

## **COUNTRY STATEMENT: GREECE**

- Cotton used to be and still is considered as a national product of Greece. In this aspect great attention has been given, starting from the first step of production till the final product. This major agricultural crop with long tradition in Greece, accounts for almost 10% of total agricultural land and about 44,000 cotton farmers in the country. Cotton is grown mostly between 35<sup>0</sup>N and 38<sup>0</sup>N latitude. The main cotton production regions in Greece are located in Central and Northern Greece and more specifically in Thessaly, Central Macedonia, Thraki and Sterea Ellada.

The plains where cotton is cultivated have mostly alluvian soil, which is suitable for cotton. Several non biotech varieties of *Gossypium hirsutum* are successfully grown in Greece.

Almost all cotton areas are irrigated and only a very small percentage of less than 5% is grown under dry land conditions. All stages of cultivation process are fully mechanized.

### **Campaign 2021/2022**

- Cultivated area reached nearly 261,208 ha during campaign 2021/2022, which was 5.5% decreased compared to last year and the production of seed cotton was about 869,240 metric tn (5% less than the previous year) from which some 295,286 metric tn of lint cotton were produced. There were not any serious problems concerning cotton bollworm (*Helicoverpa armigera*) or other crop enemies. However, there were rainfalls on May and June 2021 in many regions (there was a heavy hailstorm in Central Greece that caused serious damage to crops), dry conditions and high temperature on July and August. At the beginning of October 2021 (harvesting period) bad weather conditions (rain) that occurred led to degradation of cotton quality in some regions in North Greece and some crops (late crops). This fact reflects also to 6% lower lint cotton production compared to the previous year.
- Generally, the quality of cotton during campaign 2021/2022 was good enough.
- As regards farmers' income the average price of seed cotton was 0.66€ per kilo, which was the highest price in the last 15 years.

### **Campaign 2022/2023**

- As regards campaign 2022/2023 the cultivated area is nearly 254,000 hectares (area controls are not completed yet) which is about 3% lower to last season. Following a conservative view and based on average yields it is estimated that new crop's production (seedcotton) will be about 780,000-820,000 metric tons. Harvesting has started and ginning mills have begun the production of lint cotton.
- During this growing season there were not any serious problems concerning crop enemies or weather conditions. However, Ukrainian war caused many problems like high prices of fertilizers and energy which increased cotton production cost.

- As regards to the selling price of seedcotton, it ranges at high level (much higher to the previous year).  
So, farmers' income is expected to be higher compared to last year.

For further information, statistical data from the 10 most recent cotton seasons is presented in the table below.

Year	Area (,000 ha)	Production (seedcotton) (,000 tn)	Price (seedcotton) (€/kg)	Consumption (,000 tn)	Production (lint cotton) (,000 tn)	Yield (seedcotton) (Kg/ha)	Producers
2010	257.0	557	0.60	35	182	2170	
2011	285.7	796.5	0.50	25	227	2790	
2012	279.5	776.5	0.42	21	250	2780	
2013	248.7	852	0.50€	20	296	3430	
2014	271.2	814.3	0.40-0.42		273	3000	
2015	262.9	658.6	0.42-0.44		219	2510	
2016	234.3	680.5	0.51		232	2910	
2017	255.6	756.0	0.49		255	3040	43,309
2018	273.0	858.1	0.49		293	3140	
2019	291.5	1044.2	0.44		360	3580	48,298
2020	276.5	914.8	0.42		315	3310	45,627
2021	261.2	869.2	0.66		295	3330	43,773