

Cotton in Israel

Statement of the Israeli Delegation

to the

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of the

International Cotton Advisory Committee

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Cotton Production in Israel

Planted acreage in 2001 was 15,000 Hectare. 85% were planted extra-long staple cotton – Pima, and 15% were planted upland cotton - Acala.

1. Profitability

In the last 3 years, whereas prices of Acala in the international market do not make it possible for the Israeli growers to profit from this growth, Pima prices maintain profitability. This explains the dramatic change in the ratio between these two types of cotton.

In Israel, no permanent farm program (subsidies) is granted as a safety- net to the growers.

2. Water supply

This is the third consecutive year that we suffer from lack of water supply, and as a result of this ongoing drought, irrigation water is restricted and nearly all water used for cotton is recycled.

3. Alternative crops

Under the current conditions and prices, the alternative crops (wheat, sunflower seeds, chickpeas and corn) present a firm competition to cotton.

4. Israeli Cotton Statistics

YEAR	ACALA ACREAGE (HECTARE)	ACALA YIELD (KG/HECTARE)	PIMA ACREAGE (HECTARE)	PIMA YIELD (KG/HECTARE)	PRODUCTION ACALA (TONS)	PRODUCTION PIMA (TONS)
1990	20,000	1,760	11,000	1,460	36,200	15,500
1991	10,000	1,730	1,500	1,440	19,900	2,160
1992	15,000	1,690	4,500	1,640	24,200	4,700
1993	12,000	1,770	4,000	1,580	21,200	5,400
1994	16,000	1,570	5,000	1,350	26,000	5,000
1995	20,000	1,800	4,000	1,650	36,000	6,700
1996	22,000	1,850	7,000	1,650	41,000	11,500
1997	23,500	1,900	5,500	1,650	45,650	9,000
1998	25,500	1,750	3,500	1,600	45,000	5,600
1999	8,700	1,750	6,400	1,550	15,250	9,950
2000	4,600	1,800	5,000	1,600	8,300	8,000

5. Types

Two cotton types are cultivated in Israel: Acala and Pima.

Market factors determine the planted acreage.

Each individual grower decides upon the allocation of Acala and Pima.

6. Consumption and Marketing

Exclusively, the Israel Cotton Board, a growers' owned cooperative, markets all Israeli cotton lint and seed. Acala exports are 90% of the total production. The entire Pima production is exported.

Local mills import the balance of their needs. Total raw cotton consumption in Israel is less than 5,000 metric tons a year, and decreases constantly.

7. Research and Development

The achievements of Israeli cotton growers have been made possible by an intensive research program over the years. The growers finance the majority of the program. The results are integrated into commercial growing practice through close extension contacts between researchers, extension services and growers. The research program results in higher yields, enhanced varieties, integrated pest control systems, utilization of recycled water sources, etc.

Current research priorities include further improvement of varieties, better water exploitation, pest control and environmentally friendly cotton.