

Spain

The harvest was initiated, as anticipated, during September, and was in full swing by the end of the month. Perhaps 20 to 25 percent of the crop has been picked to date. The weather has been generally favourable for picking thus far, and helpful clear and dry conditions are predicted to persist at least until the weekend. Forecasts indicate the possibility of some showers early next week.

Production estimates have been revised downward of late. The official assessment of this season's planted area proves to be 63,300 hectares, slightly lower than earlier expectations. In addition, some areas have reported pest attacks, in particular of pink bollworm, which will have affected yields.

Some forecasts indicate that the lint outturn may not greatly exceed 55,000 tonnes (including some 4,500 of long staples). If that view proves accurate, the portion of the upland crop uncommitted from first hands would amount to an estimated 15,000 tonnes.