

## COTTON SITUATION IN GREECE

**E. Tsaliki, A. Kalivas**  
Hellenic Agricultural Organisation –  
DEMETER  
Cotton and Industrial Plants Institute,  
GREECE  
[dir.cotton@nagref.gr](mailto:dir.cotton@nagref.gr)

### Cotton - Greek national product

- 10.0% of Greece's total agricultural production
- 76% of the EU's total output
- 5th national product in exports
- occupied 70.000 families in agriculture and
- 150.000,00 employees in other sectors

**Table 1: Cotton cultivation and production in Greece**

Year	Cultivated area (ha)	Production (tones)	Average yield (kg/ha)
2000	405000.0	1.235.000	3050
2001	378737.8	1.246.839	3290
2002	360500.0	1.131.500	3140
2003	367100.0	972.000	2650
2004	383791.0	1.254.780	32.7
2005	363000.0	946.000	2610
2006	380380.0	765.400	2010
2007	338724.0	668.181	1970
2008	284157.0	670.000	2360
2009	233000.0	600.000	2580
2010	260374.8	565.000	2140
2011	301405.5	795.710	2640
2012 *	283964.6		

\* estimation

Source: *Ministry of Rural Development and Food (2000-2009) and OPEKEPE (2010-2012)*

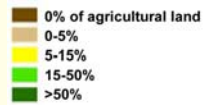
## Varieties - Cultivation

- Registration to National or European Catalogue.
- Responsible the Variety Research Institute of Cultivated Plants (V.R.I.C.P.) of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food.
- Fully mechanized
- Integrated Crop Management
- Water management
- Cotton cultivation is almost 100% irrigated

## Figure 1: Areas of cotton cultivation in Greece



- Small (4.5ha) highly specialized cotton farms
- Single cropping in some areas like Thessaly, 60% of the arable land



## ENEMIES AND DISEASES

- Pink and green bollworms.
- Aphids and thrips (limited).
- Verticillium Wilt.



## Processing

- 70 enterprises (private and co-operatives)
- The produced bales are the first material of the local textile industry or exported, mainly to Turkey



## Cotton Standardization Centre of Karditsa, Greece

- Measure the most important characteristics of cotton bales produced in Greece, rapidly with standard methods and certificated instruments.
- Evaluate the correct performance of cotton and assist the complete cycle of the cotton textile process.



## OPEKEPE

(Payment and Control Agency for Guidance  
and Quarantee Community Aid)

- OPEKEPE is the Greek Payment Authority of Common Agricultural Policy (C.A.P.).
- OPEKEPE's main task is the control and payment of beneficiaries, according to European and national Laws.
- The current regulatory framework was due to expire at the end of 2012, but extended for one more year until the end of 2013.

## EU POLICY

since 2006

### **Decoupled aid**

#### **(Direct, single aid)**

- is equal to the average of the grants received by each farmer the three years 2000-2002
- Withheld each year at the request of producer, regardless of type and current production.

### **Coupled aid**

#### **(Special area payment, attached support)**

- is for farmers who cultivate and produce cotton
- for 2011/12 this support was 805,6 €/ ha if the total cotton cultivated land was 250000,0ha.

## RESEARCH

- Ministry of Rural Development and Food
- Hellenic Agricultural Organisation – DEMETER (former **National Agricultural Research Foundation** NAGREF)
- Agricultural Departments of the Universities
- Research, is targeted to improve cotton competitiveness either by increasing yields and reducing cost or by improving the product's performance to increase market share.

## SOURCES OF INFORMATION

1. Greek Ministry of Rural Development and Food [http://www.minagric.gr/greek/agro\\_pol/bambaki.htm](http://www.minagric.gr/greek/agro_pol/bambaki.htm)
2. OPEKEPE 2012, <http://www.opekepe.gr> (personal communication)
3. Variety Research Institute of Cultivated Plants (V.R.I.C.P.) <http://www.varinstit.gr>
4. Hellenic Agricultural Organisation – DEMETER (former National Agricultural Research Foundation NAGREF) <http://www.elgo.gr> or <http://www.nagref.gr>
5. Study on the cotton sector in the European Union final report European Commission Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development, 2007. <http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/analysis/external/cotton/fulltext.pdf>
6. Regulation (EC) No 1782/2003 establishing common rules for direct support schemes under the common agricultural policy and establishing certain support schemes for farmers, as regards the support scheme for cotton{SEC(2007) 1481} {SEC(2007) 1482}

