



The Southern India Mills' Association

Post Box No. 3783, 41 Race Course, Coimbatore - 641 018

Phone: 0422 4225333 | Fax: 0422 4225366

E-mail: info@simamills.org | Web: www.simamills.org

NEWS CLIPPINGS –25-08-2018

**India's textile, apparel sector on cusp
of turnaround: CITI**

Money Control

<https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/economy/indias-textile-apparel-sector-on-cusp-of-turnaround-citi-2879351.html>

As per the data by the DGCI&S, exports of textiles and apparel increased by 11 percent in July 2018.

India's textile and apparel sector is on the verge of a turnaround, with apparel exports estimated to grow 7 percent in the current financial year, the Confederation of Indian Textile Industries said today.

As per the data by the DGCI&S, exports of textiles and apparel increased by 11 percent in July 2018 to Rs 19,636 crore over the same month last year, said Sanjay Jain, Chairman, Confederation of Indian Textile Industries (CITI).

The Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S) under the commerce ministry is responsible for collection, compilation and dissemination of the country's trade statistics and commercial information.

The overall growth in exports during Apr-July 2018 has been 3 per cent vis-a-vis same period last year. Further, the man-made fibre segment, which is expected to be the growth driver of the industry in the coming years has seen rise in production.

Imports growth in the sector has come down significantly, according to CITI.

"While the imports of T&C (Textiles and Clothing) rose from \$1.78 billion in April-June 2017 to \$1.87 billion in the same period this year, an increase of 5 per cent, it is significantly lower than the growth of 16 per cent last year. The measures taken by the government to increase the import duty on various textile and apparel items will help in further reducing the imports in coming months," Jain said.

As per RBI Financial Stability Report- June 2018, the stressed advance ratio of textile sub-sector has also improved from 23.7 percent in September 2017 to 22.3 percent in March 2018, indicating signs of recovery, Jain noted.

"We anticipate the textile and apparel exports to grow by 7 percent while imports to stay flat in this 2018-19," he said.

The Indian textile and clothing industry is finally on the verge of a turnaround.

The Indian textile and clothing industry is finally on the verge of a turnaround. After months of decline, the export of textiles and apparels has increased by 11% in July 2018 over the corresponding period, said the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (Citi).

Continuous support from the union government is expected to put the industry back on track with the textile and apparel exports growing by 7% while imports staying flat in 2018-19.

Quoting the directorate general of commercial intelligence and statistics (DGCI&S), Citi said that the textile and apparel exports for July 2018 has touched Rs 19,636 crore as compared to Rs 17,692 crore in July 2017. Exuding confidence, Citi chairman Sanjay Jain said the worst is over for the textile and clothing industry and it is finally witnessing positive momentum. Being the single largest industrial employment provider with 10 crore people, textile sector has been benefited with the continuous support from the union government with a slew of measures on all fronts.

The overall growth in exports during April-July 2018 has been 3% vis-a-vis the same period last year. Further, the MMF segment, which is expected to be the growth driver of the industry in the coming years has seen increase in production. Growth has been observed in production of man-made fibre, spun yarn and fabric during April to June 2018. For the period April-July 2018, the man-made fibre has grown by 5% to 335 million kgs as compared to 319 million kgs in the same four month period of last fiscal. Similarly, the spun yarn grew 1.1% during the said period to 1,435 million kgs as against 1,419 million kgs in the same period last fiscal. The fabric grew by 2.5% to 17,184 million sq mtr as against 16,771 million sq mtr in the April-July 2017 period, he pointed out.

According to him, the imports growth has come down significantly. While the imports of T&C has increased from \$1.78 billion in April-June 2017 to \$1.87 billion in the same period this year, an increase of 5%, it is significantly lower than the growth of 16% last year. The measures taken by the government to increase the import duty on various textile and apparel items will help in further reducing the imports in coming months.

Jain also highlighted that as per RBI Financial Stability Report- June 2018, the stressed advance ratio of textile subsector has also improved from 23.7% in September 2017 to 22.3% in March 2018, indicating signs of recovery.

A strong turnaround in textiles and clothing sector is due to a number of measures of the union government, including scheme for capacity building in textile sector (SCBTS) named 'Samarth' of the union ministry of textiles with a sizeable outlay of Rs 1,300 crore along with other parallel skilling programmes will go in a big way to reduce the skill gap of the industry and more specifically provide a value added employment opportunity to rural women.

Devaluation of rupee by 9% in the last few months has made the industry competitive globally and imports dearer. Import duty on about 400 items has been enhanced, providing relief to the industry which was hit by huge imports

post GST implementation due to import barriers reducing significantly.

Two important GST decisions in last 3 months which has allowed refund of excess ITC to the processing and fabric industry has reduced the cost of fabric by 3-4%, especially MMF fabric.

The other measures, including relief to the SME manufacturers (industry is largely populated by SME) by easing the GST returns procedure and other GST reforms. Accelerating the refund of GST dues to the industry has eased working capital pressures on the industry. Domestic demand is picking up due to settling down of GST systems and rural demand is also rising due to MSP increase and good monsoons.

Jain also stated that maintenance of a competitive exchange rate is an essential prerequisite in labour intensive manufacturing in mature industries like textiles. The currency management by the government has benefited the exports and is discouraging imports.

Direct flight between Bhubaneswar and Surat? Naveen Patnaik writes to Suresh Prabhu	Financial Express https://www.financialexpress.com/infrastructure/airlines-aviation/direct-flight-between-bhubaneswar-and-surat-naveen-patnaik-writes-to-suresh-prabhu/1291223/
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Odisha government today urged the Centre to introduce a direct flight between Bhubaneswar and Surat in Gujarat as lakhs of Odia families stay in the western state.

Odisha government today urged the Centre to introduce a direct flight between Bhubaneswar and Surat in Gujarat as lakhs of Odia families stay in the western state. "I would, therefore, like to request you to impress upon Air India and other private airlines to introduce direct flights between Bhubaneswar and Surat at the earliest," Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik wrote to Union Minister Civil Aviation Minister, Suresh Prabhu.

Stating that lakhs of Odia families have settled in Surat and are engaged in the textile sector there, Patnaik said presently there is no direct air connectivity between Bhubaneswar and Surat. It takes a lot of time to travel by air between these two cities, Patnaik said adding that during hours of urgent necessity, Odia people living in Surat face untold difficulties in reaching Odisha in time.

Besides, people from both the cities visit places of tourist interest in and around these cities every year. The air connectivity between Bhubaneswar and Surat can give rise to tourist inflow to both the places, the chief minister said in the letter.

Indian textile merchants successful in global market	The Hindu https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Madurai/indian-textile-merchants-successful-in-global-market/article24773108.ece
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Since nearly one-third of India's textile production is from Tamil Nadu, Amazon aims to enable the entrepreneurs and create a market for them across the globe. Already, a total of 37,000 sellers from the State have been listed on our site. We aim to encourage new businessmen in the home textile category," said Gopal Pillai, Director and General Manager, Seller Services, Amazon India, at a press meet here on Friday.

Mr. Pillai elaborated on the e-commerce giant's Global Selling programme that allows traders from the nooks of rural India to places like Japan and Germany.

He stated that several textile merchants producing bedding, kitchen linen, bedsheets and clothes have experienced incredible success in the global market due to high demand.

Rupee plunge leads to buoyancy in garment exports

Tribune India

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/nation/rupee-plunge-leads-to-buoyancy-in-garment-exports/642477.html>

Apparel clusters of Punjab, Haryana, UP see growth after 9 months

The free fall of the rupee has halted the declining trend in India's garment exports after almost nine months, with the sector registering around 6% positive growth in July this year as compared to the corresponding period previous year. The recovery, which is in the rupee term, has given a ray of hope to apparel exporters, particularly from Punjab, Haryana and Noida in Uttar Pradesh, with combined employee base of around 2 million workers. Punjab and Haryana house more than 200 exporters. These northern states had been facing a decline in apparel exports because of high input costs compared to the Tirupur cluster of Tamil Nadu.

In the rupee term, exports for the month of July this year was Rs 8,757.23 crore as against Rs 8,262.94 crore in July 2017. The growth was mainly due to strengthening of dollar against the rupee, the exporters said. "The situation has improved a bit, although Indian garment exporters are facing a stiff competition from countries such as Bangladesh, Vietnam, Cambodia and Ethiopia. To boost the exports, the government should dole out some incentives or devise a mechanism to refund embedded taxes in the GST regime," Apparel Export Promotion Council chairman HKL Magu said.

Ludhiana-based KG Exports' Managing Director Harish Dua finds it a temporary phenomenon. "To say that exports are now on growth trajectory is not right. The increase in exports in terms of rupee is attributed to strong dollar," he said.

In dollar terms, export of readymade garments, however, remained in the negative territory. It dwindled marginally by 0.60% in July this year as compared to corresponding month of the previous year. The labour-intensive apparel sector is witnessing a continuous decline in exports since October 2017. In dollar terms, the country's readymade garment exports were to the tune of \$1.275 billion in July 2018 against \$1.282 billion in July 2017, a decline of 0.56%. The government must do something to boost exports such as increasing duty drawback rates. In addition to this, it should restrict exports of cotton and viscose yarn to facilitate the domestic exporters, Dua said. "The government should promote value addition to the cotton and viscose yarn rather than exporting it as a raw material," he added.

Overall, India's readymade garment exports in April-July 2018 was to the tune of Rs 35,860 crore, a decline by 10% as compared to corresponding period. In dollar terms, it was \$5.321 billion in the first four months of the current financial year, a decline of 13.95% as compared to the same period last fiscal year. During April-July 2017, India's apparel exports were to the tune of \$6.183 billion.

The DMICDC has put on the block around 400 acres of land in its Greater Noida project for industries and has leased 137 acres of it to three companies, including Haier Appliances India, DMICDC chief executive officer Alkesh Kumar Sharma said.

The Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (DMICDC) has put on the block around 400 acres of land in its Greater Noida project for industries and has leased 137 acres of it to three companies, including Haier Appliances India, DMICDC chief executive officer Alkesh Kumar Sharma told FE.

The base price of land for setting up manufacturing units here are learnt to be in the range of Rs 5,100-11,000 per square metre (the bigger the allocation, the lower could be the per-unit rates), while those for establishing IT services facilities have been fixed at roughly Rs 20,000 per square metre. This is because companies need much larger area to set up manufacturing units than IT services ones.

While Haier has got close to 123.7 acres in DMICDC's Integrated Industrial Township in Greater Noida, Satkriti Infotainment has been allocated 9.8 acres and Forme Trading 3.5 acres. Haier is expected to create 3,950 jobs at this unit, and the two others pledge direct employment to 3,600 people.

Haier's plan to set up a facility here at an investment of Rs 3,069 crore reflects growing demand among big investors for land developed by the DMICDC and the quality of its trunk infrastructure, Sharma said. The appliances major is the second large investor to have bought land developed by DMICDC, after South Korea's Hyosung that had bought land to set up a textile unit at another DMICDC project (Shendra in Maharashtra) at an investment of around Rs 3,400 crore.

DMICDC is still in the process of getting applications from potential investors to lease out more land there. The total project covers an area of 750 acres, of which around 400 acres will be available for industrial use. Last year, DMICDC leased land in Shendra, a first in any of its projects. The entry of established players is expected to give a much-needed push to DMICDC projects and also reflects the rising importance of the corridor, the concept of which was mooted over a decade ago and cleared by the Cabinet in 2011.

Land already developed by DMICDC at four cities — Dholera (Gujarat), Shendra-Bidkin, Vikram Udyogpuri (Madhya Pradesh) and Greater Noida (Uttar Pradesh) — is up for grabs. While a chunk of land at Shendra-Bidkin and Greater Noida has been leased out, DMICDC is in the process of selling in other cities.

According to the model adopted by the DMICDC, states are required to offer land, while the Centre releases funds matching the land's worth for its development. Once the land is developed, it is allotted to willing investors for a price and with those funds, DMICDC acquires another chunk of land and starts developing it. Until the state concerned offers land for a project, the Centre doesn't release its share of funds to the DMICDC either.

The central government has already approved Rs 15,000 crore for various DMIC projects, while relevant states have contributed land worth the same amount. Usually, DMICDC joins hands with entities of the state governments

concerned to form special purpose vehicles, which are the anchors of projects in their respective states. For the Greater Noida project, the corporation has tied up with Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority.

Although Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has committed \$4.5 billion for various DMIC projects, to begin with, the DMICDC hasn't sought any funds from it yet. JICA's committed funds will be in the form of soft loans at a low interest rate of less than 1%

With an envisaged investment of \$100 billion by 2040, the 1,504-km DMIC across six states was intended to be developed as a "global manufacturing and trading hub". DMIC is touted as the world's single largest infrastructure project. The project was one of the important measures announced by the government to help drive the share of manufacturing in the country's GDP to 25% by 2022 from roughly 16% now.

Micro units seek GST exemption

The Hindu

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-tamilnadu/micro-units-see-gst-exemption/article24765449.ece>

The Coimbatore Tirupur District Micro and Cottage Entrepreneurs' Association has sought complete exemption from Goods and Services Tax (GST) for job working units with less than Rs. 20 lakh annual turnover.

This was one of the resolutions passed at a meeting of the association held here.

Job working units hit

In the last one year, the job working micro units have lost over 30 % orders because of the GST.

The Central Government should reduce the rate from the present 18 % to 5 % for these units, the association said.

Empowering farmers through a fair initiative

The Hindu

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-in-school/empowering-farmers-through-a-fair-initiative/article24765008.ece>

Vidyashilp Academy joins the global movement as the first Fairtrade school in India

By sourcing uniforms from certified supply chains, Vidyashilp Academy on Airport Road became the first school in India to join global movement that aims to empower farmers and influence the chain of suppliers who grow and make these uniforms.

The Fairtrade initiative ensures better prices, decent working conditions, local sustainability and fairer terms of trade for farmers and workers.

At a programme held in the school recently, Dayananda Pai, managing trustee, Vidyashilp Academy and Vidyasagar Preschools, along with steering committee members, students and officials of Fairtrade, met with the farmers who cultivated the cotton for the school uniform and expressed their gratitude and solidarity.

Students also signed India's largest Fairtrade T-shirt with cotton patches with colourful messages expressing solidarity. Stalls with products made by students were set up to raise awareness. Five members from the farming

family from Gujarat joined in the celebration.

Kiran Pai, director, Vidyashilp Academy, said that the global partnership would help further improve inter-cultural awareness and connect students to a diverse and valued culture. "This collaboration is one such pursuit at weaving ethical values in the school programme. Our students have actively contributed to the learning outcomes from this association and carry a heightened sense of awareness to the cause. Becoming a Fairtrade school is an honour earned for their efforts," she said.

By joining the movement, the school is now helping in reducing the impact on social economic and environmental exploitation. Teaching modules have been set up to understand how trade and the food system work and how individual contribution can bring a reform to make this chain fairer.

Head of school Kalai Selvi said that now her students would join global community of ethical consumers. "Our students will strive to contribute to the sustainability goals in its true spirit," she added.

**New Industrial Policy to focus on jobs,
push tech use, cut red tape**

Business Line

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/policy/new-industrial-policy-to-focus-on-jobs-push-tech-use-cut-red-tape/article24763350.ece>

The much-anticipated New Industrial Policy, which will replace the 27-year-old existing policy and pave the way for promotion of new technology and reduced regulations, has been placed before the Union Cabinet for approval.

"The New Industrial Policy is now just a Cabinet nod away. Its implementation will lead to job creation and modernisation of units, and will encourage entrepreneurs to experiment with new technology to improve efficiency," a government official told BusinessLine.

"All ministries and departments concerned were kept in the loop throughout the drafting process. Hence, there were no major changes proposed during the inter-ministerial consultations," the official said.

This will be the third industrial policy drafted in independent India. The first was announced in 1956, and the second, in 1991.

The draft industrial policy floated in August 2017 by the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion aims to create jobs over the next two decades, promote foreign technology transfer and attract \$100 billion FDI annually.

While the policy does not suggest direct changes in laws such as those governing labour, it is likely to propose the establishment of a body with representation from the Centre and the States to work on changes whenever required. It also suggests strengthening of municipal bodies.

To promote the use of new technology such as robotics and artificial intelligence, the policy is expected to emphasise promoting R&D and set up an institutional mechanism to encourage commercial utilisation of research done using government funds, the official said.

Commerce & Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu has said the policy would include steps to cut down unnecessary

regulations.

“The New Industrial Policy will encourage the industry to work together with the government to improve productivity, R&D efforts, and efficiency,” the official said.

The policy will focus on ‘Make in India’, improving ease of doing business, aligning trade and manufacturing, improving access to credit for MSMEs, industrial infrastructure creation, skill development and promotion of technology.

The DIPP is also hopeful that the policy will act as a catalyst to help the Start-up India initiative to drive India’s economic growth.

Growers advised to remove weeds from cotton

The News

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/358996-growers-advised-to-remove-weeds-from-cotton>

Punjab Agriculture Department has directed field staff to send cotton hot spot report on daily basis in cotton zone for getting better production this year.

The spokesman for the department disclosed that during second fortnightly meeting of cotton growers were advised to eradicate harmful weeds and use shield for protection of cotton plants during spray of weedicide. Water quantity during spray of weedicide should be 100 to 120 litre per acre. Farmers are also advised to apply water after water scouting i.e if water stress is observed in the fields of cotton then use applications of water. These visible signs may attribute bluish colouring of cotton leaves, upper nodes may feel shorten in height. Upper stem may seem reddish in colour and upper nodes of cotton may feel rough.

The spokesman said that under the direction of Secretary Agriculture Department Wasif Khurshid, attack of white fly, green hopper, Thrips and Mealy Bug attack may be observed as per climatic and geographical location. If attack of these insects observed to exceed than Economic Threshold Level (ETL), farmers are advised to use spray against these insects as per consultation with Agricultural local expert of the department. He disclosed that due to climatic change it has been observed that cotton crop is susceptible to attack of Cotton Leaf Curl Virus (CLCV) this year. To mitigate this disease effect and for its control it is advised that farmers must eliminate weed from their cotton fields and vicinity. Cotton Leaf Curl Virus (CLCV) mainly spread due to attack of white fly which serves as mediator of this disease. Weeds serves as debris for white fly insect and also compete with cotton plants with respect to food and other essential nutrition. Cotton Leaf Curl Virus (CLCV) also found on other alternative host plant such as okra, brinjal, chilies, tomatoes etc and some weeds e.g Itsit, Mako, Lahlee, Karund, Hazar Danni, Kuth Kunda, Auk, Saklaie etc. So, eradication of these alternate host is necessary to control Whitefly/ CLCV attack.

The spokesman for Agriculture Department disclosed that in case of attack of Cotton Leaf Curl Virus (CLCV), farmers should start application of fertiliser particularly Magnesium can mitigate effects of cotton. In an experiment conducted at Cotton Research Station Multan, it has also been observed that spray of Magnesium Salphate at the rate of 300g, Potassium Nitrate 200g, Zinc Salphate 200g and Borax 200g mixed in 100ml water per acre and 60, 75 and 90 days after sowing of cotton crop can mitigate effect of CLCV.

He advised that white fly attack is main source of this disease and due to attack of CLCV, cotton crop change colour so farmers are advised to keep in contact with Agriculture (Extension or pest warning) field staff to counter this disease. In the month of August, Pink Bollworm second generation may appear in the field so farmers are advised to use sex trap pheromone against Pink Bollworm. He advised farmers to start picking of cotton balls after 9am and it should be ended at 4pm. If there are chances of rainfall then farmers are advised to postpone picking of cotton and labour involved in picking should use cotton clothes for this purpose and avoid mixing hair and other type of contamination to mix in cotton bolls so price of cotton in market may meet ideally.

Marriage of print and fashion at Gartex 2018

Print Week

<http://www.printweek.in/News/marriage-of-print-and-fashion-at-gartex-2018-40332>

In its third year, Gartex 2018, the comprehensive show dedicated to garmenting and textile manufacturing solutions and technologies, organised by Mex Exhibitions, represented its full force and signalled towards the rise of Indian apparel industry. Over the last couple of years, textile printing has emerged as a legitimate printing segment. Gartex 2018 was a validation to this fact. At the same time, the show highlighted how garment printing is just a small part of the massive and diverse industry, which is growing leaps and bounds.

Over 150 companies showcased around 300 brands at the show held on 18-21 August 2018 in Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, giving industry stakeholders an insight into the new trends and business opportunities.

According to the organisers, Gartex India 2018 is designed to be a trendsetter for the industry player to showcase new technology, state-of-the-art equipment, materials and services. The show wanted to accelerate technological advances in the Indian textile and garments industry through the showcase of high-quality, high-speed and competitively-priced products.

It also provided a unique platform for international and national suppliers and trade visitors to expand their business opportunities in the garment and textile industry in India through networking and engaging in investment opportunities during the show.

This year, the show was divided into segments — Digitex (focusing on digital textile printing technology); Denim Show (bringing together the denim supply chain under one roof); Embroidery Zone (highlighting innovations in embroidery sector); Fabric and Accessories Pavilion (focusing on embellishments and fabrics) and Garmenting and apparel (showcasing technological developments in the garment & apparel manufacturing sector).

Interestingly, the show witnessed a surge of visitors from small towns and emerging manufacturing centres like Ludhiana, Saharanpur, Surat, Kolkata, Kerala, besides a flow of students from various institutes. Of the few exporters who did visit the fair, the general feedback was, that there is business in the market for those players who were committed to the trade, but sadly not everyone wanted to make the effort. It was pointed out by many of the exhibitors that the slow phase in business had helped companies to put focus on R&D, so the industry was seeing many innovations, whether in fabric or technology.

Among the technology, printing was the obvious focus, with digital printing being the highlight. Mouvent held a special press conference to introduce their printing technology to the Indian market. Many of the small garment

manufacturers with 20-40 machines were at the event to seek out options to expand and explore new areas of business.

In a sense, digital printing was the centrepiece of the show, but almost all of them were sublimation printers. However, one of the country's biggest manufacturers of garment printing machinery, Colorjet, showcased its model Vastrajet, a direct to fabric printing machines. Another direct to fabric machine was Tanya Enterprises' model TE-1600.

Entry level sublimation printers were a major attraction among the visitors. Ahmedabad- based Mehta CAD CAM Systems and Gurgaon-based FIT Technology were the ones that launched their sublimation printers for the first time at the event.

Mission-Linked Research Explores New Opportunities for Cotton	Cotton Grower https://www.cottongrower.com/cotton-news/mission-linked-research-explores-new-opportunities-for-cotton/
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Mission-linked research encompassing basic and applied research to promote the advantages of cotton and bring new opportunities for cotton beyond the fiber-to-fashion supply will be next phase for research in the cotton sector.

Bringing expertise from different scientific fields such as genomics, molecular biology, chemical engineering and textile science to work on strategic projects to boost the consumption of cotton is the way forward. This effort was visible recently at a reception hosted for Professor Luis Rafael Herrera-Estrella, a foreign member of the United States National Academy of Sciences (NAS), who is joining Texas Tech University (TTU) as a distinguished professor

TTU already has five National Academy of Engineering members among its distinguished faculty.

Dr. Herrera-Estrella will focus on genomics and other advanced scientific techniques to improve cotton, such as stress tolerance against environmental factors, at the new Center for Functional Genomics of Abiotic Stress at TTU. This initiative has been made possible thanks to a \$5 million grant from the Governor's University Research Initiative in Texas. TTU provided matching funds, with the support of industry, to establish this center in Lubbock.

Aspects of basic research such as that of Dr. Herrera-Estrella needs to be translated in the field to benefit the farmers and the entire supply chain. Involving and focusing academia, industry, local, state and federal agencies on strategic projects may be the way forward. Paying attention to the strategic strengths of cotton in the High Plains of Texas is evident in the recent effort at TTU, which was echoed in a statement by Lawrence Schovanec, TTU President.

Addressing the issues faced by stakeholders – whether cotton producer, consumers and importing nations – will pay a good return on the investment.

"Cotton producers rely heavily on the research activities conducted by universities," says Shawn Wade, Director of Policy Analysis and Research at Plains Cotton Growers, Inc. "Cotton producers face a tremendous number of challenges, all of which ultimately impact yield and quality of the cotton they produce. Research that can focus on specific issues that can range from managing or adapting to increased environmental stresses to developing new

markets for low micronaire cotton are key to their continued success.”

Eric Hequet, Chairperson of the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences at TTU and an internationally-renowned researcher on cotton fiber quality, provided insight on the importance of fiber quality research.

“Technological advances in textile production throughout the world and stiff competition with a wide array of man-made fibers have led to an ever-moving fiber quality profile target,” stated Hequet. “Evolution of the textile industry forces us to continuously improve yield, quality and stress tolerance of (Texas) cotton. Another aspect of this evolution is the increasing demand for bio-based products, which will create new opportunities for cotton.

“Interdisciplinary research and development activities focusing from gene to jeans will benefit the cotton sector and economies that depend on cotton,” he added.

Additionally, attracting leading talents in strategic areas will drive innovation forward, such as the addition of the first NAS member to TTU.

“With the strength that Dr. Herrera-Estrella will add to our genomics effort, combined with our already world-class programs in production practices, economics, fiber quality, and novel uses for cotton fiber, Texas Tech will be the global leader in research, education, and outreach related to this important crop,” stated Michael Galyean, TTU Provost.

**EU's investment in Egypt reaches 15.1
bln USD**

Xinhuanet

http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-08/25/c_137416728.htm

Egyptian Minister of Trade and Industry Amro Nassar said on Friday that the investment of the European Union (EU) in Egypt is estimated at 15.1 billion U.S. dollars.

"The volume of trade between Egypt and the EU countries reached 26 billion U.S. dollars in 2018, and 13.4 billion dollars in the first half of 2019," Nassar was quoted by official MENA news agency as saying.

He added that the trade exchange between the two sides mainly concentrated on furniture, medical industry, leather products, agriculture crops, electronics, food, and textile and construction materials.

"Britain ranked the first with 5.3 billion dollars which constitutes 35 percent of the value of the EU's investment in Egypt, followed by Netherlands, Italy and France," the report added.

The minister added that the EU is Egypt's largest trade partner and investor, underlining the importance of enhancing the investment cooperation to boost exports to the regional and international markets.

He hailed Egypt's role as a trade hub for many markets in Africa and the Middle East region.

Egypt has been suffering economic difficulties over the past few years due to political instability and relevant security issues.

In late 2016, Egypt started a strict, austerity-based three-year economic reform program including local currency liberalization as well as fuel and energy subsidy cuts and tax hikes to contain a budget deficit, promote local production and boost foreign investment.

Is Turkey's supply chain unravelling?

Drapersonline

<https://www.drapersonline.com/news/is-turkeys-supply-chain-unravelling/7031870.article>

As the Turkish lira slumped to a record low earlier this month amid political and economic turmoil in the country, Drapers investigates what impact it might have on the fashion industry.

The Turkish lira has fallen in value throughout 2018 and came under pressure in early August following the announcement that the US would levy tariffs on Turkish-made steel. The currency has fallen against the dollar fall by as much as 40% this year and is currently trading at 7.8 lira to the pound, compared with 4.5 lira to the pound at this time last year.

Although more expensive than their counterparts in Asia, Turkish manufacturers can offer faster delivery times and the flexibility to repeat in season, which has led to many UK retailers and brands to move some production to the country.

Richard King, sales director at The Cotton Textile Company, which works with Turkish mills, says many clients have sought assurances from Turkish suppliers over how they finance their operations after the currency fell by a fifth in recent trading.

“The conversations were very different,” he says. “They used to be about new developments. Now they are asking, ‘How have you funded your machinery?’

We sought and got reassurances from our partners so that we could move forward with surety in our manufacturing.

“We are seeing more caution from labels we work with – we are seeing range cuts. But one label approached us to look at Turkey to bring things closer to home from the Far East. There are still advantages.”

One UK supplier says the drop in the Turkish lira has pushed up the cost of any loans taken out by manufacturers denominated in US dollars by more than a third.

“A lot of Turkish businesses could go bust in the next two or three months,” he warns. “It’s a disaster for manufacturing – not just on clothing but all industries.

“The view of many in Turkey is that yes, there may be great opportunities on price, but you may find the supply chain struggle to sustain the business.”

Political instability has deterred many UK companies from investing in ranges sourced from Turkey. One UK supplier notes that though cheaper, Turkey’s political instability may weigh on brands when deciding on their sourcing

options.

He said: “Turkey is high up on the scale of risk – certainly as high or higher than Bangladesh. The Turkish premier [President Erdogan] is erratic and doesn’t have good ties with European governments, so it’s difficult to know how he is going to react. Trump only needs to say one thing and it can cause even more problems for our Turkish partners.

“With many brands, it is more about ethics than the money [for items] and what a brand stands for, so for that reason many brands may not choose Turkey.”

However, another high street supply source noted that the currency value drop makes Turkey a cheaper option than before, which may tempt new business: “The simple economics is that the price to import will become much cheaper, but there are risks associated with that because of the uncertainty in the economy.