



HISTORY OF COTTON AND CHARACTERISTICS OF ORIGIN

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Abstract: Cotton is one of the oldest natural fibers on earth. Its history goes back to ancient times and starts from 12000 BC. According to various sources, the Egyptians were the first to work with cotton. Cotton was called "White Gold" in Babylon. Cotton is a plant fiber obtained from cotton. When the fruit ripens, the cup of the cotton opens. Fiber together with seed - raw cotton is collected at cotton receiving points and sent to the cotton gin, where the fiber is separated from the seed. Then there is a separation of fibers along the length: the longest fibers of 20-55 mm are cotton fibers, and shorter fibers - lint - are used for making cotton wool, as well as for the production of explosives.

Keywords: Light industry, cotton growing, "White gold", Flavius Arrianom, trade goods, Marco Polo, morphological characters of cotton.

Introduction. Uzbekistan is a producer of cotton fiber, which is the main raw material for textile and light industry products. The quality indicators of the products produced by the cotton cleaning enterprises are at the level of standard requirements, the conformity to the world standards is the main factor for the product to be a marketable product in the world. In order to produce quality products, cotton ginning enterprises within the cotton ginning industry carry out the following activities: receiving and storing cotton, it is sent to the initial processing process, and finished products are produced from it - fiber, seed, lint. The technology of primary processing of cotton includes the following main processes: -drying of seeded cotton; -cleaning seed cotton from small and large impurities; - ginning of cotton; - linting of seed; -cleaning and pressing fiber, fluff and fibrous waste into a toy shape; -preparation of seeds. To carry out these processes, cotton ginning enterprises and cotton processing centers are equipped with technological machines and equipment, hydropress equipment, transport, mechanization devices, saw repair and power plant.

Along with cereal crops, cotton is one of the oldest cultural crops on our planet. Cotton thread was used in the Indus Valley 3 thousand years ago. Cotton was cultivated in Central Asia 5 centuries ago for economic purposes.

Cotton is a plant in the Malva family of the genus *Gossipium*, a small tree-like plant that can be an annual or perennial. A short annual plant with a height of 0.7-1.5 m of branches is a cultivated type of cotton. In terms of economic usefulness, the Indo-Chinese (*Gossipium arboreum*), African-Asian (*Gossipium herbaceum*), Mexican (*Gossipium hirsutum*) and Peruvian (*Gossipium barbadense*) types of cotton are known. The last two types of cotton are found in Central Asian countries, including *Gossipium barbadense*, which is grown only in Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.





Cultivated types of cotton consist of several selective varieties. A selective variety is a set of plants with a classification unit of a cultured type with morphological and economic signs and characteristics of the same generation. Morphological signs of cotton are distinctive features of plant structure (stem structure, branches, leaves, flower, boll, seed, etc.). includes indicators that determine the quantity and quality.

The main indicator for cotton is the quantity and quality of fiber obtained from it. Depending on the quality of the fiber, cotton is divided into long and medium fiber varieties. The length of the fiber of the long fiber cotton variety is 36-42 mm. The long fiber varieties are mainly *Gossipium barbadense*. Medium fiber cotton is 25-35 mm long and has a relatively coarse fiber, mainly *Gossipium hirsutum* species or hybrids between species. Cotton is propagated by seeds that can retain their vital properties for several years.

In order for the seed to germinate, the necessary conditions for moisture in the soil and temperature in the environment are necessary. Normal growth of cotton begins when the moisture content of the seed is 60 percent or higher. For this reason, hairy seed is moistened before planting to accelerate its growth. The seed begins to germinate in 5-7 days when the temperature in the soil is 14-16 °C and in the air is 15-20 °C.

After the seedling takes root, the vegetative phase of growth begins, the first true leaf appears seven to ten days after the cotton sprouts, and after another 4-5 days, the second leaf is formed, and so on. in this way, the cotton stalk begins to grow. After the formation of 5-7 or more leaves, the branches of the crop (sympodial) begin to develop.

About a month after cotton sprouts, the first boll is formed, and after another 25-30 days, the flower opens. Pods form and flower every three days vertically (from bottom to top along main stem) and seven days horizontally (on crop stems)

The harvest, which is called kosak, consists of pallachas, which are limited by 4-5 cobs in medium fiber varieties. In long fiber varieties, the pod has 3-4 petals. There are 5-9 or more fibrous seeds inside the palla, each of which is covered with a fiber of a certain length (from 25 to 45 mm) and a short fluff (less than 20 mm long).

Cotton is one of the oldest natural fibers on earth. Its history goes back to ancient times and starts from 12000 BC. According to various sources, the Egyptians were the first to work with cotton. Cotton was called "White Gold" in Babylon.

The oldest cotton items decorated with fur and feathers found by archaeologists date back to 5800 BC. (they were found in a cave near Tehuacan, Mexico). It is known that cotton was first grown in India. Some of the first cotton fabrics were woven between 3,250 and 2,750 BC. and found in the Indian province of Mohenjo-Daro. Pieces of cotton cloth and ropes from this material, produced in 3000 BC. It saw the light again during recent excavations in the Indus Valley in Pakistan. In the same place, in Pakistan, a 9000-year-old cotton seed was extracted.

India is considered the official homeland of cotton, since the first mention of woven fabric and its trade was related to it. According to Hindu beliefs, cotton is a gift from heaven. In India, even the texts of ancient songs have been preserved, in which thin threads are glorified, from which a canvas is made. One of the hymns - "Rig Veda" glorifies these threads. These canvases are used for the cushions of the gods. And God, who rests his head on them, finds peace and rest. And after sleeping on such pillows, the gods like people more.





Although there are opinions that Egypt was the ancestor of cotton. There is evidence that the Egyptians of 2500 BC knew how to make cloth of the highest quality, no less than today. The mummies of the Egyptian pharaohs of that period were wrapped in cloth with a density of more than 500 threads per inch. This type of wonderful English fabric today has a density of 350 threads per inch.

Cotton fibers have been found in Peru, dating back to 2500-1750 BC. It is believed that cotton was used for the first time in America, in the land of the Incas. It was from here that cotton was later brought to Egypt. Cotton was also cultivated by the Mayan civilization in Guatemala and the Yucatan Peninsula. Aztecs also actively used cotton clothes in everyday life. When Christopher Columbus arrived in America, he noticed that the natives used hammocks made of cotton threads. The Spanish conquistadors noticed that Montezuma was wearing a handmade cotton tunic.

From the 7th century BC. Cotton cultivation was mainly carried out in India. The processing of raw materials was complicated and took a long time (everything was done by hand). The resulting fabrics were worth it: they were light and wearable. It is known that cotton was used mainly as an ornamental plant in China in the 7th century. But even the first Chinese paper was made of cotton fiber. Silk clothes were mainly worn in China. The historical fact is that Emperor Wu Li, who lived in the 6th century, wore a very expensive cotton shirt, but most likely received it as a gift. Cotton weaving became widespread in China only at the end of the 13th century, after the conquest by the Mongol-Tatars.

In 445 BC, Herodotus (445 BC) also mentions the production of cotton cloth in India: "There are wild trees from which wool can be obtained, which surpasses the beauty and quality of wool from sheep. Indians make clothes from this wood wool." The Greek philosopher and naturalist Theophrastus (370-287 BC) touched upon the issue of cotton cultivation to some extent: "The leaves of the trees from which the Indians make cloth are the same as the leaves of the mulberry, but in general they are wild grasses. like plants. Rose

Nearchus, the commander of Alexander the Great's army, wrote in his report: "In India there are bushes that grow wool. Local residents make shirts, blankets, and turbans from it. The fabric obtained from this wool is whiter and thinner than ordinary fabrics.

The Greek geographer Strabo confirmed the accuracy of the reports of Nearchus and noted that at one time (54-25 BC) cotton fabrics were produced in Susiana - the Persian provinces of the Persian Gulf. Flavius Arrian, describing his journey, mentions the trade relations of the Indian cities with the Arabs and Greeks and calls the cloth "calico" (now calico).

Thus, cotton was known even in antiquity. However, cotton did not appear in Europe until 350 BC, when it was brought from Asia Minor to Greece. Later, the culture of cotton cultivation spread to North Africa, Spain and southern Italy thanks to the Moors who actively cultivated it. In the Middle Ages, the Crusaders were the main spreaders of the culture of cotton, opening permanent trade relations between the cities of Asia Minor and the Italian states, and gave a strong impetus to the commercialization of this product. By the way, all the names of the material (in addition to the official Latin word *gossypium*, "cotton" and "cotton" are also used) come from the Arabic "el-igutum" - the name by which cotton was known in antiquity. Since cotton was seen in Europe only as a finished product until the 8th century, it gave rise to many incredible and funny rumors and legends. It is believed that the cotton was harvested from the lamb plant. This lamb had an umbilical cord, with the help of which it was tied to the ground like a pumpkin. Even similar drawing books have been published. In those days, the price of a piece of cloth was calculated according to the





number of gold coins equal to its weight. It is not surprising that such a belief has existed since then: to see cotton in a dream is good luck in business.

Mention of cotton cultivation in Russian literature dates back to the period of Ivan III (1440-1505), when Russian merchants brought "Fly" - cotton, muslin (French Muslin - the name of the city) from Kafa (Feodosia). Mosul in Iraq, a thin soft silk or cotton cloth; curtains are usually made of muslin). With the discovery of northern Russia in the middle of the 16th century, both cotton and cotton products began to arrive in the country through Arkhangelsk. However, until the beginning of the 19th century, the production of cotton fabrics in Russia was relatively small, and it was concentrated in certain places, for example: Astrakhan, Moscow and Vladimir region.

In India, the first tool for ginning cotton is called "chok", which consists of two rollers, the upper one is fixed and the lower one rotates with a handle. The seeded cotton is fed between the spools, the spool catches the fiber and pulls it to the other side, the spools that could not pass between the spools are cut off and fall forward. With this operation, workers working in two or three shifts could clean no more than 6-8 kilograms of pure cotton per day. Therefore, there was no question of large and cheap production of cotton.

In the 1770s, the English were the first to produce cotton fabrics in Europe. One of the first cotton processing machines, as well as the idea and concept of such devices, according to various sources, belongs to Catherine Littlefield-Green and Henry Holmes (from other sources). But since patents were not granted to women in the United States at the time, a patent was registered in 1793 for Eli Whitney. And if the first cuts of fabric cost great money due to manual mining and processing, now most of the processes are automated. According to statistics, today every inhabitant of our planet uses at least 7 kg of cotton per year. Modern technologies and equipment made it possible to reduce the cost of cotton gauze and significantly expand the assortment. Cotton fabrics include: lace fabric, interlock, batiste, satin, calico, poplin, gauze, denim, pique, teak, percale, etc.

Despite the fact that the history of cotton, which is the basis for the textile industry, goes back several thousand years, this natural material began to play its role only in the 19th century.





In 1792, the sawing machine or Eli Whitney's sawing cotton gin was invented, which significantly accelerated and reduced the cost of this work (with the same 2-3 workers, the same as with the "stitch", first hundreds, and then with one and a half a day with one machine thousand and more kg, depending on the number of saws, that is, the size of the machine and the engine that drives the machine. work, in which the hands of workers, animal power, water, etc. could act as a driving force). Since that time, cotton farming has been developing rapidly and everywhere like no other industry in the world. Cotton is certainly one of the oldest natural fibers on earth. The history of cotton dates back to antiquity and seems to have started around 12,000 BC. cotton goods were found in a cave near the hamlet of Teuacan, Mexico. Articles date back to 5800 BC.

Nearchus, the commander of Alexander the Great's army, said: "In India, there are trees that grow wool, and the local people weave their flax by wrapping it in shirts, knees, leaves, and shoulders. This wool fabric makes them thinner and paler than the other.' Later, in 2640 BC, cotton appeared as a textile material in China. We also know that cotton was used as an ornamental plant until this time. The development of cotton industry in China is very slow, because silk has been the main textile fiber since ancient times.

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