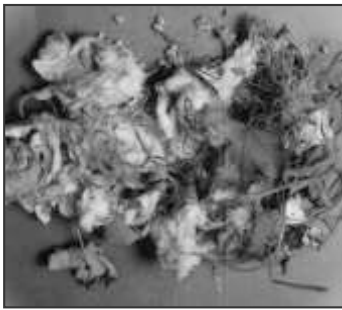




CIRCOT's Better Management Practices for Contaminant Free Cotton



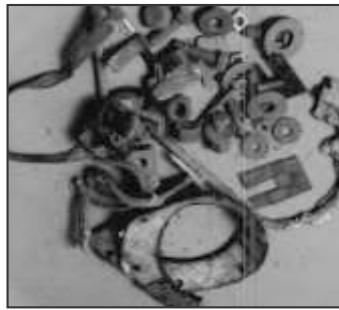
Cotton gets contaminated during various stages of handling and the varieties of contaminants removed at Indian Ginneries are given below



Plastic, jute, cloth



Tobacco/bidi pouches



Nuts/bolts



Stones

CIRCOT's Better Management Practices

At Farms:

DO'S

- Start picking after evaporation of morning dew drops
- Pick kapas only from well-opened bolls.
- Picking should be done only after at least 50 % of the bolls in the field have opened.
- Start picking from the bottom of the cotton plant to avoid deposition of dry leaf bits on the bolls when the plant shakes.
- Cotton pickers should cover their heads with cloth to prevent cotton being contaminated with hair.
- Cotton should be covered with cotton cloth or tarpaulin to avoid soiling of cotton.

DON'TS

- While harvesting cotton, do not pick up leaves, stem bits, twigs, bracts, etc.
- Avoid mixing of kapas from different varieties or from different picking of the same variety to maintain the grade of cotton.
- Do not add water to kapas.
- Do not allow extraneous matter like fodder to get mixed with kapas.
- Don't store fire-crackers near kapas stock to prevent fire.
- Untrained and under-age labour should not be engaged.

During transportation to farm house

DO'S

- Clean the hand cart/ bullock cart/ tractor trolley before loading kapas.
- Cover the cotton loaded in hand cart/ tractor from, all sides with cotton cloth or canvas while transporting cotton to the farm house.
- Different varieties must be segregated while transporting cotton from the field to the farmer's house for storage.

DON'TS

- Do not permit labourers to sit or lie down on kapas heaps during transport.
- Do not carry any other material in the cart/ trolley that can contaminate cotton.

During Storage

DO'S

- Storage space for kapas should be clean and dry. If cemented floor is not available, cover the surface with cotton cloth.
- Kapas heaped in the farm house should be covered with cotton cloth.

DON'TS

- Do not store wet kapas in a closed room/ godown as microbes might develop leading to fibre damage and discoloration.
- Do not allow workers to lie down on heaps of kapas as hair dropping from their heads will cause contamination of cotton.

During Transportation to Market yards

DO'S

- Cotton should be placed in clean trolley/ bullock carts only.
- While loading, immature, rotten and damaged bolls should be picked out.
- Only one variety should be loaded on one trolley, so that purity is ensured.
- Cotton should be covered with cotton cloth during transport.

At Market Yards

DO'S

- Keep market yard clean.
- Cotton arriving at the market should be unloaded only on cemented surface or on cotton cloth/ tarpaulins.
- Cover kapas heaps with tarpaulins so that rain water does not seep in and airborne impurities do not enter cotton.

DON'TS

- Never unload cotton on bare ground, as otherwise cotton will get contaminated with soil.
- Do not expose kapas to elements of nature like the sun, wind and rain.
- Do not allow cattle and other animals to move around kapas heaps.
- Do not throw empty packets of tobacco, betel nuts, etc. on kapas heaps.



For further details, please contact:

The Director

Central Institute for Research on Cotton Technology,
Adenwala Road, Matunga, Mumbai 400019.

Web: www.circot.res.in Email: circot@vsnl.com

Tel: 91-22-24127273/76 Fax: 91-22-24130835