



SPAIN

A major fire has destroyed an as yet unquantified volume of cotton held in storage at a cooperative gin close to Lebrija, in the province of Sevilla. The fire broke out on October 15, and had been extinguished by the following day. Local press reports convey the impression that the damage has been substantial. Some observers estimate that as many as 20,000 bales may have been affected.

Prior to the fire, a mood of considerable optimism had surrounded the progress of the harvest. Favorable yields had suggested that the lint outturn might exceed earlier estimates of 65,000 tones, and perhaps reach 70,000 tones. Data thus far available with regard to various quality parameters have also been viewed as positive.

Picking is well advanced, and week, however, a fall in temperatures of several degrees, to around the low 20s Celsius or below, has been accompanied by a period of rainfall that is forecast to last for a few days.