

14<sup>th</sup> Southern and Eastern Africa Cotton Forum (4-6 July 2018)

# BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMP's)

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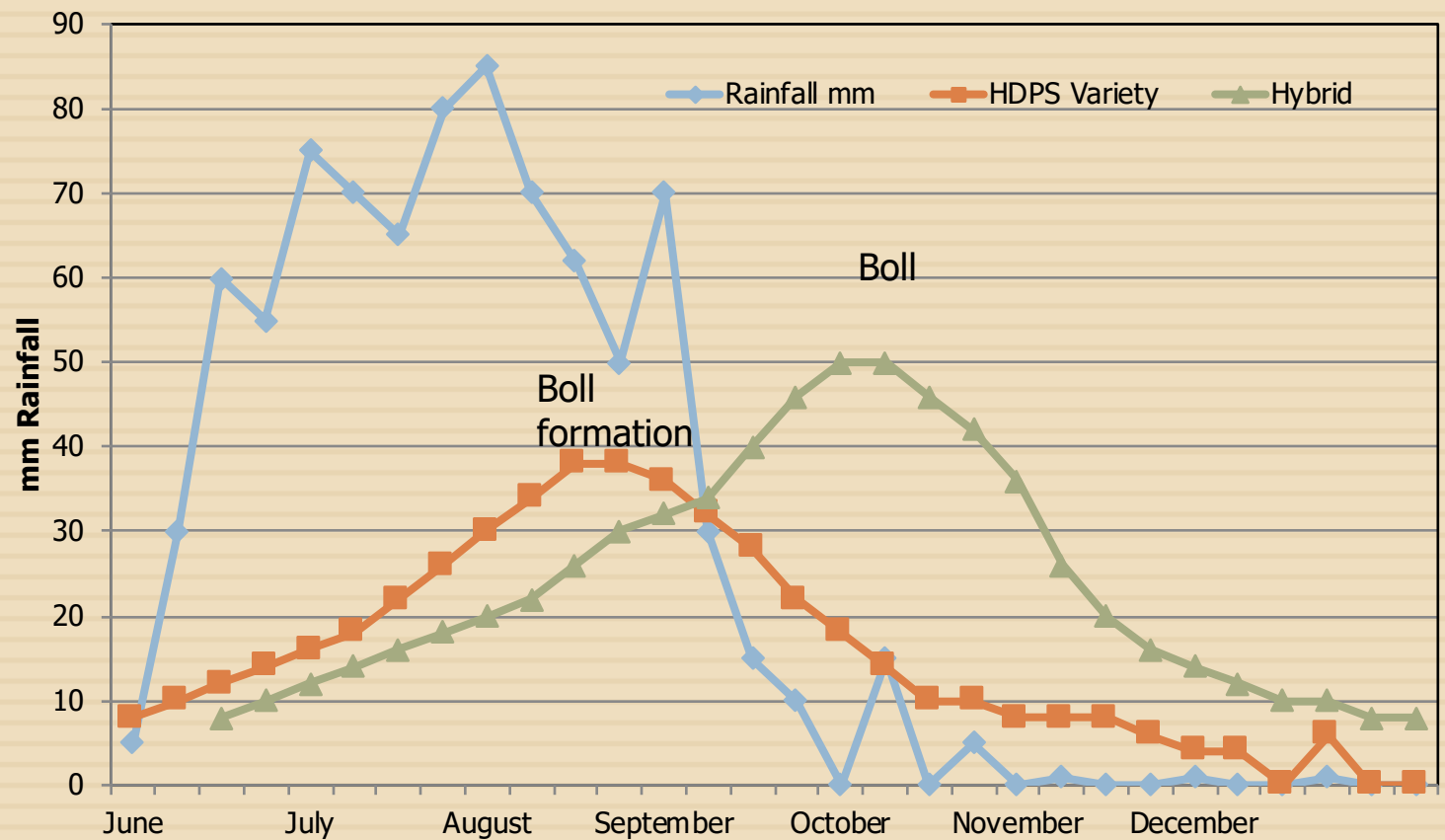
Some BMP technologies that can be adopted after suitable modifications to suit the local conditions

# **Reduced/conservation tillage systems**

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## Planting dates – rainfed central India

Timely planting in rainfed areas ensures crop taking full advantage of rainfall  
Avoidance of late-season pests

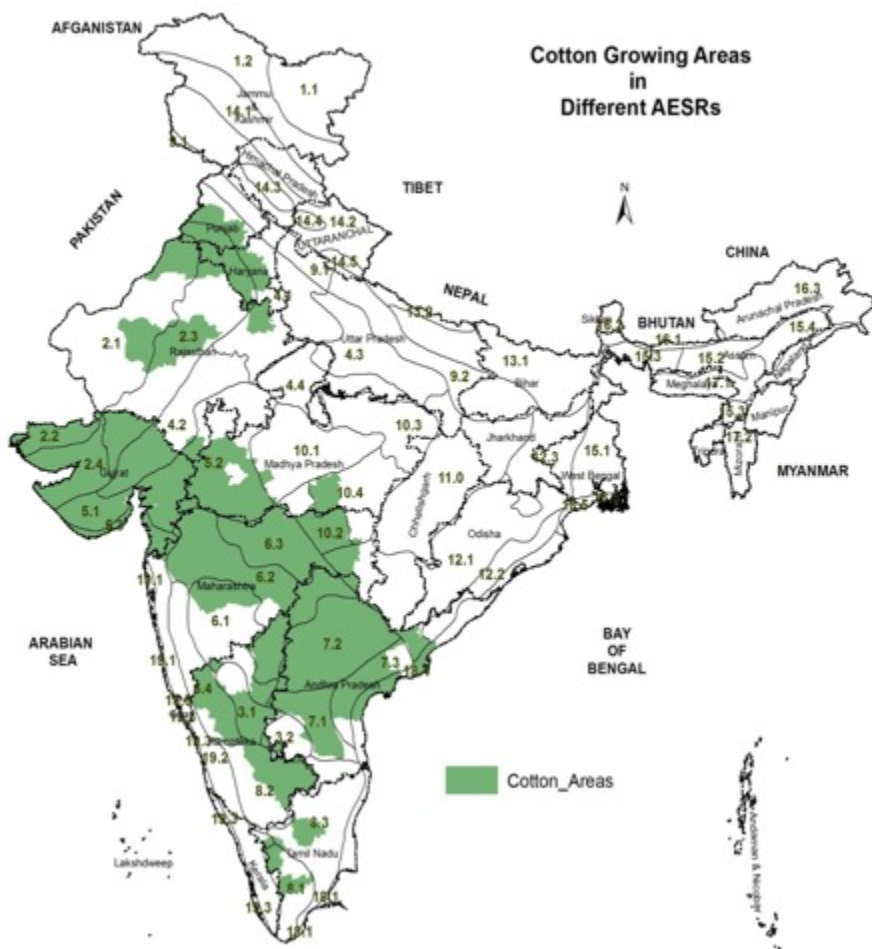






## **Spacing, plant population, canopy management**

**45 to 60 cm (1.5 - 2 feet) and 10 cm between plants  
166,000 to 222,000 plants/hectare**



**Cotton is predominantly grown in India under arid, semi-arid and sub-humid conditions in the agro-eco regions (AER) 2 to 10**

### **Within Central zone**

- there are areas with 50 mm to 200mm available water capacity (mm/m), locations with shallow (< 50 cm) to very deep (>150 cm) soils of various textures,
- varying from 300 to 1200mm
- LGP from 60 days (irrigated?) to more than 210 days.

## **Planting the right variety**

Agro-ecoregion based  
Climate and soil type

# Ridge and furrow cultivation

- ❑ **Water requirement is critical during peak boll formation** phase. Rain-fed cotton suffers most, especially in long duration varieties / hybrids.
- ❑ Method of soil and water conservation practiced in the low rainfall areas





# Making Broad bed furrows and planting on beds across slope



# Rain water harvesting and recycling

- ❑ Recycling harvested rain water to provide 1-2 protective irrigations
- ❑ Yield improved by 30%
- ❑ Drip method of irrigation for improved efficiency







## **Crop diversification – intercropping and crop rotation**

Better to have intercrops – legumes, some local vegetables etc.

Important that they are compatible fast growing and early maturing <60 days

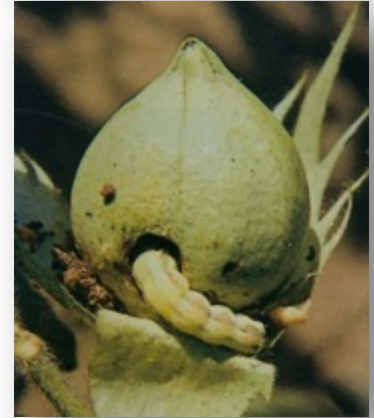
# Matching Nutrient Supply with Crop Demand



- 1. Right Rate**
- 2. Right Balance**
- 3. Right Timing**

# Insect Management

- IPM and IRM based strategies
- Advocate least use of insecticide
- Following the window based strategy





# Implements for Small farmers

- ❑ Specially designed for small holdings
- ❑ Mechanization helps in improving productivity
- ❑ Reduce drudgery



## Acknowledgements

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3. Thank the local organizers for the kind hospitality

**Thank you**

