

CROP SPECIFIC PAYMENT FOR COTTON



Production of cotton in the EU-25

	2003/2004	2004/2005
Sown areas (ha)	462.844	460.070
Effective production of unginned cotton (t)	1.312.297	1.506.308
Yield in unginned cotton (t/ha)	2,75	3,17
Production of ginned cotton	434.713	504.532
Yield in ginned cotton	0,939	1,097



Production of main producers in the EU-25: Spain, Greece and Portugal (2004/2005)

	Area sown (ha)	Effective production of unginced cotton (t)	Production of ginned cotton (t)
Greece	369.500	1.137.229	383.192
Spain	90.297	368.097	121.014
Portugal	273	982	326



Aid per ha is granted to farmers producing cotton

Conditions:

- Agricultural land authorised by the Member State for cotton production
- Use of authorised varieties
- The crop must be maintained at least till the opening of the capsules



Objective criteria for authorisation of agricultural land for cotton production

- Agricultural economy of the region for which cotton production is important
- Agricultural condition of the land
- Management of irrigation water
- Environmentally sensitive rotation and farming techniques



Other conditions of eligibility

- Complete sowing of the land (plant density)
- Agronomic practices – specific rules
 - fertilizers
 - irrigation
 - pesticides



- **National Base Areas:**

- Greece – 370 000 ha
- Spain – 70 000 ha
- Portugal – 360 ha

- **Amount of aid per eligible hectare:**

- Greece – 594 €
- Spain – 1039 €
- Portugal – 556 €

- **Proportional reduction in case of overrun of the National Base Area**



Approval of the Inter-Branch Organizations (IBO)

- An area of at least 10 000 ha + at least one ginning plant
- Inter-branch organization carries out well identified actions:
 - to increase the value of the produced unginning cotton
 - to improve the quality of the unginning cotton according to the needs of the ginner
 - to use environmentally sensitive methods of production
- Inter-branch organization adopts internal procedures (conditions of conformity and contributions) in particular:
 - the conditions of and contributions, according to the national and Community rules
 - the scale of distribution of aid by land plot category determined according to the quality of the unginning cotton to be provided



Commitments of the producers

- Voluntary adhesion - but:
- Membership is limited to only one inter-branch organization
- Producer must deliver the cotton to a ginner belonging to the inter-branch organization



Differentiation of aid

- Maximum $\frac{1}{2}$ of the total amount of aid is differentiated according to a scale
- Land plot category established on the basis of:
 - Fibre length
 - Humidity content
 - Average impurity rate
- Classification of parcels within the scale by plot category



Communications to the producers and the Commission

- Members State should communicate to the cotton producing farmers (before 31 January):
 - Authorised varieties
 - Criteria of land authorisation
 - Plant density
 - Agronomical practices
- Members State should communicate to the Commission:

Before 30 April – names and main characteristics of the approved IBO

Before 15 September – sowed surfaces with aid applications

Before 31 July – final dates concerning the sowed surfaces having received the crop specific payment for cotton

