable of giving higher productivity and fibre quality matching international standards, giving more thrust to Extra Long Staple Cotton, the dire need of the nation.

The master plan also recommends global-based agronomy practices to be adopted, mechanised harvesting and water conservation to reduce the cost of cultivation, increase the productivity and meet the global sustainability norms.

The Chief Minister has assured to consider the master plan favourably and conduct meetings shortly in this regard.

Tamil Nadu textiles and clothing industry predominantly cotton-based, accounts for one-third of the textile business size, 45% of the spinning capacity, 70% of the knitted garment capacity, 40% of the home textiles manufacturing capacity, 22% of the powerloom capacity, 12% of handloom capacity and it is the only state having presence across the whole textile value chain.

The actual annual cotton requirement of the textile industry in Tamil Nadu is around 120 lakh bales (170 kgs per bale) while the state hardly produces 4 to 6 lakh bales.



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