

News LETTER

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CONFEDERATION OF INDIAN TEXTILE INDUSTRY



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Opening of Bank Accounts and Promotion of Digital Payments in Textile Sector

World cotton output to grow 2% in 2017-18: ICAC

Cheaper blue jeans that are better for the environment? Genetic engineering can make it happen

Cotlook A Index (Cent/lb)	
30-01-2017	84.25
31-01-2017	83.50
01-02-2017	84.25
02-02-2017	85.75
02-02-2016	68.45
02-02-2015	67.05
New York Cotton Futures (Cents/lb) As on 03.02.2017	
Mar 2017	76.53
May 2017	77.18
July 2017	77.98

NATIONAL



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NATIONAL:

Union Budget 2017 provides big boost to textiles sector; here's why

Higher fund allocation for labour skilling and end-to-end logistics solutions, including rail and coastal shipping last-mile connectivity, will help the country's textile industry to achieve the \$350-billion target in next few years as set by the union government, industry experts have said.

(Source: R Ravichandran, The Financial Express, February 04, 2015)



Though there was no big announcement in the Budget, continuing with the existing tax structure, including service tax and optional Cenvat route extended for textile industry till GST is implemented, has been considered as a big boost for the sector.

Higher fund allocation for labour skilling and end-to-end logistics solutions, including rail and coastal shipping last-mile connectivity, will help the country's textile industry to achieve the \$350-billion target in next few years as set by the union government, industry experts have said. Though there was no major announcement in the Budget, continuing with the existing tax structure, including the service tax and optional Cenvat route extended for textile industry till the GST is implemented, has been considered as a big boost for the sector.

The cluster approach for contract farming would greatly benefit the predominantly cotton based textile industry in India, where more than 80% of MSMEs are located across the country.

The government's proposal to allocate funds for affordable housing scheme (as sought by the textile sector) is a boon to the sector.

While the overall allocation for the textile sector has remained flat, there has been an increase in allocation towards remission of state levies to R1,555 crore for 2017-18 from R400 crore for 2016-17, which is likely to result in 1-1.5% cost savings for a section of exporters.

Speaking to FE, Raja M Shanmugham, president of Tirupur Exporters' Association (TEA), lauded the enhancement of allocation of fund to Mudra Bank from R1,36,000 crore to R2,44,000 crore which will encourage the new entrepreneurs in the region to invest in sectors such as knitwear.

“The announcement on allocation of fund for affordable housing scheme is quite encouraging which has been requested by the association since there has been a plan to construct one lakh houses for labourers.

The profit exemption announced for construction of 60 sq mt will encourage more promoters to enter for construction of houses.

Similarly, the like change in labour reforms, which has been pending for sometime, would also help clusters such as Tirupur where they have lakhs of workers working for day and nights.”

A sum of R2,200 crore to upgrade labour skilling is also a major measure for labour intensive industry like textiles, he added.

Moreover, the allocation to textile sector remains relatively unchanged — R6,230 crore in 2017-18 from R6,290 crore in 2016-17. However, the lesser allocation for both Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (ATUFS) and cotton procurement is offset by higher allocation for the textile package announced on June 22, 2016.

With a significant proportion of textile sector in the SME segment, reduction in tax rate will improve bottomline of companies, felt Crisil in its analysis.

M Senthilkumar, chairman, Southern India Mills' Association (SIMA) said the objective of doubling farmers' income, housing for one crore rural Indians, skilling of youth by establishing 100 India international skill centres, development of infrastructure to provide end-to-end solution by integrating road, rail & ship would greatly benefit the textile industry.

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Opening of Bank Accounts and Promotion of Digital Payments in Textile Sector

(Source: Business Standard, February 04, 2017)

Opening of Bank Accounts and Promotion of Digital Payments in Textile Sector

Government has launched a special drive for opening of bank accounts and promotion of digital payments in the textilesector, by organizing special camps. As on 20.01.2017, a total of 11,86,203 bank accounts have been opened and activated for textile workers, which includes 17,245 jute workers. For weavers and artisans of handloom and handicraft sectors, 1,912 camps were organized upto 20.01.2017; a total of 6,28,215 bank accounts have been opened/mobile apps downloaded by the participants of these camps.Banks have provided micro-ATM facilities at weaving clusters.

The above information was given by the Union Textiles Minister, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani today, in a written reply to a Lok Sabha question.

(This story has not been edited by Business Standard staff and is auto-generated from a syndicated feed.)

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'Remedy' for sick powerloom industry after state elections: Smriti Irani in Rajya Sabha

(Source: ummid.com, February 03, 2017)



New Delhi: Government on Friday hinted at giving a "positive" news with regard to addressing the problems being faced by the powerloom industry once the elections in five states are over.

Textiles Minister Smriti Irani said in the Rajya Sabha that meetings have been held with stakeholders to address the problems being faced by the powerloom industry.

"But I am currently constrained that I cannot make declaration because of Model Code of Conduct (in force because of assembly polls in five states). I can only say that outcome of stakeholders' meetings will be positive. I am duty bound not to explain in detail.

"I can only make this declaration to the benefits to the industry after Code of Conduct is lifted," she said.

She was responding after NCP member Majeed Memon highlighted the problems of powerloom sector during Zero Hour.

He said the industry needs to be supported as it supports a million people, mainly those from minority community.

Memon said there was no mention about the sector in the Union Budget even though powerlooms are on the verge of closure, and some workers were committing suicide.

Irani said Memon had made a representation to her ministry regarding the powerloom sector, after which stakeholder meetings were held and MPs were invited so that a "holistic solution" could be found out.

Irani also said that under the Mudra Yojna, capital at reduced rates was available for all segments of the society.

The House also witnessed heated arguments between Treasury benches and members of TMC as Swapan Dasgupta (nominated) tried to raise an issue related to Saraswati Puja in West Bengal.

Nadimul Haque (TMC) repeatedly disrupted Dasgupta as the latter tried to present his point.

Agitated over Haque's behaviour, Deputy Chairman P J Kurien warned him several times that he would "name" him, inferring suspension from the House for a specified period.

Haque argued that the issue being raised was a state subject.

To this Kurien, any incident in this country happens in one or the other state.

"...you think what all others should say should be what you like...How can Parliament function then? This cannot happen," Kurien said as he kept warning Haque.

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Welfare Schemes for Weavers of Varanasi

(Source: Business Standard, February 04, 2017)

In the Budget 2014-15, the Government announced setting up of Trade Facilitation Centre and Crafts Museum (TFC&CM) at Varanasi to develop and promote handloom products and carry forward the rich tradition of handlooms of Varanasi. The estimated cost of project is Rs.300 crores. The first phase of the Project consisting of Crafts Museum, Entrance Plaza and Shopping arcade has been inaugurated on 22nd December, 2016.

Ten block level clusters have been sanctioned in different blocks/urban areas of Varanasi at a total project cost of Rs.7.89 crore with Central share of Rs.7.70 crore and first installment of Rs.5.12 crore released, covering 4129 weavers.

Nine Common Facility Centres (CFCs) alongwith Common Service Centres (CSCs) have been set up in different blocks/urban areas to provide facilities like training, yarn, dyeing, warping, IT-enabled services etc. CSC provides services like banking, Aadhaar Card, e-commerce, e-ticketing, Mobile charging etc. So far, more than 21000 persons have benefitted.

The Government has taken several steps to help weavers in opening bank accounts and taking benefits of digital payment modes. The Common Facility Centres have taken banking services to the door step of handloom weavers. Several camps have been held in Varanasi to train the handloom weavers in accessing digital payment modes. 307 such camps were organised in Varanasi in which 12,502 persons participated. Micro-ATM/Banking Correspondent(BC) facility was extended in association with various Banks for easy withdrawal of money. National Handloom Development Corporation has also implemented e-Dhaga Mobile App which has facility of making online payment for purchase of yarn. E-commerce players have been facilitated to work with handloom weavers of Varanasi with the arrangements that the sale proceeds are transferred into their bank accounts.

The above information was given by the Union Textiles Minister, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani today, in a written reply to a Rajya Sabha question.

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Hand-woven products of West Bengal Handloom Clusters find place in Lakme Fashion Week

(Source: Knn India, February 03, 2017)



Hand-woven products of West Bengal Handloom Clusters find place in Lakme Fashion Week

New Delhi, Feb 3 (KNN) The traditional hand-woven products of West Bengal Handloom Clusters has reached all the way to the most awaited fashion show of the country the 'Lakme India Fashion Week' being held in Mumbai.

The Ministry of Textiles, with a view to revamp the traditional handloom sector in order to make it popular amongst the youth, on the second National Handloom Day (7th August 2016) had launched an initiative to rope in reputed designers.

The traditional hand-woven products of West Bengal Handloom clusters have been transformed into high-profile fashionable fabrics.

Due to the involvement of a reputed fashion designer (identified by MoU partner IMG Reliance) in training and product development, “Beyond Boundaries”, a garment range produced from the handloom products of West Bengal Handloom Clusters in Coochbehar and Udaynarayanpur, is being showcased in the Lakme Fashion Week, being held in Mumbai from February 1-5, 2017, the Ministry of Textiles said in a release.

The engagement of the fashion designer was done under a pioneering initiative taken by the Ministry of Textiles, to engage reputed designers in handloom clusters for product development/diversification, improved marketability and better returns.

MoUs were signed with IMG Reliance and other similar organizations on the 2nd National Handloom Day i.e. 7th August 2016, in Varanasi. Ministry of Textiles has sanctioned a large number of projects for comprehensive development of handloom-concentrated blocks across the country.

As many as 273 such projects have been sanctioned with 2,30,133 weavers as beneficiaries. These include Coochbehar and Udaynarayanpur Handloom Clusters in West Bengal, which respectively cover 505 and 640 handloom weavers.

Financial assistance has been provided for various interventions, including design development. In order to develop new designs/products in the clusters, an MoU was signed with a group of designers in partnership with IMG Reliance.

Among them, Sayantan Sarkar, Fashion Designer has come out with a range of garments, which is being showcased in the Lakme Fashion Week. It is expected that the products developed will go a long way in supporting handlooms, with the weavers getting higher wages.

Sarkar worked in association with Weavers’ Service Centre, Kolkata in Coochbehar Handloom Cluster in Coochbehar district and in Udaynarayanpur Handloom Cluster in Howrah district.

Bengal is known for its Jamdanis and Balucharis but a larger number of weavers presently produce in plain weaves and basic “Tangail” or plain weave sarees with jacquard borders or even the local towels “gamchas” and the “Lungis” which constitute a large segment in Bengal.

This initiative has introduced Linen yarn to weave the “gamchas”, colour palette was changed to pastels instead of the stark contrasting combinations and the check formation was changed to an uneven gradation according to the forecast which all of a sudden made the same weave look like an upmarket fabric with extreme drapability and also difficult to replicate in powerlooms.

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World cotton output to grow 2% in 2017-18: ICAC

(Source: Fibre2Fashion, February 03, 2017)

WORLD COTTON SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION

2015/16 2016/17 2017/18

Million Tons

Production	21.07	22.85	23.39
Consumption	24.13	24.08	24.29
Imports	7.54	7.76	8.17
Exports	7.55	7.76	8.17
Ending Stocks	19.25	18.02	17.13

Courtesy: ICAC Secretariat

Owing to an increase in planted area, the world cotton production will rise by two per cent to 23.4 million tons, the International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC) has predicted in its first estimate of 2017-18 crop. After two seasons of contraction, cotton planted area is expected to grow by five per cent to 30.6 million tons for the 2017-18 crop.

The world average yield is projected to decline by two per cent to 764 kg/ha, after improving by 13 per cent to 781 kg/ha in 2016-17, the ICAC Secretariat said.

In 2016-17, the cotton area in India, the largest cotton-producing country, fell by 12 per cent to 10.5 million hectares due to competition from food crops. However, the average yield recovered by 16 per cent to 560 kg/ha, and production in 2016-17 is estimated to rise by 2 per cent to 5.9 million tons. In 2017-18, India's area is forecast to recover by 7 per cent to 11.2 million hectares as firm domestic cotton prices and less attractive prices for competing crops attract more farmers to cotton. Assuming a national average yield of 530 kg/ha, production will increase by 1 per cent to 6 million tons.

Cotton area in China declined for five consecutive seasons, reaching 2.8 million hectares in 2016-17. However, output has not fallen as quickly due to the fact that the share of cotton grown in Xinjiang, which has higher yields than other producing regions in China, has increased considerably. China's cotton production in 2016-17 is estimated at 4.7 million tons. In 2017-18, its cotton area may expand by 3 per cent to 2.9 million hectares, and cotton output in China could reach 4.8 million tons in 2017-18.

Following a season of higher than expected yields and firm cotton prices, cotton area in the United States is expected to expand by 10 per cent to 4.2 million hectares in 2017-18. The average yield in the US improved by 12 per cent to 958 kg/ha in 2016-17, and

production is estimated at 3.7 million tons. In 2017-18, production in the US is projected to rise by 7 per cent to 4 million tons, assuming an average yield of 935 kg/ha.

A significant drop in yields and poor returns in 2015-16 led to a 12 per cent decrease to 2.5 million hectares in Pakistan's cotton area in 2016-17. The average yield recovered by 32 per cent to 699 kg/ha and output is estimated up by 17 per cent to 1.8 million tons. Pakistan's cotton area is forecast to increase by 3 per cent to 2.6 million hectares, and assuming a yield of 739 kg/ha, Pakistan's production could reach 1.9 million tons.

World cotton mill use is expected to remain stable at 24.1 million tons in 2016-17 as high cotton prices discouraged growth in demand. However, mill use may expand by 1 per cent to 24.3 million tons in 2017-18. Mill use in the top three consuming countries, China, India, and Pakistan, is expected to remain unchanged from 2016-17. However, mill use is forecast to grow in Turkey, Bangladesh, and Vietnam by 2 per cent to 1.5 million tons, by 5 per cent to 1.5 million tons, and by 7 per cent to 1.2 million tons, respectively.

Given the continued growth in mill use in countries that depend on imports, world cotton trade is projected to increase by 5 per cent to 8.2 million tons in 2017-18 from 7.8 million tons in 2016-17. Bangladesh is likely to maintain its position as the world's largest importer of cotton with its volume forecast to rise by 5 per cent to 1.5 million tons. Vietnam's import volume is projected to grow by 8 per cent to 1.3 million tons. Given the large exportable surplus and strong demand, exports from the US are anticipated to rise by 17 per cent to 3.2 million tons in 2017-18. India's exports are forecast to fall by 7 per cent to 875,000 tons in 2017-18.

World cotton stocks are expected to decline by 6 per cent at the end of 2016-17 to 18.1 million tons as China reduces its stocks by 17 per cent to 9.3 million tons. However, stocks outside of China are projected to increase by 8 per cent to 8.8 million tons or 36 per cent of mill use in 2016-17. (RKS)

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Pakistan : FPCCI seeks incentives for export-oriented sectors

(Source: The News International, February 04, 2017)

KARACHI: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) organised an interactive session on the recently announced export package worth Rs180 billion, a statement said on Friday.

Zubair F Tufail, president of the FPCCI, briefly explained the outcomes of his meetings with the prime minister and finance minister and said that he has requested the prime minister for an incentive package for rice and all export-oriented sub-sectors to exploit their maximum potentials.

He also appreciated the efforts of S M Muneer in bringing the package for exporters and said that this package is basically for the five zero-rated export sectors.

He also invited budget proposals from the associations to be included in the Federal Budget 2017/18.

Tufail assured the member associations that their problems will be taken up in the next meetings with the prime minister, finance minister and commerce minister.

During the session, the fruits and vegetable exporters requested for exemption of withholding tax of 1.25 percent and duty-free imports of chemicals for value-added fruits and vegetables exports.

They also insisted on the early verification of machinery from the Engineering Development Board, as it takes at least six months.

The exporters also demanded ban on the imports of injurious and non-halal juices. The representatives of textile associations requested for level-playing field, as the cost of production, particularly prices of utilities, are very high in Pakistan as compared to regional countries such as Vietnam, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, etc, which makes Pakistani goods uncompetitive in the international market.

They also demanded zero-rated imports of textile machinery and spare parts.

Moreover, they urged early payments of sales tax refunds, as millions of rupees in textile refunds are still pending. The stakeholders also said the recent package will only benefit the yarn sector because its price has increased 12 percent, while the bed-wear and towel-related industries will be highly affected with the package.

Further, commercial exporters may also be included in the package, as currently the package is only for the manufacture-cum-exporters.

They also requested for the implementation of textile policy (2014/19), wherein several incentives were announced such as to increase the share of value-addition in products, reduction in export refinance rate (EFS) and long-term financing facility (LTFF), subsidy on long-term loans and development and special duty drawbacks, etc. The rice exporters requested for the five percent DLTL, as they are facing high input cost in terms of utility prices.

Earlier, Irfan Sarwana, vice president of the FPCCI, explained the salient features of the package and said that the exporters will be liable to increase exports by five percent in the first six months and then by 10 percent in the next year.

There would be no condition during the first six months of the package, but later on duty drawback would be linked to an increase in exports, he added.

Sarwana also said that the package gives larger incentives to the textile sector, which is the backbone of the economy; contributing eight percent in GDP and more than 50 percent in exports of Pakistan.

The session was also attended by Ishtiaq Baig and Saquib Fayyaz Magoon, vice presidents of the FPCCI and other prominent businessmen.

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Bangladesh apparel sector has 540 trade unions

(Source: Fibre2Fashion, February 03, 2017)



The readymade garment industry of Bangladesh boasts of 540 registered trade unions, according to M Mujibul Haque Chunnu, the state minister of labour and employment. He also said that a worker welfare foundation fund has been formed by the government and close to Taka 190 crore has already been deposited in it, which will be spent for workers' welfare.

The present government of the country is worker-friendly and it has simplified the process of registering trade unions, said a Bangladeshi media news agency quoting Chunnu. The minister added that forming trade unions was workers' fundamental right.

While addressing the Jatiya Sangsad or the House of the Nation, Chunnu said that his ministry has adopted various measures to ensure that workers at factories and mill get their due remuneration. The minimum wages of workers of 38 industries have also been fixed based on the recommendations of the Minimum Wage Board.

The minimum wage of RMG workers has been increased from Taka 3,000 to Taka 5,300 from December 1, 2013, informed the minister. (KD)

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Pakistan : Kisan Package helps cotton yield exceed target

(Source: Dunya News, February 03, 2017)



The Kisan Package was launched by PM Nawaz Sharif for social welfare of farmers

KARACHI : The Kisan Package launched by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has profited the farmers. For the first time in eight years, cotton production has exceeded its estimated target, reported Dunya News.

The government had predicted cotton yield to be one crore and five lac bales, however, the total yield of cotton this season has been calculated to be one crore and six lac bales. In this way, the cotton yield has been one lac more than expected.

Cotton Ginners Forum Chairman Ihsanul Haq told that about 95 lac bales of cotton were bought by textile mill owners while two lac cotton bales have been purchased by exporters.

It must be noted that over 40 lac of cotton bales will have to be imported this year due to the increased national consumption out of which approximately 20 lac bales have been imported yet.

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BGMEA bats for industrial zones in Dhaka, Chittagong

(Source: Fibre2Fashion, February 03, 2017)



In order to boost manufacturing of apparels in the country, Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) has suggested the government to establish two new industrial zones near Dhaka and Chittagong. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has already announced that her government will set up 100 such industrial zones in Bangladesh.

The proposed 100 industrial zones are likely to require some time for establishment and coming into operation, said Md Siddiquir Rahman, president of BGMEA at a press conference held recently. He said that this is the reason why the association is requesting the government to set up the zones for the garment sector on a priority basis. In case it is not possible to establish the industrial zones, Rahman asked for limited governmental land to help relocate RMG factories from their current locations. Besides helping the manufacturing units, this move is also likely to aid the banks to overcome crisis, according to the president.

He also urged the people of the country as well as the government to save the RMG industry and said that their cooperation is needed to achieve the target of earning \$50 billion in apparel exports by 2021. (KD)

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Philippines aims to revive Mindanao silk industry

(Source: Fibre2Fashion, February 03, 2017)



The department of trade and industry (DTI) in Bukidnon, Philippines has joined the technology mission organised by Northern Mindanao Technical Working Group (TWG), in an attempt to revitalise the Mindanao silk industry. The activity aims to learn more about the potentials of the industry and study the technologies needed to improve productivity.

The partnership will also explore the possibility of forging a partnership between different agencies in Northern Mindanao, and leading silk manufacturers in the country.

the TWG team visited the sericulture project of the Organisation for Industrial, Spiritual and Cultural Advancement (OISCA) Bago Training Centre, which within its 26-hectare farmland produces 1.5 tons of silk yarn annually, accounting for 90 per cent of the country's total production.

Around 80 per cent of its silk products are sold to weavers in Aklan, and the remaining 20 percent to Manila based traders.

Philippine fashion designer Melody Parrel-Pimentel, along with other key government agencies too are pushing for the revival of Mindanao silk. (AR)

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New company to promote innovation in textile printing and finishing

(Source: Innovation in Textiles, February 03, 2017)

Imprima S.p.a., a new holding company dedicated entirely to textile finishing, has been funded by a pool of financial investors led by the Italian Private Equity Fund Wisequity IV, through the acquisition of 100% of the German KBC and the Italian Guarisco.

Thanks to the creative heritage of the brands acquired through new holding Imprima, clean and smart manufacturing, proximity to markets, high quality, and sustainability, Imprima aims to establish itself as a preferred partner for brands and retailers in the world of fashion.



Wise SGR, a private equity fund management company, which manages Imprima, is preparing for new acquisitions in Italy and abroad. According to the firm, the company's business model will be centred on the concept of sustainability understood as financial, industrial, social, and environmental sustainability.

International outlook

Thanks to the acquisition of 100% of the German finishing and textile printing company KBC and 100% the Italian company Guariscio by Wise SGR, Imprima is enriched by an international outlook that makes it extremely competitive in the market, which will be reinforced in the coming months with additional acquisitions.

"We started with two milestones in the industry: KBC, a company with more than two and a half centuries of history that is characterized by a refined and distinctive design and creative heritage and positioning, and Guarisco, an Italian family company, dynamic, young, known for design that rapidly transposes the FASHION factor to bring it to the world of fast fashion", said co-CEO of Imprima, Paolo Gramaglia.

Investments

Over EUR 30 million are planned for investments in technology and an acquisitions programme that continues to this day. "We are working to finalise other TOP level acquisitions in Italy and abroad", added co-CEO of Imprima Chiaretto Calò.

"There are industrial solutions but their adoption on a global SCALE requires volumes, capital, human resources and management that is in an advanced stage of the necessary learning curve: all elements that we have collected at Imprima and its subsidiaries."

The textile printing industry today is worth about 20 billion linear metres, and is growing at a compound annual rate of 2.5%. The digital component of this sector, which today represents only 3-4%, continues to grow at a rate of 20% per year and is expected to reach 2 billion metres by 2020.

Leadership

Leading the new company will be Paolo Gramaglia and Chiaretto Calò, who share the role of co-CEO of the Imprima group, assisted by Vice President Gianluca Boni and CFO Giovanni Lorato. The management will act in coordination with Valentina Franceschini, Partner of Wise SGR and President of IMPRIMA, and Luca Boni, Director Wise SGR.

The entrepreneur Marco Guarisco and associate Andrea Moretti will remain in all operational effects in their current positions. The CEO of KBC Henri Rowiński will also continue to lead the German company.

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Cheaper blue jeans that are better for the environment? Genetic engineering can make it happen

(Source: Henry Miller, Wall Street Journal, Genetic Literacy Project, February 03, 2017)



Genetic engineers have developed a way to produce the two principal components [of blue jeans], cotton fabric and indigo dye, for less money and soon will make commercial blue jean production cheaper than ever.

Bt cotton helps farmers to control major pests—the cotton and pink bollworm and the tobacco budworm—which account for a quarter of all crop destruction due to insects. From 1996 through 2014, this technology increased cotton yields by an average of 17.3%.

Bt cotton is also environmentally friendly. With conventional cotton, farmers control insects by applying huge amounts of chemical pesticides known to harm birds, fish and other aquatic organisms. Lessening the need for pesticides also reduces farm workers' exposure to those chemicals.



The other main ingredient in bluejeans, indigo dye, is usually produced synthetically through a complex, multistep process performed with highly toxic chemicals. It requires special facilities and precautions to protect workers and the environment. But indigo dye can also be made using genetically engineered bacteria. This process has fewer steps, uses water instead of toxic organic solvents, incorporates corn syrup as the primary starting material, and yields nontoxic waste products. While it is not yet efficient enough for commercial use, stay tuned.

Instead of accepting critics' unsubstantiated claims, consumers should be demanding [genetic engineering's] wider application in agriculture and other industries.

Editor's note: This piece is written by Dr. Miller, a physician and molecular biologist, who was the founding director of the FDA's Office of Biotechnology.

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