

## **Cotton in the era of technical textiles and its growth potential**

(Abstract of presentation to be made at the 81st Plenary Meeting of the International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC) being held in Mumbai, India during 2-4 December, 2023.)

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### **ABSTRACT**

As the world adapts to the new demands for products in the wearable, non-wearable, institutional segments of the textile economy, Cotton – the King amongst fibres finds itself addressing the emerging concerns. This presentation highlights the fact that India's strengths have already been defined in traditional textiles and natural fibres globally. Technical textiles, the fast-growing new sub-segment that finds its usage in an array of functional, institutional innovative sectors, has found in cotton a willing ally. Over the last few years, as the awareness of technical textiles grows, so has the market size. The Indian technical textile industry is expected to reach a level of US \$ 50 billion by 2025 owing to significant thrust on the development of new applications in automotive and medical sectors. With major investments being made, India is set to play a huge role in the global market which is expected to spur the demand for technical textiles and lead to growth in production at a higher rate. Besides medical, protection, home furnishings and automobiles, the Indian technical textile industry has the vast potential to go beyond and explore newer product categories like bio-medical devices and create its niche by producing cotton-based technical textiles as the country is cotton rich. The presentation seeks to bring out the immense scope available for cotton in the era of technical textiles. It will also highlight the promise of prosperity that cotton-based innovative textiles hold for all investors, which will soon become a compelling reason for buyers and sellers of technical textiles to keep their focus on India and develop a rational strategy to seize the emerging opportunities.

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