

SPAIN

Crop estimates fall

According to regional government figures produced this week, the total area dedicated to the cotton crop in 2022/23 was just short of 52,000 hectares, around 10 percent less than last year. Favourable conditions in April and May supported plants early in the growing cycle; however, a lack of irrigation water over the summer hampered their later development. The same official source places seed

cotton output at around 127,000 tonnes, which would render about 42,300 tonnes of lint, almost a third less than the three-year average. Market observers, however, forecast a smaller figure of between 35,000 and 40,000 tonnes, citing greater losses due to water shortages and pest infestations.

Around half of the estimated crop has been sold so far, and ginneries are reluctant to offer further quantities until they are sure of final figures. In the 2021/22 season to June 2022, 61,689

tonnes of lint were exported, with a value of €126.34 million. Bangladesh, Turkey and Pakistan (in that order) were the principal markets. On average, exports account for 94 percent of Spanish fibre production.

