What is CottonPortal.org?

CottonPortal.org provides exporters, importers, investors and trade support institutions with a single entry point for all the cotton-specific information available in WTO and ITC databases on market access, trade statistics, country-specific business contacts and development-assistance related information, as well as links to relevant documents and webpages. It also provides links to other organisations active on cotton.

For whom?

Exporters, importers, investors and trade support institutions can use it to search business opportunities and market requirements for products.

To know more about:

The cotton related work at the WTO, please refer to: https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/agric_e/cotton_e.htm or contact agcd_mailbox@wto.org

Statistical information on trade, tariffs and non-tariff measures available at the WTO, please refer to: https://www.wto.org/english/res_e/statis_e/statis_e.htm or contact mail@wto.org

ITC market analysis information and services, please refer to: www.intracen.org/marketanalysis
Why Cotton?

Cotton is one of the world’s most actively traded commodities. Because literally nothing is wasted from cotton production and transformation, farmers and traders – in countries at all levels of economic development – see the opportunity to produce, buy or sell cotton and its related products across borders as a way to increase income and boost productivity.

Cotton is also a production of vital importance to the economies, rural development and poverty reduction strategies of developing countries including in Africa, and in particular among least developed countries. Through induced effects on infrastructure development, education and basic health services, cotton production acts as an essential link within these countries’ development strategies.

The special role of cotton in the international trading system has been recognized by the WTO since the launch in April 2003 of the cotton initiative by a group of 4 African cotton producing countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad and Mali).

Why CottonPortal.org?

To be exchanged internationally, cotton products such as lint, seeds, husks and oil have to overcome various hurdles. These include both custom duties and an array of non-tariff requirements.

CottonPortal.org is a joint initiative of the WTO and the ITC to contribute to a more efficient cotton trading system thanks to:

- Improved transparency and accessibility of trade-related information on cotton products
- Relevant information for daily activities of cotton producers, traders and policy makers

What does it offer?

Users can search cotton information through a wide range of criteria, including:

- Market information:
  - Customs tariffs & preferences
  - Compulsory requirements
  - WTO SPS and TBT notifications
  - Voluntary standards
  - Trade statistics

- WTO corner:
  - WTO Cotton Web Page
  - WTO Secretariat Background Paper
  - WTO-monitored Cotton Development Assistance
  - Agriculture Information Management System (AG-IMS)

- Business contacts
- Cotton news and events
- Useful links
- Learning corner

Quick answers to your questions

- What tariff is applied to my cotton products in different destination markets?
- What requirements should I comply with to export my products to different destination markets?
- Are there any antidumping or countervailing duties applied by my partner country to my product?
- How much cotton was traded last year and has it been increasing or decreasing?
- Which company is buying or selling cotton across the world?
- What do the latest SPS or TBT notifications on cotton say?
- How can I know how a Member administers its Tariff Rate Quota for cotton?
- What has been notified on cotton export subsidies, domestic support, and market access?
- Are there active development assistance projects in a specific beneficiary country?