

13. Issues related to commercial crops

Cotton:

- Around 65% area under cotton is rainfed
- Cotton is prone to pest & diseases. Whitefly infestation in the States of Punjab, Haryana & Rajasthan. Pink Bollworm infestation in the states of Gujarat, M.P, Karnataka, Maharashtra.
- Cotton faces wide fluctuation in prices due to change in global production & market.
- Labour intensive/ lack of mechanization
- Small & fragmented land holdings
- Unavailability of Public Sector Bt hybrids/ varieties

Jute:

- Poor adoption of new varieties by farmers
- Lack of knowledge for use of improved improved retting technology & grading
- Unavailability of water for retting
- Wide fluctuation in prices due to change in global production & market.
- Inadequate availability of certified jute seeds
- Labour intensive/ lack of mechanization
- Small & fragmented land holdings

Sugarcane:

- Slow expansion of area under high sugar content/improved varieties
- Coverage of sugarcane under drip irrigation in water scarce areas
- Large scale adoption of intercropping with sugarcane
- Popularization of new varieties by providing support for breeder seed production
- Production of quality planting materials including tissue culture plantlets.
- Designing, developing, sugarcane harvester suited in Indian conditions particularly economical for small holdings.