



**PLENARY MEETING OF THE INTER  
REGIONAL RESEARCH  
NETWORK ON COTTON**

**28 SEPTEMBER – 1 OCTOBER 2008**

**ALEXANDROUPOLI / GREECE**

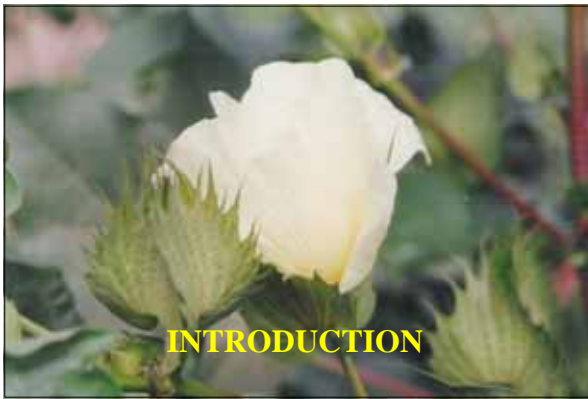
**COUNTRY REPORT-TURKEY**

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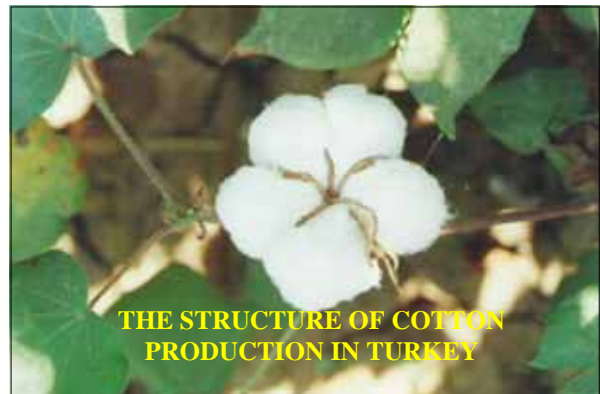


- Cotton is still one of the most strategic crops in Turkey.
- However, mainly due to economical reasons the planting area, production and consumption of cotton decreased during the last years contrary to the preceding expectations.

Table 1. The sown area, production, yield, consumption and import of cotton in Turkey

Years	Turkey				
	Sown Area (000 ha)	Production (000 ton)	Yield (kg/ha)	Consumption (000 ton)	Import (000 ton)
2004/05	698	900	1289	1475	675
2005/06	600	800	1333	1500	750
2006/07	700	850	1214	1550	715
2007/08	520	675	1298	1375	700
2008/09*	370	499	1350	1238	733

Source : Anonymous, 2004-2008.  
\* Expected



➤ All cotton varieties currently cultivated in Turkey belong to the *Gossypium hirsutum* L. species.

➤ During the last four years (2005-2008) 25 new cotton varieties have been registered by the authorized office of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs.

➤ Of these varieties, 9 belong to public research institutes, and, 16 to private companies.

➤ Names, dates of registration and owners of the varieties are given in Table 2.

Table 2. Names, dates of registration and owners of the varieties

No	Variety Name	Registered	Owner
1	Barut 2005	26.04.2005	Cotton Res. Inst. Nazilli
2	Menderes 2005	26.04.2005	Cotton Res. Inst. Nazilli
3	Nazilli DT 15	26.04.2005	Cotton Res. Inst. Nazilli
4	Beyaz Altın 151	26.04.2005	Ozbugday Seed Inc.
5	Beyaz Altın 320	26.04.2005	Ozbugday Seed Inc.
6	Coskun-1	12.04.2006	Cotton Res. Inst. Nazilli
7	BA 525	12.04.2006	Ozbugday Seed Inc.
8	BA GOLD	12.04.2006	Ozbugday Seed Inc.

No	Variety Name	Registered	Owner
9	ST 373	12.04.2006	May Seed Group
10	ST 468	12.04.2006	May Seed Group
11	GAPEYAM-1	12.04.2006	South East Anatolia Res. Inst.
12	Berke	06.04.2007	Univ. of Dicle Fac. of Agr.
13	Celia	06.04.2007	Bayer Crop Science
14	DP 419	06.04.2007	Monsanto Company
15	ST 488	06.04.2007	May Seed Group.
16	GSN-12	06.04.2007	Cotton Res. Inst. Nazilli

No	Variety Name	Registered	Owner
17	Napa 122	06.04.2007	Cotton Res. Inst. Nazilli
18	Ayhan 107	06.04.2007	Cotton Res. Inst. Nazilli
19	Flora	06.04.2007	Bayer Crop Science
20	Assos	10.04.2008	Birlik Seed Company
21	Aksel	12.04.2006	Ozbugday Seed Inc.
22	Flash	06.04.2007	Ozbugday Seed Inc.
23	Fantom	06.04.2007	Golden West Seed Com.
24	DP 466	06.04.2007	Monsanto Company
25	ST 474	06.04.2007	Monsanto Company

➤The varieties grown in different regions vary in their characteristics.

➤Priorities in the breeding programmes are the improvements in earliness, ginning yields and resistance to diseases (especially to *verticillium*), pests and especially to drought resistance.

➤ During the last four years cotton harvesting has shifted from hand picking to mechanical harvest relatively quickly.

➤ Appr. 700 harvesting machines are working

➤ 250 of them are operating in the Aegean Region

➤ 450 are in the Cukurova and the South Eastern Anatolia regions.

- Fiber classification system still has not been solved.
- There is no official seed cotton classification system.
- Ginners store the seed cotton by traditional methods.
- Classification of lint cotton is mandatory.

- But a single bale control system is not in force currently.
- Controls are made by sampling.
- These standards cannot meet the expectations.
- Turkish cotton standards must be modernized objectively.

➤ The problems of or the factors affecting cotton farming, production and consumption can be summarized as follows:

- ❖ **Absence of a definite cotton policy in Turkey**
- ❖ **Relatively higher levels of production costs**
- ❖ **Problems associated with harvesting and incorporated foreign matter**
- ❖ **Problems in standardization system**
- ❖ **Lack of collaboration among the related cotton sectors**

➤ The problems need to be addressed; consequently, it is necessary to encourage research on these topics and to establish an effective collaboration among farmers, ginners, industrialists and traders and of course researchers.

➤ The National Cotton Council was established on April 5, 2007.

➤ I wish that this establishment brings solid solutions by taking all pertinent factors in consideration at a platform formed by academicians and authorities from the field.



**References**

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