



The Southern India Mills' Association

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NEWS CLIPPINGS –13-06-2018

**Government Extends GST Refund Drive Till
June 16**

NDTV.Profit

<https://www.ndtv.com/business/government-extends-gst-goods-and-services-tax-refund-drive-till-june-16-1866442>

The government had last month announced the fortnight-long drive from May 31 to June 14.

The government on Tuesday extended the special fortnight-long drive to process pending GST (Goods and Services Tax) refunds by two more days till June 16. It said that refunds worth over Rs. 7,500 crore were already sanctioned as a part of this drive till now compared to Rs. 5,350 crore sanctioned in the earlier drive which lasted from March 15 to 29.

"In view of overwhelming response from exporters and pending claims, the period of refund fortnight is being extended by two more days, that is up to June 16," an official statement said.

The government had last month announced the fortnight-long drive from May 31 to June 14.

In March, the government had launched a similar exercise to process the pending GST refunds on account of exports. However this time, the drive is to facilitate all types of refund claims received till April 30.

This will include refunds of IGST paid on exports, refunds of unutilized input tax credit and all other GST refunds," the Finance Ministry had said in a statement when the drive was launched.

**Cotton Association of India has increased
2017-18 cotton production estimate by 5
lakh bales**

Economic Times

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/cotton-association-of-india-has-increased-2017-18-cotton-production-estimate-by-5-lakh-bales/articleshow/64558572.cms>

PUNE: Cotton Association of India (CAI) has released its May estimate of the cotton crop for the season 2017-18 beginning from 1st October 2017. The CAI has estimated cotton crop for the ongoing 2017-18 season at 365 lakh bales of 170 kgs each, which is higher by 5 lakh bales from its previous estimate – 3 lakh bales in Gujarat, 1 Lakh bales in Karnataka, 50,000 bales in Andhra Pradesh & 25,000 bales each in the states of Madhya Pradesh & Tamil Nadu.

This estimated increase in production figures is mainly due to the realization of higher yields more particularly in the State of Gujarat. Statements containing the state-wise estimate of the cotton crop and the Balance Sheet for the crop year 2017-18 with the corresponding data for the previous year are enclosed.

The Statistic Committee of the CAI, in its meeting held yesterday which was also attended by over 30 representative

from various upcountry associations, MNCs, Ginners, Exporters, Importers, textile mills, etc, has reviewed the current cotton scenario.

The total cotton supply upto 31st May, 2018 has been projected at 378.50 lakh bales which consists of the opening stock of 30 lakh bales at the beginning of the season on 1st October, 2017, the arrival of 340 lakh bales upto 31st May, 2018 and imports which the Committee has estimated at 8.50 lakh bales upto May end.

Further, the Committee has estimated cotton consumption for 8 months i.e. from October, 2017 to May, 2018 at 216 lakh bales at an average of 27 Lakh bales per month while the export shipment till 31st May 2018 has been estimated at 62 lakh bales. The stock at the end of May, 2018 is estimated at 100.50 lakh bales including 58 lakh bales with textile mills while the remaining 42.50 lakh bales are estimated to be held with CCI & others (MNCs, Traders, Ginners, etc).

The projected yearly Balance Sheet for the Season 2017-18 drawn by the CAI has estimated total cotton supply till end of the season i.e. upto 30th September 2018 at 410 lakh bales of 170 kgs each including the opening stock of 30 lakh bales at the beginning of the season. The CAI has estimated domestic consumption for the season at 324 lakh bales while the exports for the season are estimated by the CAI at 70 lakh bales. The carry-over stock at the end of the 2017-18 crop year is estimated at 16 Lakh Bales.

It may be noted that the crop size of 365 lakh bales of 170 kgs each is equal to 388 lakh running bales of 160 kgs each and the estimated arrival of 340 lakh bales 170 kgs. each upto 31st May, 2018 is equal to 362 lakh running bales of 160 kgs each. Around 93 % of the total crop for the season has already arrived in the market upto 31st May, 2018.

Cotton Highlights from June WASDE Report

Cotton Grower

<http://www.cottongrower.com/cotton-production/production-outlook-acreage/cotton-highlights-from-june-wasde-report-3/>

The most significant revision to this month's U.S. cotton supply and demand estimates is a 500,000-bale increase in 2017/18 exports, to 16.0 million bales, due to above-average late season shipments. U.S. ending stocks are now forecast at 4.2 million bales in 2017/18, and 4.7 million bales in 2018/19, for a stocks-to-use ratio of 25%. The projected range of the marketing-year-average farm price is raised 5 cents at each end to 60- 80 cents per pound.

The 2018/19 world projections include lower production for China, Pakistan and Australia, offset in part for higher production for Brazil. World production is nearly 800,000 bales lower this month, while 2018/19 consumption is reduced only 85,000 bales, as a 225,000-bale reduction for South Korea is largely offset by increases for Uzbekistan and Vietnam. World beginning stocks for 2018/19 are unchanged from a month earlier, but ending stocks are 725,000 bales lower. At 83.0 million bales, 2018/19 world ending stocks are projected 5.2 million bales lower than a year earlier, but stocks outside of China are expected to rise for the third consecutive year.

Pink bollworm likely to hit sowing of the cotton crop in Gujarat

Business Standard

https://www.business-standard.com/article/markets/pink-bollworm-likely-to-hit-sowing-of-the-cotton-crop-in-gujarat-118061300045_1.html

According to state government sources in Gujarat, cotton sowing was only 9,339 hectares or 0.37% of the normal three-year average sowing in the first week of this month

Fear of infestation by the pink bollworm may hit sowing of the cotton crop in Gujarat. Another impediment that could come in the way is the acute scarcity of water.

According to a trade official, even in Maharashtra and central Indian states like Rajasthan, the situation could be similar to Gujarat.

Their major worry is the monsoon, which got delayed after its initial arrival, especially in Maharashtra. The pink bollworm had damaged crops in many parts of the country in the last two years and even BT cotton crop was not complete safe from the pest. "After a humble start, if the monsoon delays, that leaves the cotton sowing vulnerable to pest attack," said the official.

According to state government sources in Gujarat, cotton sowing was only 9,339 hectares or 0.37 per cent of the normal three-year average sowing in the first week of this month. During the same period in 2017, it was 49,400 hectares; in 2016, it stood at 15,200 hectares.

In fact, the state government advised farmers to sow later (after the monsoon starts), in order to minimise the risk of bollworm infestation. In the last four years, bollworm infestation had hit cotton cultivation in both Gujarat and Maharashtra.

Also, Hasmukh Raval, former chairman of the Gujarat State Co-operative Cotton Federation, said, "A majority of the cotton sowing area in Gujarat is facing acute water scarcity. Sowing can begin only after it rains and there is ample water."

He added, "As a result, overall sowing is expected to go down by at least 20 per cent." During this kharif season, cotton sowing is likely to fall by 10 per cent.

In the last cotton season, the Cotton Association of India (CAI) had revised 17-18 crop estimates from 36 million bales to 36.5 million. It also revised upward export estimates from 6.5 million bales (170 kg each) to 7 million bales. Meanwhile, import estimates were pared from 2 million to 1.5 million bales. Of this, 850 000 bales have already arrived till May.

President of CAI Atul Ganatra has pegged the domestic consumption for the season at 32.4 million bales.

The carry-over stock at the end of the 2017-18 crop year is estimated to be 1.6 million bales. The association had finalised the estimates in its participants' meeting on Monday.

RIL-JM may get Alok Industries at throwaway price

Economic Times

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/stocks/news/ril-jm-may-get-alok-industries-at-throwaway-price/articleshow/64565956.cms>

Mumbai: The bankruptcy resolution of Alok Industries, which owes more than Rs 29,500 crore to lenders, has got a new lease of life with the amendment of the bankruptcy law and a court ruling that lenders should go in for fresh round of voting. These two developments favour the sole bidder — Reliance Industries-JM Financial ARC — who narrowly missed getting lenders approval twice in the past.

“Now with the court ruling and the amendment to Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code providing for 66 per cent vote for the resolution plan, RIL-JM may get the bankrupt textile company at a throw-away price,” said a bank official. In the earlier rounds 71 per cent voted in favour of the RIL-JM but the law required 75 per cent votes.

RIL- JM Financial ARC had offered Rs 5,050 crore in the second round of bidding, just about Rs 100 crore more than what was offered in the first round. The lenders had rejected their bid in the first round as well.

Tax dept clears over Rs 7,000 crore GST refunds of exporters in first 9 days

Deccan Chronicle

<https://deccanchronicle.com/videos/tax-dept-clears-over-rs-7000-crore-gst-refunds-of-exporters-in-first-9-days.html>

New Delhi, Jun 11 (ANI): The Goods and Services Tax (GST) refunds of exporters worth over Rs 7,000 crore have been cleared by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) during the first phase of the special refund drive that was undertaken by authorities. The Tax Department has additionally asked the traders to settle the pending claims by visiting their jurisdictional GST office or Custom House during the Special Refund Fortnight from May 31, 2018 to June 14, 2018. Interim Finance Minister, Piyush Goyal tweeted, "The government is running 'Special Operations refunds Fortnight ' for GST refunds from May 31 to June 14. In the first nine days, refunds of over Rs. 7,000 crores have been made. All those entitled to refunds can get first-hand updates by registering on the website." Delhi customs zone has successfully scrolled out IGST refunds amounting to Rs 290 crore over 12,000 shipping bills in the last eight days. Measures were taken by government to ease backlog of refunds and provide assistance to exporters and traders.

India farmers risk arrest for sowing unapproved Monsanto cotton seeds

Arabnews.Com

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1320181/world>

MUMBAI: Many Indian farmers are openly sowing an unapproved variety of genetically modified (GM) cotton seeds developed by Monsanto, as the government sits on the sidelines for fear of antagonizing a big voting bloc ahead of an election next year.

India approved the first GM cotton seed trait in 2002 and an upgraded variety in 2006, helping transform the country into the world’s top producer and second-largest exporter of the fiber. But newer traits are not available after Monsanto in 2016 withdrew an application seeking approval for the latest variety due to a royalty dispute with the government.

The herbicide-tolerant variety, lab-altered to help farmers save costs on weed management, has, however, seeped into the country's farms since then. Authorities say they are still investigating how that happened.

"I will only use these seeds or nothing at all," said Rambhau Shinde, a farmer who has been cultivating cotton for nearly four decades in the western state of Maharashtra.

The federal environment ministry said last year planting the seeds violated the Environment Protection Act, and farmers who did so were risking potential jail terms. But many farmers are desperate to boost their incomes after poor yields over the past few years and are willing to ignore the warnings.

A government official in New Delhi, who deals with matters related to GM crops, said it was difficult to keep farmers away from something that they saw benefit in.

"If you don't allow them to plant legally, illegal planting will happen," the official said, requesting anonymity, adding that Monsanto had yet to reapply for an approval to sell its latest variety of GM cotton in India.

A Monsanto India spokesman said the company was confident that the government would prosecute those involved in the illegal trade of the unapproved seeds.

Except for GM cotton, India has not approved any other transgenic crop on concerns over their safety, and large foreign companies have been increasingly unhappy at what they say is the infringement of their intellectual property by widespread planting of unapproved seeds.

Farmers say they prefer Monsanto's herbicide-tolerant Roundup Ready Flex (RRF) strain of cotton seeds as they can cut input costs by as much as 10,000 rupees (\$150) an acre compared with other varieties. Cotton growers are also getting support from farmers' unions, who are already at loggerheads with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government amid a fall in prices of many agricultural commodities.

Without new varieties of seeds, they fear being outplayed by other major cotton producers and exporters such as the United States, Brazil and Australia, said Anil Ghanwat, the president of a farmers' organization in Maharashtra. "The government is asking us to carry a sword to fight the enemy with AK-56 rifles," said Ghanwat, who has urged farmers to sow the unapproved GM seed. "We will protect them if government authorities try to destroy the crop or harass them with legal cases."

Last year, just before cotton harvesting, authorities found plantations of unapproved seeds in key producing states such as Maharashtra and Gujarat in the west and Andhra Pradesh and Telangana in the south. In February, authorities in Telangana told two local companies that cotton seeds they sold to farmers may have contained traces of Monsanto's RRF strain, though the companies denied that. This year various states have formed inspection teams to curb the sale of such seeds, though farmers have built a parallel network to distribute them without getting caught, said M.S. Gholap, director at Maharashtra's agriculture department.

The seeds were being produced secretly, mainly in Gujarat and Telangana, and then smuggled to other states, Gholap said.

Maharashtra has seized unapproved seeds worth 12 million rupees (\$178,000) in the past two months, enough to cultivate 10,000 hectares, said Gholap.

Farmers are paying as much as a 30 percent premium for the unapproved seeds in Maharashtra and Gujarat compared with seeds of older strains.

The proliferation of unapproved seeds could force the government to grant approval to the new seed technology, as happened in 2002 when New Delhi legalized planting of the Bt Cotton GM strain, said C D Mayee, head of South Asia Biotechnology Center, a New Delhi-based non-profit organization.

The strong demand for the illegal seeds has alarmed some federal government officials. "Once farmers realize laws are toothless, then they could cultivate GM soybean, corn and other crops," said one official, who asked not to be identified. "It would have serious impact on our biodiversity."

RBI study: 'Rs 1,58,500-crore debt of 129 textile, telecom and construction firms at risk'

Indian Express

<http://indianexpress.com/article/business/economy/rbi-study-rs-158500-crore-debt-of-129-textile-telecom-and-construction-firms-at-risk-5214903/>

The RBI study has said Rs 72,400 crore debt of five telecom companies is at risk. From the textile segment, 54 vulnerable companies carry Rs 45,700 crore debt at risk.

As much as Rs 158,500 crore debt of 129 vulnerable companies in textile, telecom and construction sectors is at risk, says a Reserve Bank of India study.

The RBI study has said Rs 72,400 crore debt of five telecom companies is at risk. From the textile segment, 54 vulnerable companies carry Rs 45,700 crore debt at risk. In the construction sector, Rs 40,400 crore debt of 25 vulnerable companies is at risk, the RBI study has said.

The study is based on the performance of the private (non-financial) corporate sector during 2016-17, based on the earnings results of 3,007 listed non-government non-financial companies (NGNF).

"Among companies with a leverage ratio of more than 200 per cent and an ICR (interest coverage ratio) of less than 1 (including companies with negative net worth), the textiles and the telecommunication corporates appeared fragile and debt at risk rose significantly in 2016-17 in these industries, it said. "The share of debt held by the 'vulnerable' construction companies also remained elevated.

A stark contrast was observed in the performance of heavily indebted companies (i.e., those with debt equity ratios more than 200 per cent and debt to total assets ratio greater than 50 per cent in 2015-16) in the manufacturing vis-a-vis the rest of the sample. "Although the indebted manufacturing companies reduced their debt levels in 2016-17, they performed poorly in terms of fixed assets investment (capex), debt serviceability (ICR) and profitability (return on assets), it said.

On the other hand, there was an increase in debt levels of indebted infrastructure companies, resulting in worsening of debt serviceability and profitability. “The issuance of new debt for the infrastructure companies is mainly determined by the internal rate of return (IRR) of the projects undertaken. Listed manufacturing companies tilted their investments towards financial assets and away from fixed assets in view of the persistently low capacity utilisation (CU) and the overall deleveraging witnessed in this sector,” the RBI study said.

The NGNF listed manufacturing companies are classified into three categories of CU (high, medium, low) and two categories of debt serviceability in the base year 2014-15. “Distressed companies liquidated their investment in both fixed and financial assets in 2016-17; among them, companies with higher CU preferred to liquidate fixed assets whereas companies with low CU liquidated financial assets, the study said.

According to the study, low capacity utilisation in the manufacturing sector led to significant deleveraging as well as lower investments in fixed assets, with companies preferring investments in financial and liquid assets. “Deleveraging undertaken by highly indebted manufacturing companies should translate into better risk profile of this sector in the coming years, however, preference of investment channels other than fixed assets by the healthy corporates probably hints at transaction cost motive and subdued credit demand in the economy,” it said.

AI Clusters To Come Up In Maharashtra; To Create 230 Million New Jobs For India By 2025

Analytics India

<https://analyticsindiamag.com/ai-clusters-maharashtra-230-million-new-jobs-india-2025/>

As part of his current visit to Dubai, Canada and the United States, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis is hosting a series of meetings in Quebec with the intent on promoting artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies.

CM Fadnavis met Vice Premier of Quebec Dominique Anglade, and they agreed to a collaboration between Maharashtra and Quebec to increase increments in AI and aerospace.

Two of the key meetings that CM Fadnavis attended were with IVADO and AI Next.

The former signed a collaboration agreement with the Department of IT, Maharashtra, for setting up an AI accelerator in the state. They also signed a Letter of Intent to become part of the World Organization on AI (Artificial Intelligence – Quebec expertise). Additionally, AI Next has signed an agreement with the Government of Maharashtra’s Department of information Technology to set up a joint AI accelerator to promote 50 start-up AI units in Maharashtra. It has also been agreed that IVADO and Applied AI Research Institute focused on social good in Mumbai, which was launched in February, will work together to set up AI clusters in Maharashtra in conjunction with IIT Mumbai.

Speaking at a panel discussion on the topic, CM Fadnavis said, “There is a great deal of uncertainty around AI. However, as representatives of the people, if we begin to embrace it, it will give a great deal of confidence to the citizens and enable us to demystify the technology. With effective use of AI, we hope to bring basic services to the doorsteps of the people, be able to save lives through improved health care as also create about 230 million jobs in

the country by 2025 under WEF Industry 4.0.”

Under the CM Fadnavis’ leadership, Maharashtra has invested in several areas of AI already. Maharashtra was the first state in India to come out with a comprehensive cloud policy that has enabled the entire government to take steps to shift its operations the cloud and take advantage of the capabilities of cloud computing. Providing a boost to this direction, the government has come out with the first Fintech policy in India that includes incentives to startups, Mumbai fintech sandbox, finTech registry etc. Additionally, the IT department of the state government has also embarked on use of blockchain in some key areas such as land registry, healthcare, transport etc.

Fadnavis announced that AI was to be deployed to bring about improvement in fields of governance and welfare such as:

1. Agriculture: to provide farmers with information on
 - (a) what to sow to maximise their profit (not just yield)
 - (b) when to sow it
 - (c) when to fertilise, irrigate and harvest it
2. Health: Assist hospitals in the diagnosis of common cancers (e.g. mouth or throat cancers) from images and blood samples using Electronic Health Records (EHRs) of a large population; assist ASHA workers to provide pre-diagnosis in remote villages for simple diseases, and generate recommendations for escalations to doctors for more complex diseases
3. Home: Detection of number plates from moving cars through CCTV images; detection of criminals using face detection algorithms
4. Revenue and Finance: Detection of fraud and evasion of taxes by using analytics techniques coupled with AI
5. Power: Forecasting power prices based on weather patterns and weather forecasts
6. IT: Detection of cyber attacks using Advanced Persistent Threat monitoring systems
7. Social Justice — Special Abilities: Speech synthesis for the speech impaired, and speech recognition and transcription for the hearing impaired
8. Industries or Textiles: Assisting in scoring or making recommendations on applications to various government benefits schemes such as loans and grants for upgrading technology, among others.

Pesticides not harmful if used properly'

The Hindu

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/pesticides-not-harmful-if-used-properly/article24147914.ece>

'Minister also denies encouraging Bt cotton

Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami sought to allay the apprehensions raised by a DMK MLA in the Assembly on Tuesday over the usage of pesticides and further advised the farmers to undertake all safety measures while using them.

"While using pesticides, the farmers should mix the prescribed level of water and undertake all precautionary measures. If the pesticides are not used as advised, it might turn poisonous," Mr. Palaniswami said, while replying to DMK MLA A. Soundarapandian (Lalgudi).

Earlier, Mr. Soundarapandian spoke about how the farmers were being lured into using pesticides by various companies. "It is not as if pesticides are being used only during our government. It has been used for long, and I am aware of that since I am a farmer," the CM said in his reply.

The CM said if the pesticides were used on vegetables beyond the prescribed limit, the latter would become poisonous.

When the DMK legislator said the government was being indifferent to farmers using traditional seed varieties, Textiles Minister O.S. Manian said the farmers themselves preferred hybrid varieties since they were more productive.

Agriculture Minister R. Doraikkannu refuted the claim of Mr. Soundarapandian that the ruling government was encouraging Bt cotton and said it had been in use during the erstwhile DMK regime too. "The government is not encouraging Bt cotton but some farmers are going for it," the Minister said.

Mr. Soundarapandian also urged the government to consult with the government of Sikkim, which has fully embraced organic farming.

**India and South Africa Bilateral Ties:
New Opportunities in Trade and
Investment**

India Briefing

<https://www.india-briefing.com/news/india-south-africa-trade-investment-opportunities-17039.html/>

India and South Africa share a rich cultural and varied economic history, with bilateral relations going back to the 1860s.

Although strained for a long time due to South Africa's apartheid government, India re-established trade and business ties in 1993 after the country ended its institutionalized racial segregation. 2018 marks 25 years of India and South Africa re-establishing their economic and diplomatic relations.

To commemorate the occasion, the first India-South Africa Business Summit 2018, took place April 29-30 in

Johannesburg – seen as a run up to the 10th BRICS Summit, also to be held in South Africa, later in July.

At the India-South Africa Business Summit, discussion centered on opportunities available for investment across a diverse range of sectors, including automobile, healthcare, pharmaceuticals, agro-processing, and startups.

MoUs were signed between the national investment promotion agencies 'Invest India' and 'Invest SA' to promote bilateral trade and scale up business engagement.

Push to increase bilateral trade

India is South Africa's sixth largest trading partner in Asia, growing steadily from US\$4.7 billion (Rs 318 billion) in 2007 to close to US\$10 billion (Rs 605 billion) at present.

Total trade reached a peak of US\$15 billion (Rs 1 trillion) in 2012 – before the global economic slowdown and domestic political factors put a brake on the rapid expansion.

Here, South Africa's active involvement in multilateral organizations, such as the India-Brazil-South Africa Dialogue Forum (IBSA), the New Asia-Africa Strategic Partnership (NAASP), the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Co-operation (IORARC), and the annual BRICS Summits has helped in the partial recovery in bilateral trade.

Both countries are now working to boost trade volumes over the next five years, to reach US\$20 billion (Rs 1.3 trillion).

Bilateral focus on macroeconomic goals

A recent joint study by the Confederation of Indian Industries and Price Waterhouse Cooper confirms that Indian companies have cumulatively invested over US\$4 billion (Rs 260 billion) and created more than 18,000 jobs in South Africa. At present, there are over 130 Indian companies set up in South Africa.

Several Indian companies also collaborate with Africa-based foundations, such as the FirstRand Foundation, and sponsor India-Africa exchange programs for skill development. Mostly based in the information technology (IT) sector, the programs aim to improve the employability of African graduates by providing international work experience and training.

29 South African companies have invested in India, accounting for US\$790 million (Rs 53 billion), largely in the banking, financial services, and insurance (BFSI) sector.

With a view to encourage investments, the two countries signed a Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) in 1998.

Last year, South Africa's Phelan Energy Group – chiefly responsible for lowering Indian solar tariffs with aggressive bids – won the contract to build a 50-megawatt solar project in the Indian state of Rajasthan.

Opportunities for investors

South Africa dropped to rank 82 in the 2017 World Bank Ease of Doing Business index, from a high rank of 39 in 2013, largely due to limited electricity access and skill deficit in the labor market.

However, implementation of legal and regulatory frameworks to mitigate these issues is fast improving. Steady infrastructure development also allows for easy global access.

With a view to encourage manufacturing investment, the South Africa government has designated Special Economic Zones that offer incentives such as lower corporate taxes, various tax relief criteria for construction and employees, and decreased value added tax to investors.

In South Africa, foreign investors should look at mature sectors such as automotive components, textiles, clothing, and footwear, which have benefited from government and private investments of over US\$900 million. Key untapped sectors include health, nutrition, and wellness.

In India, biotechnology – a key strength of South African manufacturers – remains an attractive investment area; the sector now permits 100 percent FDI through the automatic route.

Similarly, the travel and tourism industry in the age of hyper local online commerce, information and communication technology, as well as the renewable energy and agri-processing sectors offer immediate investment prospects for South African firms looking to enter the Indian market.

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Survey shows people support textile recycling

Xinhuanet

http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-06/12/c_137248614.htm

BEIJING, June 12 (Xinhua) -- A total of 52.7 percent of 2,018 respondents want a better textile recycling system, according to a survey released by China Youth Daily on Tuesday.

China's textile recycling rate is below 10 percent, much lower than many developed countries, according to the Chinese Academy of Engineering.

A total of 55.8 percent of respondents attributed the low rate to the lack of recycling facilities.

"A large majority of textile waste is disposed of in landfills or incinerated with other waste," said Wang Huaping, deputy dean of a research institute of the Donghua University.

To address the issue, 43 percent of respondents suggested a more accessible recycling system while 42.4 percent suggested better legislation and government standards.

"China has the largest textile industry in the world. Therefore, we should have the largest textile recycling system," said Wang.

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| Apparel Textile Sourcing Canada Show To Unveil Futuristic Clothing | Textile World http://www.textileworld.com/textile-world/knitting-apparel/2018/06/apparel-textile-sourcing-canada-show-to-unveil-futuristic-clothing/ |
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TORONTO, Ontario — June 12, 2018 — Canada is leading the way in breakthrough technologies in the rapidly-growing apparel and textile industry, with many innovations set to be unveiled to the public at the upcoming Apparel Textile Sourcing Canada (ATSC) show, August 20-22, 2018 in Toronto.

Among the latest advances to be showcased is a line of futuristic clothing – featuring seamlessly-integrated technology – that is designed to both diagnose and treat health conditions. Members of the media were given a sneak peek of some of these technologies at a preview event at the Textile Museum of Canada in Toronto on Tuesday, including soon-to-be released products by local textile computing company Myant that promise to change the face of both fashion and healthcare.

Some of these innovations include stylish undergarments that act as an ECG monitor 24-7, alerting users to potential heart rhythm issues, as well as apparel that provides users with remote physiotherapy, meaning patients can receive professional rehabilitation therapy – including heat, electric stimulation and compression treatment – remotely from the comfort of their home.

The new offerings will be among a wide range of features at ATSC, including 600 local and international exhibits, three full days of seminars, panels and sessions by industry, government and fashion leaders, business matchmaking services, and fashion runway events. The show provides the thousands of expected attendees with unprecedented networking and business opportunities with international suppliers on Canadian turf.

"ATSC will display the latest trends and unique offerings in apparel and textile from more than 20 countries, including Canada, China, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, the U.S., the U.K., Turkey, Switzerland, Spain, Nepal and, for the first time, the Ukraine," said Jason Prescott, CEO of JP Communications, ATSC producer and North America's leading publisher of B2B global trade platforms TopTenWholesale.com and Manufacturer.com.

The show will double in size from 2017 to include additional categories such as accessories, giftware, home electronics, footwear, luggage and housewares and general merchandise as part of the popular China Brand Show, coming to Canada for the first time as part of the event. Ten premier brands from China will also unveil their trending, high-quality collections as they look to collaborate with reputable Canadian retailers.

In a good will gesture, ATSC has teamed up with leading Chinese clothing manufacturer Changshu Garment Town to donate at least 500 pieces of winter outerwear to Brands for Canada – a national organization that provides new, donated clothing, personal care and houseware items at no cost to Canadians living in poverty – during the show.

ATSC will follow the Toronto show with its first business matchmaking event in Montreal on August 24. For the first time, the Montreal community will have the opportunity to network and connect with top apparel and textile manufacturers from across the globe eager to do business with the local industry, right on their home turf.

Show managers have also announced their involvement in the first China Import EXPO, which takes place November 5-10 in Shanghai. “This event provides an unprecedented opportunity for Canadians to introduce their brands into the Chinese market,” Prescott explained.

ATSC is supported by many international governments and associations, headed by the China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Textile and Apparel (CCCT) and the Bangladesh High Commission on behalf of the Export Promotion Bureau and the Bangladesh Garment and Manufacturers Export Association.

Breakthrough for textile industry as BT cotton enters the market

Standadmedia

<https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/business/article/2001283805/boost-for-textile-industry-as-gmo-cotton-planting-starts>

The country’s textile industry is headed for a big boost after Genetically Modified cotton planting began locally. A journey of more than 15 years of developing the BT cotton reached the last stage yesterday, as the National Performance Trials for the crop began in

Horticultural Research Institute Director Charles Waturu presided over the first-ever open field planting of four varieties of seeds, ahead of the launch of commercial planting later in the year. The research was done in collaboration with the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organisation (Kalro). According to Dr Waturu, the planting came barely a year since the National Environment Management Authority approved the environment assessment of the crop for commercial use. Next season Avoid fake news! Subscribe to the Standard SMS service and receive factual, verified breaking news as it happens. Text the word 'NEWS' to 22840 The commercial planting of the crop will be open to farmers in the next planting season, with western Kenya set to pioneer it.

Waturu yesterday said an Indian seed company was set to deliver seeds enough for more than 260 hectares of field, which are targeted by the Government for the first phase of planting. Kenya developed a policy on Genetically Modified Organism in 2006. This was followed by the passing of the Biosafety law, which allowed for research on the same in 2009. Comprehensive regulations to provide guidance on implementation of the law followed in 2011.

After successful confined field trials of BT cotton planting by the researchers in 2010, the focus turned to the rush to acquire open release certification of the crop. Waturu yesterday termed the planting of the seeds as a breakthrough in the textile industry, especially at a time when the Government has listed industrialisation among its Big Four development agenda. “Kenya produces 20,000 bales of cotton every year against a demand of 140,000, meaning we have to import the deficit. But with BT cotton, which is high yielding and has high quality, we can produce up to

260,000 bales,” he said. A bale of cotton weighs 184kg. BT cotton is a genetically modified cotton seed developed with a gene called BT toxic. These are strains of the bacterium bacillus thuringiensis.

The toxin contains proteins that are harmful to bollworms, which have been proved to be the main pest affecting cotton balls. “This toxic is not harmful to human beings and its traces have been used to develop numerous pesticides used to control pests in cabbages and sukuma wiki,” said Waturu. He said once the trials were complete in the next six months, the Ministry of Agriculture would launch a seed distribution exercise targeting farmers, especially those from traditional cotton growing areas in western and eastern parts of the country. “We project that if well managed, farmers will be able to get up to five tonnes of cotton from one acre.

This is a big boost and we want to move fast to ensure that we regain our cotton growing glory,” he said. According to Waturu, pests and diseases were the main reasons why cotton growing in the country was abandoned, and BT cotton is expected to be the solution. He said the new crop would be viable for irrigation and take up to six months to mature. Not viable Waturu however, noted that the crop would not be viable for inter-cropping, especially with maize, since the latter had been established to be a host for the dreaded pest.

He said the recruitment of farmers was set to begin soon in collaboration with the host county governments, especially since agriculture was a devolved function. “There are also elaborate plans by the national government to revamp dead ginneries and build new ones so that once harvesting begins, there will be no issue with the markets,” he added.