

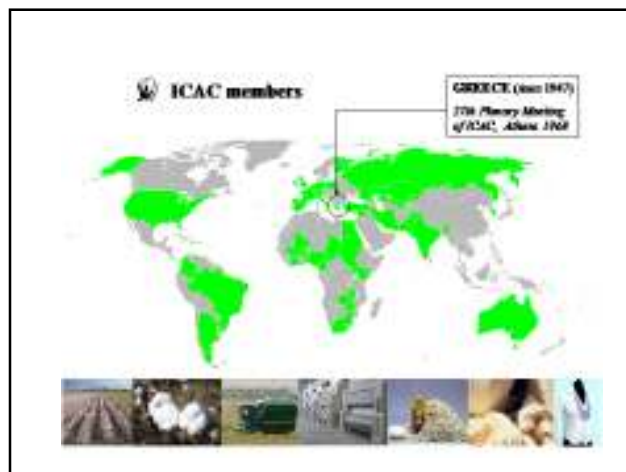
Research Associate Program 2014

Greece report



Dr. Apostolos Kalyvas

Hellenic Agricultural Organisation – DEMETER, Cotton and Industrial Plants
Institute, PO Box 60406, Post code 57001 Thessaloniki Greece,
Tel: 0030-2310-471544,
e-mail: kalyvas.cotton@nagref.gr, kalyvasapostolis@yahoo.gr



Field Management Information

• Soil preparation

Cotton is sowed after the appropriate soil preparation which is done by motorized traction when soil has acquired the normal rate of moisture. The minimum temperature required for seed germination is 14°C. Normally sowing from late-April in the southern part of Greece and continue till the end of May.



Fertilizing

- It is based on soil data analysis of the farms or the parcels which varies at the different regions of the country and it's connected with different types of soil. In case that such an analysis is not available compound fertilizers having as basis elements Nitrogen (N), Phosphorous (P) and Potassium (K) at a ratio of 2-1-1 are mainly used. A small part of the fertilizers is added to the soil right after sowing while the rest is applied in June. So it can be available later in summer when the needs of cotton plants are increased.

Irrigation

- Most of areas cultivated with cotton are irrigated. Non-irrigated areas are less than 8 % in total. Irrigation methods as sprinkler and drip are the most popular. In small scale irrigation by furrows is still in use. Irrigation normally starts in June in southern Greece and goes on till mid-August.



Insects

- Cotton needs protection from several insect pests as *Thrips tabaci*, *Aphis gossypii*, *Tetranychus* Sp. Also some bollworms are very common and the last few years the most dangerous of them is *heliothis virescens* (the green bollworm). Different types of chemicals are used for pest control.



Diseases

- The most used control methods are cultural and host plant resistance. Practically the only chemical control method against diseases is seed treatment with fungicides.



Weed Control

- Chemicals are used to control weeds. Herbicides can be applied:
 - ✓ before sowing
 - ✓ right after sowing (pre-emerged)
 - ✓ after the emergence of cotton plants (post-emergence)
- Each method (or a combination of them) is chosen having regard to the special conditions of each area and also the weather conditions of the year. Also, mechanical destruction of weeds is used in large scale.

- After 2009 about one third of the total area with cotton (more than 80.000 ha) is under Integrated Management. In this strategy several means as agronomic methods, host plant resistance, chemicals etc, are used in combination in order to control insect pest problems.
- Organic cotton is cultivated in very small scale (500-1000 ha).



Harvest

- Cotton harvest starts on late September and most of the total quantity of un-ginned cotton is picked by early November. Nearly all the production is collected by machine picking.



Year	Cultivated area (ha)	Yield of seed-cotton (1000 tn)
2007	331,901	801,0
2008	284,157	670,0
2009	225,751	662,5
2010	257,180	557,0
2011	285,668	796,5
2012	279,472	776,5
2013	247,100	850,0

Source: OPEKEPE (Greek Payment Authority of Common Agricultural Policy (C.A.P.) Aid Schemes. It is a private legal entity operating since 2001 for the public interest. OPEKEPE is supervised by the Ministry of Rural Development and Food)

Cost of Producing One Hectare

Operation/Item	Cost or Price per hectare
1. PRE-SOWING	
Land rent for cotton	500,00
Ploughing	120,00
2. SOWING	
Soaking irrigation	
Land preparation	200,00
Seed	100,00
Seed treatment	
Herbicides (Pre-sowing)	160,00
Fertilizer (Basal dose)	300,00
3. GROWING	
Thinning	
Weeding	40,00
Hoing	40,00
Herbicides (Post-sowing)	
Fertilizer (Total)	150,00
Irrigation for all the cultivation	400,00
Insecticides	100,00
Defoliation	80,00
Other	
4. HARVESTING	
Picking cost	
a. Hand picking (%)	
b. Machine picking (100%)	250,00
Stick cutting/slashing	20,00

•In Greece, the farmer is paid from the ginnery only for the seed-cotton production (kg). Average production 3 tn of seed-cotton/hectare.

•The farmer has no direct involvement to the ginning cost, packaging, classification etc.

➤From 2006 the new CAP (Common Agricultural Policy) were introduced the direct (single, decoupled aid) and the special area payment (attached support, coupled aid). The amount of the direct payment scheme is in principle, equal to the average of the grants received by each farmer the three years 2000-2002 (historical period).

•The single payment is around 600 Euros per hectare, regardless the type of current production.

•The special area payment is for farmers who cultivate and produce cotton. It depends on the total cultivated area and for 2011/12 this support was 805,6 € / ha.