



Vadakipalayam Domain, Tamil Nadu - For Off Season ELS cotton

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Despite of good harvest, there is mismatch in demand & supply of different staple group of cotton particularly in ELS cotton. As per the trade estimate, the requirement of ELS cotton is around 20 lakh bales as against present availability of 5 lakh bales. The country is still importing ELS cotton annually from Egypt, Sudan, U.S.A and other countries. Self-sufficiency in ELS cotton would increase the income of farmers and handloom sector also. To meet the future requirement and to reduce import, India has to give special thrust on ELS cotton production. Vadakipalayam ELS domain exists in Coimbatore District, Tamil Nadu covers north block of Pollachi taluk and adjoining areas of Kinathukadavu block of Coimbatore District.



The first crop season starts in the month of April and reaches end in August supported by summer rain, precluding monsoon rain from Kerala border and South West monsoon. The soil is classified as sandy loam with pH of 7.4, EC of 0.19 dSm⁻¹ with available nitrogen of 222.3 kg/ha, P₂O₅ of 17.3 Kg/ha and K₂O of 716.3 kg/ha. The micronutrient content of the domain contains 8.67 ppm of Fe, 3.87 ppm of Mn, 0.47 ppm of Zn and 0.66 ppm of Cu. The deficiency of Zn and Cu levels is observed in the domain. The second cotton season (Oct- Feb.) is supported by North East monsoon. The copping system followed is

1. Cotton (April- Sep) – groundnut / cowpea / green gram / black gram / fodder sorghum (Oct- Feb.)
2. Tomato (April- Sep) – tomato / groundnut / cowpea / green gram / black gram / fodder sorghum (Oct- Feb.)
3. Groundnut (April- Sep) – groundnut / tomato / cowpea / green gram / black gram / fodder sorghum (Oct- Feb.)

The ELS cotton of pure G barbadense variety or interspecific Bt hybrids is cultivated In April- September season nearly 3000 ha. The ELS is cultivated as rainfed crop in summer season under sandy loam soil. The rainless period of September is coinciding with bursting and subsequent picking. The average yield of 8-10 q/acre is realized by farmers with cost of cultivation of Rs 15,000/acre. Farm yard manure @10t/acre is applied once in three years. The spacing of 3 X 3 m is adopted, which facilitate for animal drawn intercultural operations. Basal application of 50 kg of DAP followed by top dressing of urea @ 20-25 kg/acre at 25 DAS is generally adopted. Weeding by pre emergence application of stomp followed by two hand weeding is also adopted. The second top dressing of 50 kg of DAP, 25 kg of Urea and 50 kg of potash is applied at 45 DAS. Sucking pest problem is less because of summer cultivation. Labour @ 60 per acre is required for harvest. The cotton may be the first one arrived to market in beginning of cotton year (Oct- Sep).

Weather Parameters of Vadakipalayam Domain

Month	Max (°C)	Min (°C)	Relative Humidity (%)	Wind Speed (km/ph)	Rainfall (mm)	Solar Radiation (cal/cm2)
January	30.7	19.3	65.1	6.2	0.0	440.1
February	32.7	19.8	56.7	6.0	37.5	507.5
March	35.0	21.8	58.6	5.9	17.5	555.9
April	34.6	23.6	70.3	5.5	151.0	492.5
May	33.3	24.3	73.0	7.9	75.5	540.0
June	29.2	23.0	85.2	8.9	126.0	544.1
July	29.7	22.7	84.3	9.4	85.0	343.8
August	29.2	22.7	83.1	8.4	77.0	357.9
September	30.6	22.7	80.3	6.7	78.5	425.3
October	30.2	22.6	84.8	7.4	139.0	397.0
November	29.3	20.9	79.9	5.3	266.5	355.6
December	29.5	19.8	73.1	5.1	9.5	376.4
				Total (mm)	1063.0	

The weather parameters of the domain (table 1) revealed that maximum temperature was not extreme even in the month of April (34.6 C) and sufficient rainfall is received for successful crop production. The weather parameters are also found suitable to raise *G barbadense* cotton. The total rainfall of 1063 mm with distribution from April to November could support for double cropping under rainfed condition. The farmers' forum functioning in the domain named "Kamadenu Farmers Forum" is regularly getting technical backstopping from ICAR- CICR and TNAU, Coimbatore for cotton crop management. The peculiar season of the domain is not considered by the companies for crop insurance; and needs to be included as recommended season.

CICR, RS, Sirsa conducted Collaborative training Program for the Champion farmers

A series of five training program for Champion Farmers adopted by Bayer Crop Science from different Distt and Blocks of Haryana was conducted at Central Institute for Cotton Research, Regional Station Sirsa on 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th and 21th April, 2018 under Public Private Partnership mode. In the training program, 60 progressive farmers designated as Champion farmers from each of Fatehabad, Sirsa, Ellenabad, Hansi, Jind and Hisar blocks participated and for their benefit four important lectures related to cotton production and protection especially, cultural practices, selection of cotton varieties/hybrids (Bt/American/Desi), emerging cotton whitefly problem, diseases management and spray technology and its management were arranged every day.



In the opening ceremony of the Training program, Dr Monga informed about the general cotton scenario of the nation and especially North Cotton Growing Zone of India, challenges and opportunities. He emphasized the need of public Private partnership to disseminate the technical information for the benefits of the farmers. Dr Vijender Pal, Sub Divisional Agriculture Officers Sirsa also attended the program and discussed in detail the activities of the department with respect to cotton. Dr Rampal , Technical Assistant ,Department of Agriculture , Sirsa, Haryana also created awareness regarding straw burning and timely sowing of cotton. Dr Sunil Kumar Lallar, Bayer Crop Sciences, compared the program. Dr D. Monga, Dr Satish K. Sain, Dr Rishi Kumar and Dr Amarpreet Singh delivered lectures to the farmers on various aspects mentioned above. In each training program farmer-scientist discussion session was held with respect to the different problem being faced by farmers.

Talk Delivered in Doordarshan program of Sahyadri Channel, Mumbai

Dr S. M. Wasnik, Principal Scientist, Extension, Central Institute for Cotton Research, Nagpur delivered a talk on e-Kapas for cotton farmers in Doordarshan program of Sahyadri Channel Mumbai on 11.5.2018. The talk was recorded on 24 April at CICR campus only



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