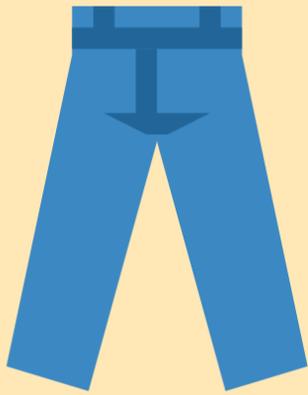


Know the facts: Australia's cotton industry

1.) INDUSTRY FACTS



- In an average year, Australia's cotton growers produce enough cotton to **clothe 500 million people**.
- The fibre from **one 227kg cotton bale** can produce **215** pairs of jeans, **250** single bed sheets, **1200** T-shirts, **2100** pairs of boxer shorts, **3000** nappies, **4300** pairs of socks or **680,000** cotton balls.

2.) NUMBER OF FARMS

- In 2017-18, there were **1436** cotton farms in Australia.
- **66%** were in NSW, **33%** were in Queensland.



3.) WORKFORCE



- The average farm provides **jobs for 6.6 people**.
- In a **non-drought year**, the Australian cotton industry employs up to **10,000 people**.

4.) AUSSIE COTTON QUALITY

- **91.4%** of Australia's cotton crop in 2017 **met or exceeded the base grade**.
- **40.7%** was graded as **premium or high quality** (above base grade), attracting a higher price on the world market.



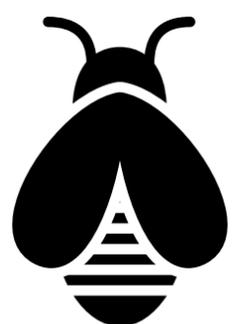
5.) AUSTRALIA'S PLACE IN THE WORLD COTTON MARKET



- Australia was the **third largest exporter** in the world in 2016-17.
- **99%** of Australia's raw cotton is **exported**, mainly to south-east Asia.

6.) INSECT PEST CONTROL

- There's been a **93% decrease in insecticide use** since 1997, coinciding with introduction of BT cotton and strong Integrated Pest Management.



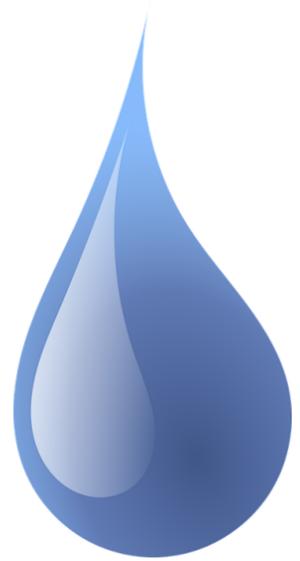
7.) LAND USE EFFICIENCY



- In Australia, **33% less land is now required** to produce one tonne of cotton lint compared to 1995-96.
- It takes **30% of the land to produce one metric tonne of cotton fibre** in Australia, compared to the global average.

8.) COTTON CROP WATER REQUIREMENTS

- Cotton's average irrigation requirement is **6.8 megalitres** per hectare.
- This compares to **rice** (12.1 ML/ha), **fruit and nut trees, plantation or berry fruits** (6.5 ML/ha), and **sugar cane** (5.6 ML/ha).
- **Farmers choose to "spend" their water entitlements** on the crops that deliver the best return per unit of water; in many areas that crop is cotton.



9.) WATER USE EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENTS

- **40% less water is now needed** to grow one tonne of cotton lint in Australia compared to 2003.



10.) COTTON'S TOTAL WATER USE



- In 2015-16, cotton accounted for 16% of water use on Australian farms.
- In 2015-16, the largest area of irrigated land in Australia was pastures and cereal crops for grazing, which accounted for 576,000 hectares of area watered, or 26.8% of the total area irrigated (2,148,000 hectares).

COMPILED BY COTTON AUSTRALIA

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