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Front Line Demonstration in Cotton - As a Good Transfer of Technology Practice Advocated for Africa from the Experiences of India

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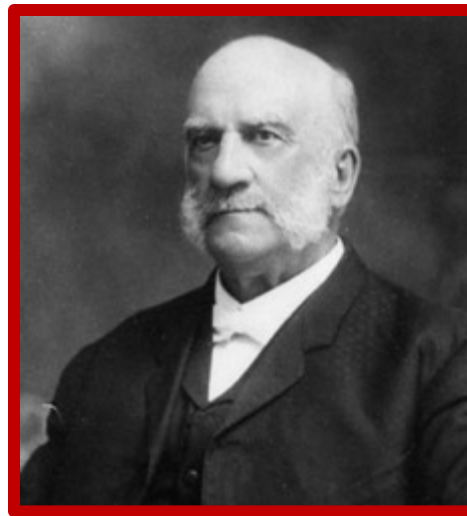


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**"What a man hears, he may doubt;
what he sees, he may also doubt;
but what he does, he cannot doubt"**

- Seaman A. Knapp (1903)
Agriculture Extension Pioneer
who first recognized the need for demonstrations



Source : https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seaman_A._Knapp



Introduction

The performance of cotton sector in India is quite impressive in terms of its achievements in area and production over the years.

This is due to introduction of promising genotypes, potential production and protection technologies, policies which are full of promise, effective Transfer of Technology practices and efficient toil of Indian cotton growers.

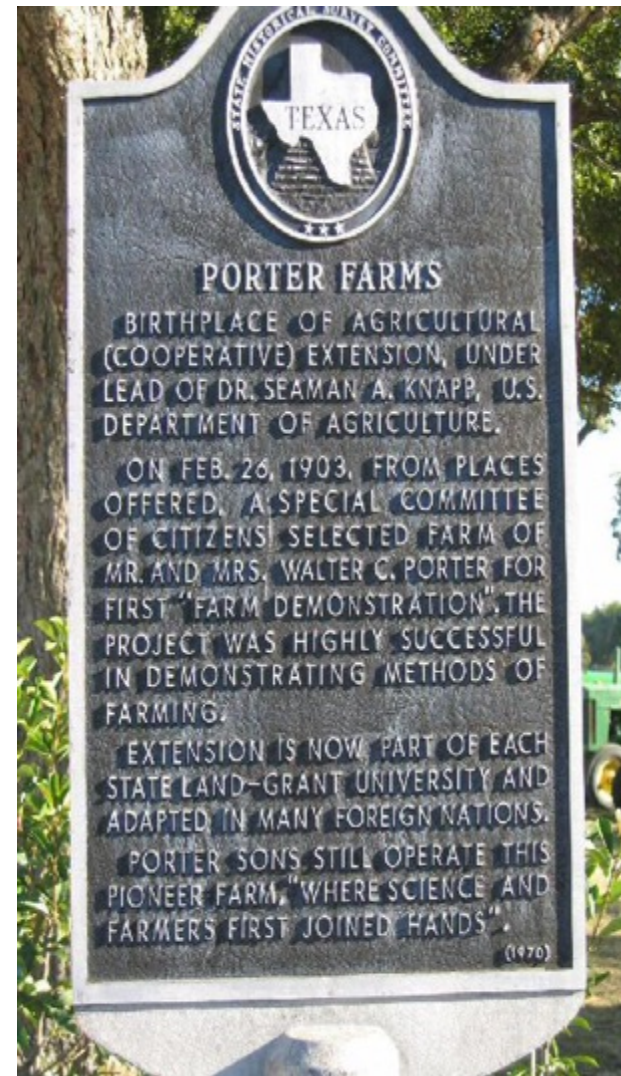
Among these, the properly defined and streamlined technology dissemination arrangements played a major role.

Attempts on farmer to farmer technology dissemination, empowerment and capacity building of farmers, gender mainstreaming, Public Private Partnership and promoting Information and Communication Technology in technology transfer are those streamlined TOT activities behind the country's success.

Among them, “Front Line Demonstrations in Cotton” is one of the longest running best farmer friendly TOT program with great impact about which is this paper.

History of Demonstrations in Cotton

- “**Show me how?**” is the mantra for demonstration concept
- It **started during the birth of Cooperative Extension (1896-1905)** of Land Grant Commission of United States of America.
- The Land Grant Commission **recognized the public’s right to know the activities carried out in the research stations and hence carefully documented the research output** and disseminated the information to farms, homes and ranches through extension programs.
- The **father of demonstration Seaman A. Knapp, the special agent with the United States Department of Agriculture, established the first demonstration farm in 1903 at Walter C. Porter farm, near Terrell, in Kaufman County, Texas**
- It is surprising that **the first demonstration included multi crops viz., 25 acres of cotton, 24 acres of corn, three acres of peas and sorghum, one acre of sweet potatoes and one acre of grain sorghum and milo maize.**

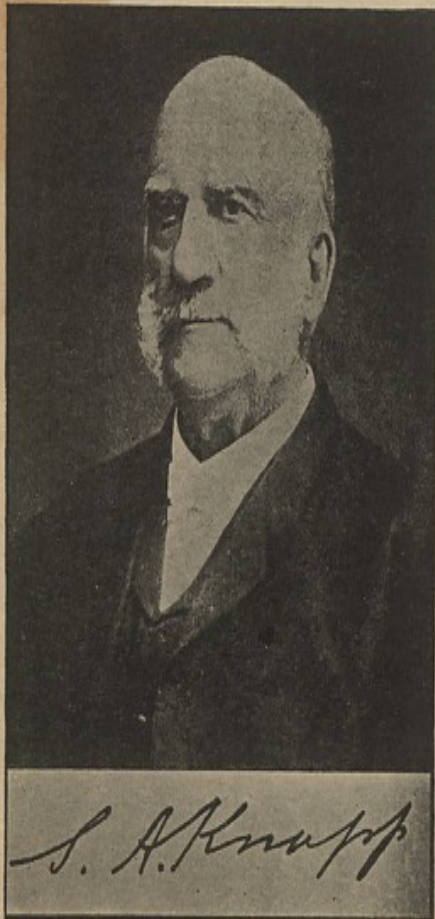


Source: [https:// www.fold3.com/page/641421058-seaman-asahel-knapp/stories](https://www.fold3.com/page/641421058-seaman-asahel-knapp/stories)

CLUB SONG

Written for the Agricultural and Home Economics
Clubs of the North Carolina Extension Service by
G. R. HUDSON, State Agent, Raleigh, N. C.

(SOUVENIR REPRINT)



DR. SEAMAN ASAHIEL KNAPP
Born Essex County, New York, December 16, 1833;
died Washington, D. C., April 1, 1911.

The South's Great Benefactor.

- In the first demonstration farm, **Walter C. Porter** followed the **Department of Agriculture's** recommendations
- At the end of the year, **Porter** estimated that his income was at least **USD 700** more than his regular income and decided to continue to follow the recommendation of the Scientist **Knapp** to manage his crops.
- In later years, the first demonstrator **Porter** facilitated the other farmers in the area to operate on a demonstration farm model and history says that his farm has become a laboratory for teaching progressive farm techniques and an incubator for the establishment of the agricultural extension service.
- Then Seaman demonstrated on a broad scale in the **weevil-infested areas of Texas** and two adjoining states. **Knapp demonstrated improved cotton growing methods**. With a \$40,000 budget, he directed more than 20 federal agents who worked with some 7,000 farmers to establish demonstration plots.
- Based on his experiences in demonstrations, he stated the famous quote that ***"What a man hears, he may doubt; what he sees, he may also doubt; but what he does, he cannot doubt"*** and became the father of **Demonstration**.

Demonstration in Indian context

- The field demonstration conducted under the close supervision of scientists of the National Agriculture Research System in India including the Scientists from ICAR, State Agricultural Universities, Krishi Vigyan Kendra (Farmers Science Centre) is called Front Line Demonstration (FLD).
- “Seeing is believing” is the principle of Front Line Demonstration, “Learning by doing” is its methodology and “Yield Enhancement” is its motive.
- It provides an effective learning situation as farmers “See the crops themselves”, “interact with the scientists and extension workers on the fields”, and “get doubts clarified then and there itself”.
- It is one of the major First Line Extension Programs of ICAR.

Seeing is believing is the principle



Yield enhancement is the motive



FLD in Cotton



- The Indian Council of Agricultural Research introduced the **Lab to Land program** in the golden jubilee year 1979 for efficient transfer of technology.



- **The idea behind the program** was that the viable technologies developed by the researchers should have an on farm field testing and the farmers should be convinced about the technologies for wider adoption in short span of time.



- **This program was expanded to cotton crop** also, implemented in a big way and gained much popularity in early eighties among cotton growers.

Objectives



- To demonstrate the usefulness of the latest improved crop production and protection technologies to the farmers as well as extension workers with a view to reduce the time gap between technology generation and its adoption.
- To enable scientists to obtain direct feedback from cotton farmers and suitably reorient their research programs and develop appropriate technology packages.
- To create effective linkage among scientists, extension personnel and farmers.

Implementing Agencies and Fund Flow Mechanism

- This novel program was implemented in 1996-97 through All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on cotton and its net working centres and CICR and its regional stations



Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India is the sponsoring agency

Until 2013, these demonstrations were conducted on Production Technology, Integrated Pest Management and on Farm implements under Technology Mission on Cotton, Mini Mission II.

- For the past five years, under the National Food Security Mission (NFSM), these demonstrations are being conducted on ICM, Desi/ELS /Seed production and intercropping

Methodology Adopted

**Women
and tribal
reservation**

**low productivity
areas / problematic
areas**

**A list of beneficiaries and their
plot numbers were notified with
the help of local village Officials**

Impact analysis

**Bench mark
survey**

information on the
crops
cropping system of the area
inter cropping
average yields of cotton
local practices adopted
cost of cultivation

**FLDs on ICM in cotton
FLDs on Desi/ELS/ELS cotton seed
production
FLDs on Intercropping in
cotton**

**Provision for
supply of
critical inputs**

**Conduct of demonstrations by the Scientists
on the selected farmers' fields
One acre – FLD and One acre – local practice**

Number of demonstrations conducted year wise and the budgetary outlay (1996-97 to 2016-17)

A total of **3581 acres of demonstrations** were conducted with the budget total outlay of Rs.105 lakh under **Intensive Cotton Development Programme** of Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India from **1995-96 to 1999 2000**

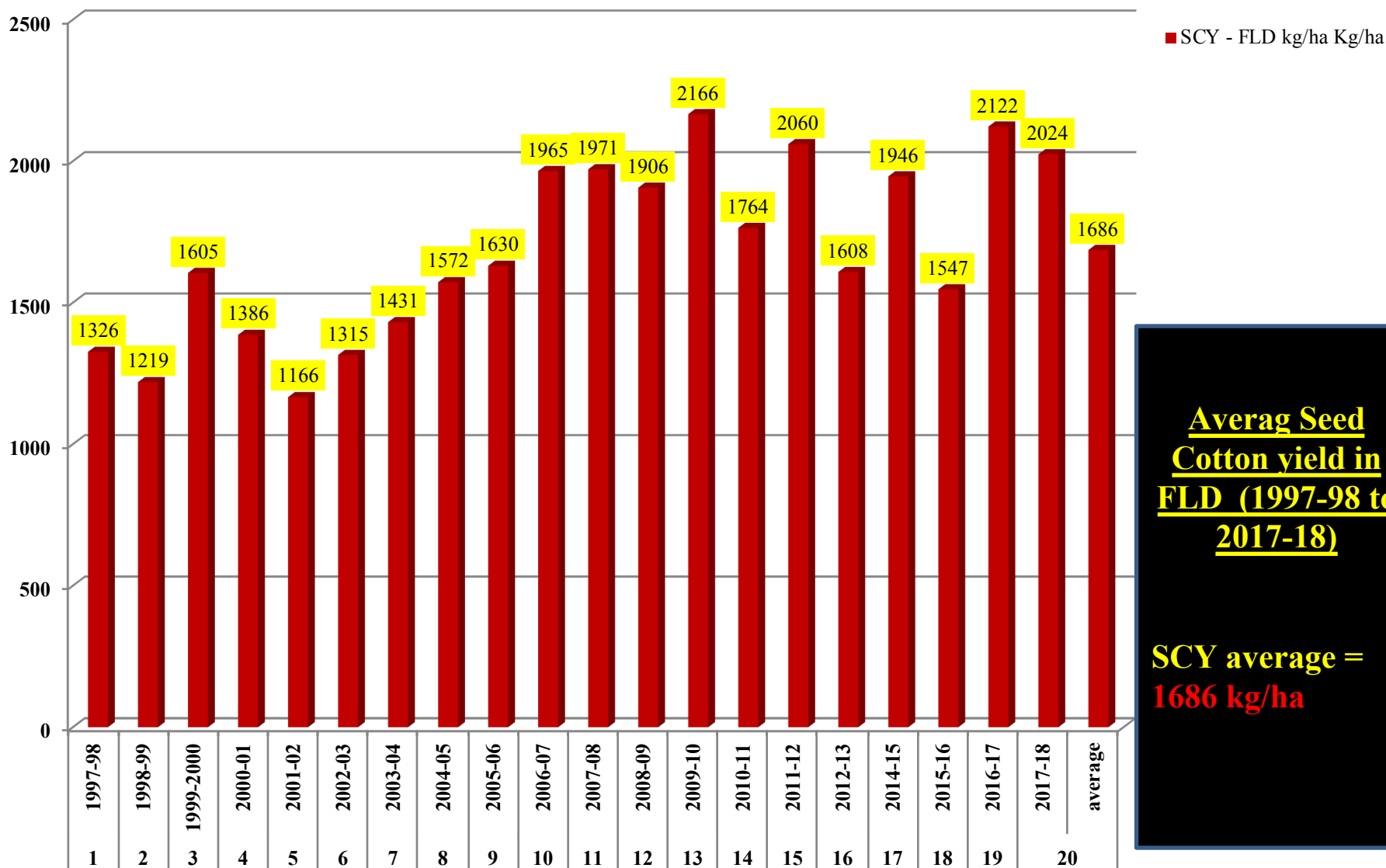
A total of **4134 hectares of demonstrations** were conducted with the budget total outlay of Rs.225.00 lakh under **Technology Mission on Cotton – Mini mission II** from **2000-01 to 2004-05**

From 2005-06 onwards, FLDs were conducted in three different components. A total of **9359 acres of demonstration on cotton production technology, 139 unit demonstration on cotton IPM and 112 unit demonstration on cotton farm implements** were conducted from **2005-06 to 2012-13** with a budget outlay of Rs. 461.54 lakh.

From 2014-15, the FLD in cotton were sponsored by National Food Security Mission on Cotton – Commercial Crops, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers welfare, Government of India. A total of **1157 demonstrations on cotton FLD on ICM in cotton, 702 demonstrations on Desi / ELS / Seed Production and 459 FLD on intercropping in cotton** were conducted during **2014-15 and 2017-18** with a total budget outlay of Rs.187.45 lakh

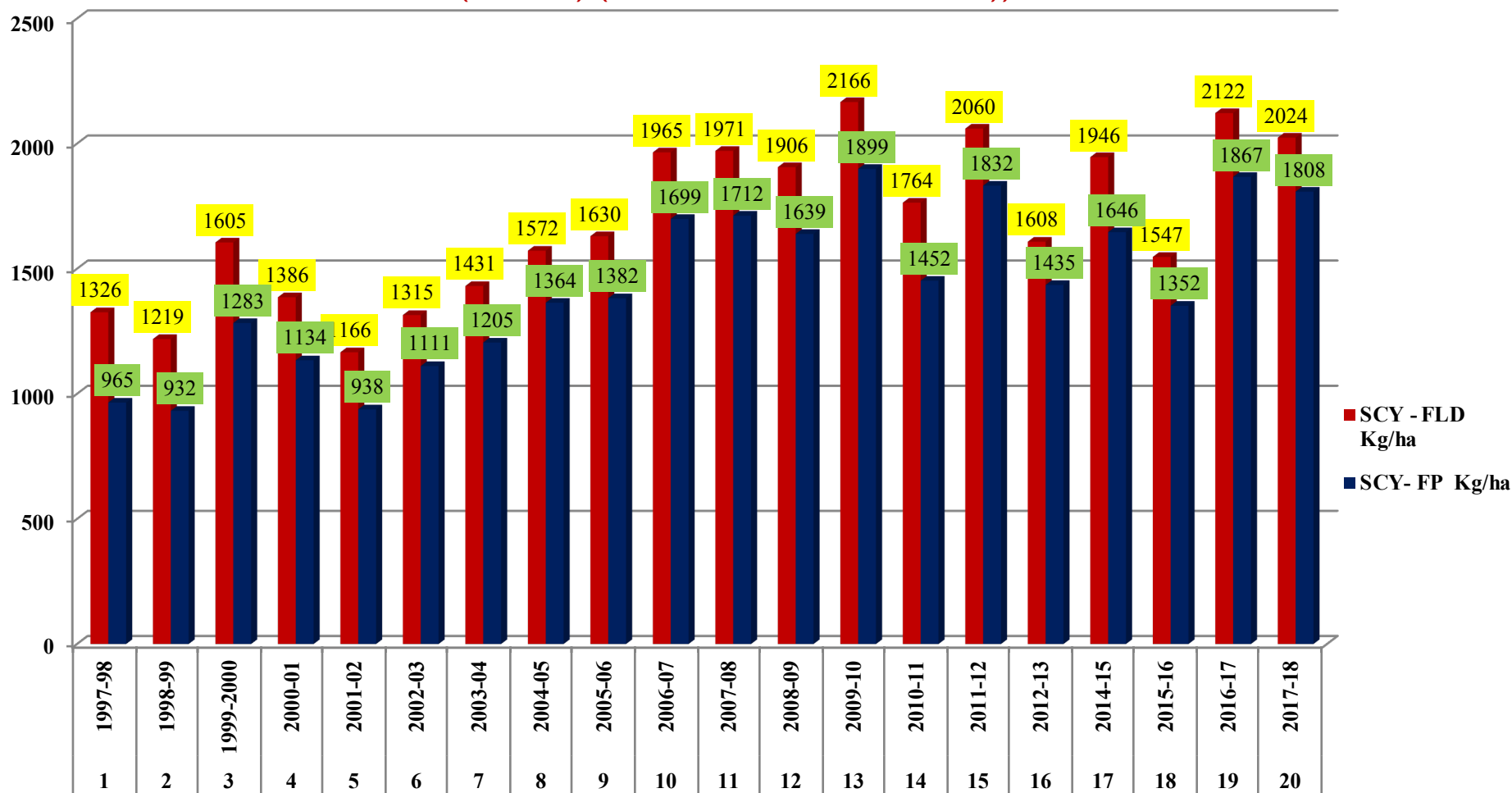
Average yield obtained in FLDs conducted Nationwide from 1997-98 to 2017-18 (SCY kg/ha)

(Source: FLD Annual Report published by PC (Cotton Improvement) ICAR-AICRP (Cotton) (from 1997-98 to 2017-18))



Average Seed Cotton Yield of FLD and Farmers' practices

(Source: FLD Annual Report published by PC (Cotton Improvement) ICAR-AICRP
(Cotton) (from 1997-98 to 2017-18))

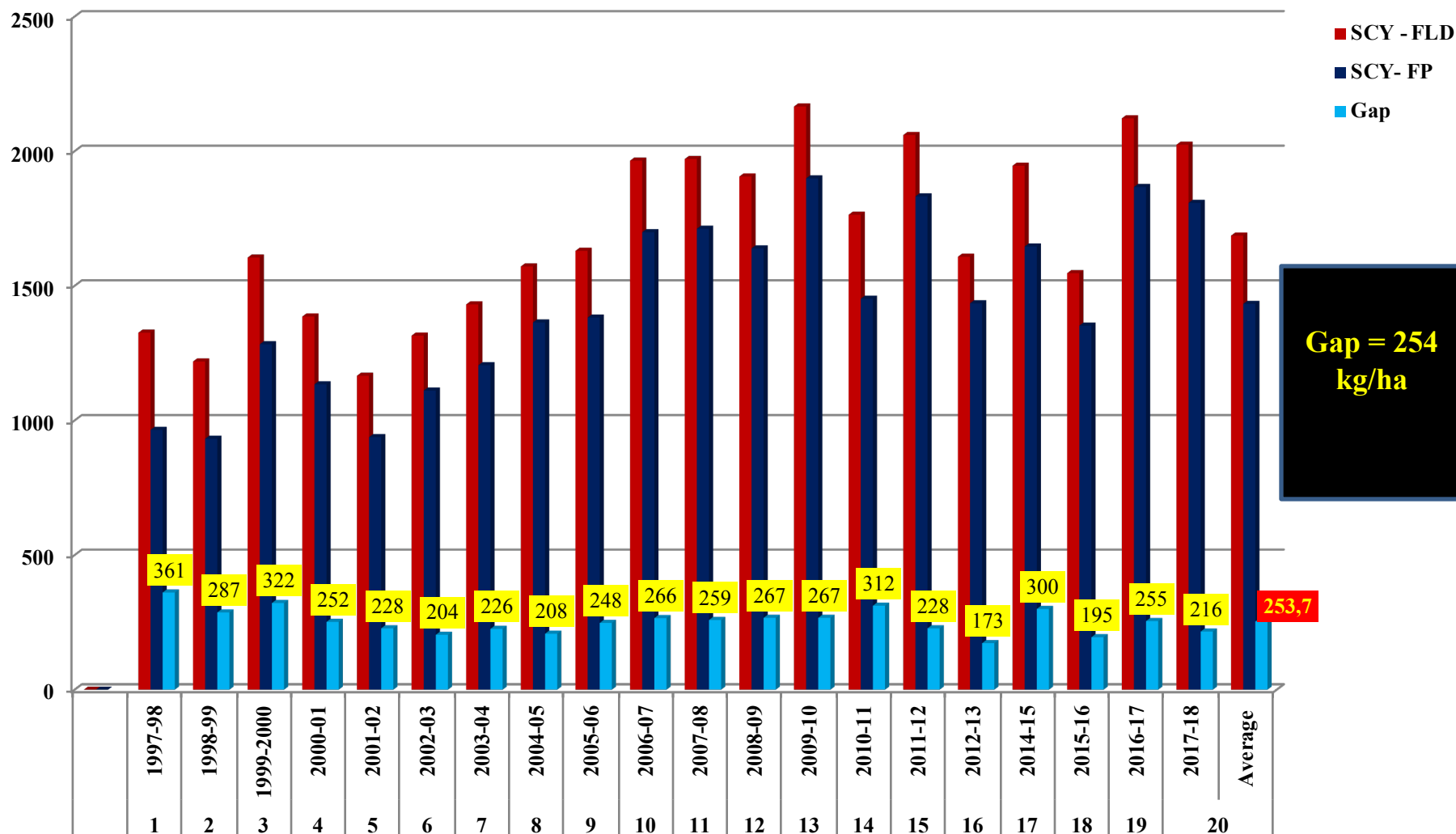


Average FLD yield = 1686

Average FP yield = 1433

Gap between Average FLD yield and Average Farmers' practice yield

(Source: FLD Annual Report published by PC (Cotton Improvement) ICAR-AICRP (Cotton) (from 1997-98 to 2017-18))



Possibility of Increasing average seed cotton yield of Farmers 'by proper TOT intervention viz., FLD

S. No	Year	SCY - FLD Kg/ha	SCY- FP Kg/ha	Increase of FLD SCY over FP %
1	1997-98	1326	965	37.4
2	1998-99	1219	932	30.79
3	1999-2000	1605	1283	25.09
4	2000-01	1386	1134	22.22
5	2001-02	1166	938	24.3
6	2002-03	1315	1111	18.36
7	2003-04	1431	1205	18.75
8	2004-05	1572	1364	15.24
9	2005-06	1630	1382	17.94
10	2006-07	1965	1699	15.65
11	2007-08	1971	1712	15.18
12	2008-09	1906	1639	16.29
13	2009-10	2166	1899	14.06
14	2010-11	1764	1452	21.48
15	2011-12	2060	1832	12.44
16	2012-13	1608	1435	12.05
17	2014-15	1946	1646	18.22
18	2015-16	1547	1352	14.42
19	2016-17	2122	1867	13.65
20	2017-18	2024	1808	11.94
	Average	1686.45	1432.75	17.73

Special features of this TOT program

The program was successful **in dissemination of good cultivation practices in cotton**

The successful beneficiary farmers facilitate the other fellow farmers to adopt the new technologies and hence a **farmer to farmers' technology dissemination**

Analysis on yield parameter over twenty years revealed that an average of **18.00 % increase in yield was obtained in FLDs** as compared to farmers' regular practices

There was **reasonable reduction in cost of cultivation** in FLDs as compared to farmers' regular practices

Mandatorily includes women and downtrodden farmers as beneficiaries as per the GOI's norms and hence **there is inclusive development**

Enabled the scientists to obtain **direct feedback from cotton farmers** and suitably reorient their research programs



Challenges faced in Conduct of FLDs



pros and cons in Scientist conducting the **demonstrations** in the sense that the visits made by Scientists to the fields were not sufficient many times and in some times during crucial period the Scientists might not visit the FLD due to pressing other research commitments.

Meager inclusion of modern Information and Communication Technology (ICT) tools in this approach, the advisory on crop protection aspects was insufficient to meet out the needs of farmers.

FLD – a Good TOT Practice to be advocated for Africa

Africa is an important cotton producer and having a significant role in the value chain of cotton. Cotton is one of the most widely cultivated **cash crops by small and marginal farmers in Africa.**

Despite its economic potential, **the cotton sector in Africa is subject to many risks with respect to weather conditions, price fluctuations and pest attacks** which threaten the sustainability of cotton production in Africa.

A **reform to sustain and foster cotton production in Africa is imperative** since millions of smallholder farmers depend on cotton for their livelihood.

Considering the **profile of African cotton growers and experiences had in India**, conducting **FLD is suggested** for improving the socio economic status of cotton growers in Africa.

Replicating the success of this proven cotton TOT model in Africa will certainly pave way for profitable and sustainable cotton farming in the coming years.



Other Suggestions to enhance the cotton production in Africa

Seven Sayings to enhance the cotton production and value of byproducts in Africa

- **Diagnose constraints in cotton cultivation** and need of cotton stakeholders using world renowned data / information collection tools at micro and macro levels in Africa.
- **Devise a nationwide mission mode approach** – “African Cotton Mission” with technological, extension, capacity building, policy and regulatory interventions to solve the constraints and meet out the need in production of cotton and value addition of its byproducts
- **Develop the Best Integrated Crop Management Package of Practice** for African cotton with good technological interventions considering the global best cultivation practices in cotton
- **Disseminate the developed Best Integrated Crop Management Practice** in farmers’ fields combined with conventional and contemporary good extension practices reflecting on the global best extension practices in cotton
- **Drive a country wide massive capacity building program** at all levels from top policy makers to Para extension workers at field level including foreign visits and local field visits.
- **Decide supportive policies to include farm women and attract rural youth** in cotton cultivation and value addition of cotton by products including smart credit, micro financing and price policies.
- **Determine to double the cotton yield** and triple the cotton farmers’ income by overcoming all impending obstacles while executing the mission **with right regulatory interventions.**

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4. **The Project Coordinator and Head, ICAR-CICR, Coimbatore**
5. **The participating FLD centers and cooperating FLD farmers**



Learning expands great souls

– Namibian Proverb

.....let us demonstrate the novel Cotton technologies until we bring satisfying smile in the faces of every African cotton grower



Photo source: <https://inhabitat.com/ecouterre/u-s-eu-cotton-subsidies-cost-africa-250-million-a-year-says-new-report/>



Thank you...