



# Trends Of Cotton Exports In India: A Special Reference To Tiruppur District

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**Abstract:** Cotton has historically been one of India's most significant agricultural and industrial commodities, contributing substantially to foreign exchange earnings and employment generation. The country ranks among the leading producers and exporters of cotton and cotton-based products, with Tiruppur district in Tamil Nadu emerging as a global hub for knitwear and textile exports. This study examines the trends of cotton exports in India with a particular focus on Tiruppur, analyzing growth patterns, export destinations, and the challenges faced by the industry. The research highlights the role of Tiruppur's textile clusters in driving India's cotton export performance, sustainability.

**Index Terms** - Trends, Cotton Exports, Sustainability, Performance

## I. INTRODUCTION

India contributes about 23 per cent of the world's cotton output, making it the single major supplier. Cotton covers 13.06 million hectares in India, nearly 40 per cent of the global cotton-growing land. The crop supports the livelihood of around 60 million people, including farmers, labourers, and workers in ginning, spinning, and textile industries. Out of 33.1 million hectares worldwide, India alone accounts for more than one-third of the cotton-growing area. Cotton feeds into India's textile sector, which is one of the largest in the world and a major export earner.

Cotton textiles are a major contributor to India's foreign exchange reserves. Cotton has deep roots in India's history, from hand spun khadi to modern fashion. Farmers face issues like pest attacks, water dependency, and price fluctuations, making sustainability crucial.

Tamil Nadu was the largest textile exporting state in financial year 2025, contributing \$7.99 billion (26.81% share) out of India's total textile exports of \$36.61 billion. In financial year 2024, Tamil Nadu's textile exports were \$7.15 billion (20.78% share). This means the state's share grew by nearly 6 percentage points in just one year. Tamil Nadu's lead over Gujarat, the second-largest exporter, increased from 5.42 basis points in financial year 2024 to 7.88 basis points in financial year 2025, showing stronger competitiveness. India's cotton textile exports overall saw mixed trends in financial year 2025 — fibre exports fell by 27%, yarn by 6%, but fabrics (+11%) and made-ups (+10%) grew. Tamil Nadu, being a hub for fabrics and made-

ups, benefited from this structural shift. Known as the “Knitwear Capital of India,” Tiruppur drives cotton garment exports, especially knitted fabrics and ready-made apparel. Cotton exports from Tamil Nadu are not just raw fibre but also yarn, fabrics, and finished garments, which fetch higher margins.

## II. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

This study seeks to develop a time series model of India’s cotton exports, focusing on cotton as an important agricultural crop for the nation. Accurate forecasting of cotton exports has significant implications for India’s economic development and structural transformation, highlighting the need for specialized analysis of cotton exporters in Tiruppur District. The research is designed to provide empirical evidence on how small-scale cotton export challenges are perceived in Tiruppur, while also revealing the characteristics and experiences of the exporters involved.

## III. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Saranya. V and Mohamed Shafi .A (2025) examined the key factors influencing the export performance of the garment sector, focusing on internal challenges like production efficiency and quality control, as well as external factors such as government policies and market trends. Using a descriptive research design, data was collected from 136 textile exporters in Tiruppur through snowball sampling. Statistical tools like ANOVA, correlation analysis, and ranking were employed for data analysis. Findings indicated that quality control disparities, delays in delivery, and government regulations significantly impact export performance. Additionally, brand reputation, product quality, and price sensitivity are key determinants of market demand. The study suggested improvements in supply chain management, automation, trend adaptation, and cost-effective logistics to enhance global competitiveness and sustainability in the garment export industry.

Harish. S and Ganesan. M (2024) have identified in the study, Tiruppur is India’s knitwear capital and a critical node in cotton-based textile exports. The literature consistently frames Tiruppur’s export trajectory through firm-level capabilities, market and policy environments, and persistent operational challenges that shape both growth and volatility over time.

Kowsalya M (2024) aimed to investigate and understand the multifaceted issues confronted by Tiruppur exporters, providing valuable insights for stakeholders and policymakers. The primary objective of this study is to study the challenges and problems faced by the Garment Exporters in Tiruppur City in export business. This research was based on descriptive research methodology, and applied simple random sampling technique to select the sample. Totally 152 sample respondents were selected and the statistical tools simple percentage analysis, factor analysis and ANOVA was used to analyse the collected data.

Sangeetha. R (2020) focused, on Marketing Strategies of Garment Industry with Special Reference to Tiruppur. The main objectives of the study were to assess the government’s commitment to support the apparel industry, suggest areas of marketing strategies that could be increased for the development of exports of goods, and evaluate the many issues that garment exporters have to face. For the purpose of the study, secondary as well as primary data were used. Questionnaires have been employed to gather the primary data.

## IV. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- ❖ To examine the performance of cotton exports from Tiruppur District between FY 2020 and FY2025.
- ❖ To measure the contribution of cotton exports from Tiruppur to Tamil Nadu’s and India’s overall textile economy.
- ❖ To suggest strategies for enhancing competitiveness, sustainability, and resilience of Tiruppur’s cotton export sector.

## V. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This present study based on secondary data. The data were collected from, Cotton Export Promotion Council, various, journals, magazines, newspapers and web sites and Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The period of study is 2017 - 2025.

Explanatory sequential mixed-methods combining quantitative time series analysis with qualitative field insights. Tiruppur district cotton-based textile exports (raw cotton, yarn, fabrics, knitwear, and made-ups) for FY2015–FY2025, with forecasts up to FY2028. Annual and monthly export values (₹ and USD), export volumes (kg/tonnes), and share of India’s textile exports; exporter-level characteristics for small and medium units. Secondary data have been collected from DGFT export statistics, Ministry of Commerce (DGCIS), RBI exchange rates, UN COMTRADE HS codes (cotton and cotton textiles), AEPC/TEA reports, and Tamil Nadu State Industries data. Export value, volume, unit value (price), product mix (fibre, yarn, fabric, garments), destination markets, freight/logistics cost, tariff duties, credit cost, lead times, order cancellations, and climate-related disruptions.

## VI. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 6. 1: Cotton Production in India (lakh bales of 170kg)

Year	Production (Lakh Bales of 170kg)
2017 – 2018	370.0
2018 – 2019	333.0
2019 – 2020	365.0
2020 – 2021	352.5
2021 - 2022	311.2
2022 – 2023	336.6
2023 – 2024	325.2
2024 - 2025	302.3

Source: The Cotton Corporation of India Limited

India’s total production of cotton in the 2024-25 season have been estimated at 302.25 lakh bales of 170 kgs. Total production of cotton in the year 2023-24 (provisional) is 32.5 million bales (bales of 170 kg each). Total production of cotton in the year 2022-23 was 33.6 million bales and in 2021-22, it stood at 31.1 million bales. The total cotton supply till end of the cotton season 2024-25 (i.e. upto 30th September 2025) is estimated at 357.44 lakh bales of 170 kgs. The cotton exports for 2024-25 crop year are estimated to be at 18 lakh bales of 170 kgs. The Central Zone (which comprises states like Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Madhya Pradesh) was the biggest producer of cotton in India in 2022-23, with Gujarat being the highest producer of the Central Zone, contributing 9.49 million bales (bales of 170 kg each). Saurashtra constitutes about 70% of Gujarat’s cotton production, with farmers in Amreli - the state’s largest cotton district – playing a key role. Yavatamal, Buldhana, Akola, Amravati, Nagpur, Washim, and Wardha are the districts of Vidarbha which are Maharashtra’s major cotton-producing areas.

### 6.1.1 Augmented Dickey–Fuller (ADF) test

Production shows a downward trend (370 → 302.3 lakh bales). Variance is not constant (fluctuations differ year to year). This suggests the series is non-stationary. So, the Augmented Dickey–Fuller (ADF) test will likely return a p-value > 0.05, meaning the data is non-stationary and needs differencing before forecasting. The ADF test on cotton production (2017–2025) would likely indicate non-stationary.

Table 6.2: Export Trend - Total Product

YEAR	TOTAL EXPORTS (US \$ million)
2018	7045
2019	7888
2020	5737
2021	6319
2022	10788
2023	5663
2024	6780
2025	8487

Source: Committee on Cotton Production and Consumption (COCPC)



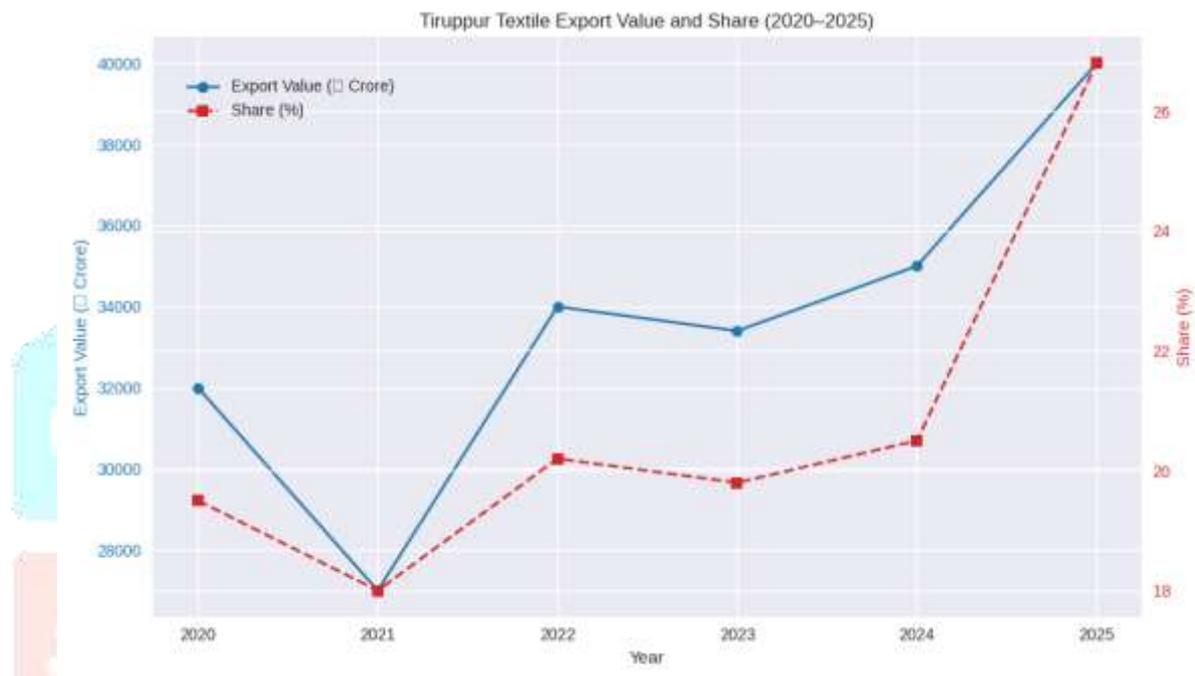
In 2022, India stood as the third-highest exporter of raw cotton globally, accounting for about 11 percentage of the total global exports. The value of cotton exports reached US\$ 6.78 billion in FY 2024, and Rs. 73,233 crore (US\$ 8.48 billion) in FY 2025 (until December 2024). As per the Cotton Corporation of India, India's total cotton exports were 2.8 million bales in 2023 – 2024, 3.0 million bales in FY 2023, value to US\$ 5.66 billion in FY 2023 compared to US\$ 10.78 billion in 2021- 2022, and US\$ 6.3 billion in 2020-2021. It accounted to 1.25 percentage and 2.55 percentage of India's total exports in 2022 – 2023 and 2021 – 2022, respectively.

The Government of India along with the Export Promotion Council has set a long-term target of US\$ 100 billion for textiles industry exports by 2025-2026 and growing productivity from the current level of around 450 kg lint per hectare to at least 800 – 900 kg lint per hectare. The focus continues to adopt the latest innovative technologies and global best farming practices to enhance productivity and achieve sustainable quality cotton output. To achieve these goals, the emphasis remains to motivate cotton farmers through awareness meetings, timely advisories and transfer of technology from the lab to the field in the most effective manner by using natural methods and adopting modern scientific farm practices.

Table 6.3: Export in Tiruppur

YEAR	Exports (Crore)	Percentage
2020	32,000	19.5
2021	27,000	18
2022	34,000	20.2
2023	33,400	19.8
2024	35,000	20.5
2025	40,000	26.8

Source: Tiruppur Export Association (TEA)



Exports stood at ₹32,000 crore, with a 19.5 percent share of India's textile exports in FY 2020. Pandemic impact reduced exports to ₹27,000 crore, share dropped to 18 percent in FY 2021. Strong recovery to ₹34,000 crore, share rose to 20.2 percent in FY 2022. Slight dip to ₹33,400 crore, share at 19.8 percent in FY 2023. Growth resumed with ₹35,000 crore, share at 20.5 percent in FY 2024. Major jump to ₹40,000 crore, share surged to 26.8 percent, consolidating Tiruppur's leadership in FY 2025.

## VII. CONCLUSION

Tamil Nadu's cotton export trend shows steady growth and structural transformation from raw fibre to finished textiles. The state is consolidating its position as India's textile export leader, with Tiruppur at the heart of cotton garment exports. Tiruppur has shifted from post-pandemic recovery to strong growth, especially in value-added knitwear exports. The 26.8 per cent share in FY25 shows Tiruppur's rising dominance in India's textile export landscape. Export growth aligns with global demand for sustainable cotton garments and Tiruppur's integrated supply chain strength.

Despite temporary setbacks during the pandemic years, Tiruppur has steadily regained momentum, with exports rising significantly by FY25 and its share of India's textile exports reaching 26.8 percent, the highest in recent years. Tiruppur's integrated textile ecosystem, entrepreneurial base, and global reputation as the "Knitwear Capital of India" have enabled it to adapt to shifting global demand and strengthen its competitive edge. At the same time, challenges remain: tariff barriers, climate risks, and global demand fluctuations continue to affect exporters, particularly small-scale units. Yet, the district's ability to diversify, innovate, and

sustain employment highlights its pivotal role in India's cotton economy. Overall, Tiruppur's cotton export trend emphasises its importance not only as a regional hub but also as a national driver of textile-led economic development, with strong potential to expand further in global markets through sustainable practices and policy support.

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