

Introduction

Cotton has been grown in our country since time immemorial and history recorded and unrecorded bears witness to the claim this fibre is indigenous to this country, particularly the Asiatic types; *G. herbaceum* and *G. arboreum*. However, attempts to put cotton growing on a scientific basis and introduced the new world species, *G. hirsutum* in to this country date back to the middle of the 18th century. In the eighteenth century after arrival of British East India Company, attempts were made to introduce American cotton for cultivation and on experiment basis cultivation has been made in Gujarat. But no success was achieved by original American types and therefore, efforts were made to improve indigenous cotton. In this context, the Regional Cotton Res. Station was established in the year 1913 with the objective to carry out cotton research activity for Asiatic cotton production and productivity for farmers of Middle Gujarat. After independence, cotton growing area of the country shifted in Pakistan and the textile mills remained in India resulted shortage of cotton- lint in India. To full fill this requirement of lint, there was urgent need to establish a Research Channel for increasing area and production of cotton crop. In this regards, this Station work for the cotton growing area of about seven lakh hectares from river Narmada to river Sabarmati. The areas of black soil of Bharuch and Baroda districts are known as **KANAM** cotton belt producing high quality cotton lint.

History of Bharuch Cotton Research Station:

Since the 16th century and before independence, cotton was grown in the states like Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Punjab and Haryana. So, as far as Gujarat is concerned, main area of cotton growing tract were Surat, Kanam and Wagad and the land variety 'Bharuchi' was popular and grown in 'Kanam Pradesh'. Bharuch is popular for its lint quality, fibre finess and strength in the cotton lint market. But after wards, short staple rough linted variety 'Goghari' introduced by farmers and mixture in the original variety that resulted in the deterioration of the quality and value, ultimately the market and reputation of Bharuchi cotton was gone down and reputation. The Goghari had loose their popularity due to its high susceptibility to wilt disease. At that time the availability of high quality lint, for the different types of fabrics viz; Baftas, Basta, Mascline, Rough and thick clothes cotton for Sadh becoming popular which were made in Bharuch. This types of fabrics were never made before even in the country or out sides the country in 1660. In 1723, even Englishman 'Fobers' have also noted the Massline fabric. It was also came to know that 17000 takas of cloth of broad range Bafta (Basta) were exported from Bharuch to England in 1683. The fibre fabrics 'Nepha' were used to made various wearable clothes like Zabhbha, Sadara and the Europions have made pant from rough and thick colour clothes in 1977. Furthermore, the Fabrics known as sari of Kumas, Paramani, Musafi, Rakbun were also made and exported from Bharuch. These all clothes were made on Desi Charakha. During this time, Britishers were arrived in India and East India Company had established a textile

mill in Bharuch in 1854. The head of this mill was Mr. London, so the textile Mill was also known as a 'London Saheb Charakha' which was working with men and bullocks. This textile mill was not only first in Mumbai state but was also first in India. The period of 17th and 18th century was Golden History of Bharuch Kanam Pradesh.

Primary information of the centre:

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| Name of the Centre | Regional Cotton Research Station Navsari Agricultural University Maktampur Farm, Bharuch-392 012 Gujarat (India) | | |
| Year of Establishment | 1913 | | |
| Agro-climatic information of the center: | Name | Agro-climatic zone: South Gujarat Agro-climatic Zone-II | |
| | Rainfall | The annual average rainfall of this station for last 15 years is 898.1 mm. | |
| | Soil | The soil of the farm is medium black soil with high moisture retentive capacity which is poor in nitrogen, medium in phosphorus and high in potash. Most of the micronutrient is up to the sufficient level in the soil and pH is 7.5. | |
| | Temperature | The climatic condition of the area represents the subtropical condition with semi arid climate. The monsoon commenced by third week of June. Average minimum and maximum temperature of the year varying from 21.4 °C to 34.0 °C. | |
| | Geographical type | Climate | Subtropical |
| | | Latitude | North 22° |
| | | Longitude | East 73.5° |
| | | Altitude | 16.5 meter |
| | | Temperature | varies:21.4 to 34.0 °C |
| | | Average rainfall | 898.1 mm |

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| | Soil properties | Type | Medium black soil with high moisture retentive capacity. |
| | | pH | 7.5 |
| | | Organic carbon | Low to Medium |
| | | Available N ₂ | Low to Medium |
| | | Available P ₂ O ₅ | Medium |
| | | Available K ₂ O | High |
| | | Conductivity | 1 to 2 ds/m |