# Analysis of the Impact of Non-tariff Barriers on Xinjiang Cotton Import and Export Trade

Hongyu Ni, Feng Feng\* School of Economics and Management, Tianjin Agricultural College, Tianjin, 300384, China

**Abstract:** Xinjiang is located in the northwest of China and has abundant light and heat resources, providing a large number of industrial advantages for the development of the cotton industry. The cotton industry is the leading agricultural industry in Xinjiang and plays an important role in promoting regional economic development. However, in recent years, the import and export situation of cotton in Xinjiang has undergone major changes. Due to the impact of non-tariff barriers, the export volume of cotton in Xinjiang has gradually declined, and the import volume has gradually increased. The cotton trade in Xinjiang has changed from a surplus to a deficit. This paper first summarizes the relevant theories of non-tariff barriers, and proposes measures to face non-tariff barriers based on the analysis of Xinjiang's cotton import and export trade.

Keywords: Cotton; Non-tariff barriers; Import and export

#### 1. Introduction

With the gradual expansion of the global economy, the liberalization of trade and investment has been fully developed, and trade barriers in international trade have undergone significant changes. Among them, tariff barriers have been gradually reduced, and traditional nontariff barriers It has been subject to strict restrictions, including quotas, anti-dumping and countervailing. In China's Xinjiang cotton import and export trade, Xinjiang's cotton exports have played a considerable role in China's economy, and have had a considerable impact on the overall national economy. However, in the export of cotton in Xinjiang, due to the impact of foreign non-tariff barriers, it has had a considerable impact on Xinjiang's cotton exports. Under such circumstances, it is necessary to take targeted measures to improve it, and ultimately realize the economic benefits of exporting cotton in Xinjiang.

## 2. Analysis of the Status Quo of Xinjiang Cotton Import and Export Trade

#### 2.1. The production status of Xinjiang cotton

Xinjiang is an important cotton production base in China. Since 1993, both yields and total production have ranked first in the country, and its output exceeds 1/10 of the world's total cotton production. According to estimates, the output value of cotton planting in Xinjiang accounts for 65% of the total output value of the crop industry, and 35% of the net income of farmers comes from cotton. According to customs statistics, the national cotton plant-

ing area in 2018 is 3229.6 thousand hectares, and the national cotton output in 2018 is 5.486 million tons. Xinjiang's total output is 4.082 million tons, accounting for 74.4% of the country. Therefore, the development of the cotton industry is particularly important for the economic and social development of Xinjiang.

### 2.2. Status of Xinjiang's cotton import and export trade

From January to March 2018, China's cotton imports amounted to 340,000 tons, down 8.3% year-on-year; from January to March 2018, China's cotton imports amounted to 666,921 US dollars, down 3% year-on-year. In 2017, China's cotton imports mainly came from the United States, Australia, India, Uzbekistan and Brazil, with imports of 506,000 tons, 258,000 tons, 112,000 tons, 93,000 tons and 67,000 tons, respectively, accounting for the total imports of China's lint. 43.8%, 22.3%, 9.7%, 8.1% and 5.8%, the trend of high-quality lint imports is very obvious. The import mode of cotton mainly consists of import and export goods in the processing trade of imported materials, logistics goods in special supervision areas, general trade and bonded supervision places, accounting for 37.4%, 28.7%, 20.7% and 13.3% respectively.

From January to March 2018, China's cotton exports amounted to 7,270 tons, a year-on-year increase of 660.7%. From January to March 2018, China's cotton exports amounted to 14,334 tons, a year-on-year increase of 565.9%.

#### 2.3. Problems facing cotton export in Xinjiang

#### 2.3.1. Xinjiang has a low degree of industrialization

There are a series of problems in the cotton industrialization model in Xinjiang. The cooperation of each link still needs to be run in. The cotton wants to form an industrial scale, and it needs constant exploration and improvement. It also needs scientific strength to effectively manage and increase the income of cotton farmers. Xinjiang has a large amount of cotton hoarding and increased production, which has created the birth of many cotton processing plants. The management and operation of cotton processing plants are problematic and cannot effectively maximize the benefits of cotton. In the peak season of cotton sales, the cotton trade association In this way, the price is raised, but the quality of cotton is not guaranteed, resulting in a pattern of good and bad instability in the cotton market.

#### 2.3.2. High cotton planting costs in Xinjiang

The high cost of cotton planting in Xiniiang can be analyzed from the following two aspects. In the early 1980s and 1990s, the output of cotton was 2-3 times higher than that of other crops. At that time, there was no advanced machinery and equipment. Labor was manually picked, so labor costs accounted for 50% of the total cost. Compared with the cotton picking technology in the United States at the time, Xinjiang did fall too much, which is the main reason for the high cost of cotton. Secondly, cotton has undergone many steps in planting-productionprocessing-sales. Each link will increase the cost accordingly. These links are also loose and there is no complete mechanism. Therefore, Xinjiang urgently needs an export, an export that can solve the current situation, to integrate all the links, form an industrial chain, reduce the intermediate costs of each link, reduce the cost of cotton. and promote the healthy development of the cotton industry. At the same time, it also maximizes the interests of cotton farmers.

### 2.3.3. Many varieties of cotton in Xinjiang are unstable

The planting area of cotton in Xinjiang is very large. The area of cotton and the output of cotton are not well-accurate budgets, and the planting area of cotton is large, and the varieties of cotton planting will increase accordingly. This is the situation of "more messy" cotton varieties. The "more messy" phenomenon of cotton varieties has become the most pressing issue in the current cotton industry in Xinjiang.

### 3. The Impact of Non-tariff Barriers on Xinjiang's Cotton Export Trade

### 3.1. The impact of technical trade barriers on Xinjiang's cotton export trade

The technical trade barrier system for agricultural products in Japan, the European Union and the United States is mainly embodied in the establishment of management institutions for agricultural products quality and safety, laws and regulations, technical standards, certification systems and packaging labels. So far, relatively complete technical trade barriers have been formed system.

China's Xinjiang cotton export quality level lags behind that of developed countries. There are a large number of reasons for the quality of products including drug residues, excessive additives or non-compliance, and external information of products including labels, packaging and approval materials. The phenomenon of being detained or recalled. Technical trade barriers directly limit the export of cotton in Xinjiang, which weakens China's foreign exchange earning capacity, reduces China's foreign exchange reserves, and weakens international payment capacity. Once an exporting country restricts exports on the grounds that it is difficult to block certain technical trade barriers, China's agricultural products have already gained a position in the other market, and gradually lose the trust of consumers, thus creating a chain reaction that allows products to be exported to other exporting countries. Encounter obstacles, weaken the competitiveness of China's agricultural products, and increase the difficulty of expanding the international market. Related agricultural producers suffer losses due to export restrictions, which may affect their normal production, thus affecting the production of upstream and downstream enterprises and the employment level of employees.

### 3.2. Impact of green trade barriers on Xinjiang cotton export trade

Green trade barriers have a positive impact on Xinjiang cotton as well as a negative impact. First, although green trade barriers can limit or even prohibit international trade in harmful environmental and consumer health products, and make some products that do not meet the environmental standards of importing countries lose trade opportunities, they can also create environmentally and consumer-friendly green products. New trading opportunities and markets. Secondly, green trade barriers can also promote the adjustment of Xinjiang's cotton industry structure, escalate, upgrade traditional products and improve scientific and technological content, thus providing a steady supply of goods, technical support and customer support for new international trade. Conducive to the environment and human health, it can also form a benign interaction between trade and environmental protection. However, after setting up green barriers in developed countries, Xinjiang cotton enterprises have to adjust their production levels to the corresponding standards of developed countries, and regulate the quality inspection and certification procedures for cotton export products. However, in the process of technology upgrade, a large amount of capital and manpower investment is required, which will increase the production cost of cotton. In order to meet the requirements of exporting countries, cotton exporters in Xinjiang have carried out pollution-free cotton certification and testing, and the cost of testing has also increased. This will reduce the export competitiveness of Xinjiang cotton.

### 4. Measures to Improve Xinjiang's Cotton Competitiveness and Non-tariff Barriers

### 4.1. Promote industrialized operation and improve the core competitiveness of the industry

Although Xinjiang's cotton has absolute advantages in the domestic market, it is still far from the international level. Different government support policies and price differences caused by different growth environments are factors that affect the international competitiveness of Xinjiang cotton. Therefore, China should pay more attention to the supervision of cotton quality varieties and form industrialized operations. Reduce costs and improve core competitiveness in unnecessary links. The recommendations are as follows: First, unify the varieties of cotton, and take a long-term view to expand the production of small households into large-scale management production. Second, increase the research and development of new varieties of cotton, a new variety to win everyone's desire to buy, while reducing costs and improving cotton quality.

# 4.2. Strengthen the construction of cotton industry chain and increase the added value of cotton products

There is a weak link in Xinjiang cotton, and the structure of the industrial chain is not stable enough. The cotton production in Xinjiang only stays at the primary processing level of cotton. Therefore, it is necessary to increase the construction of the cotton industry chain in Xinjiang, give play to the economies of scale of the cotton industry, and establish the viewpoint of the integration of the cotton industry chain. Therefore, it is necessary to change the status quo of Xinjiang cotton, change it to economical cotton, and enhance the value of cotton itself. The practice has the following two points: First, vigorously develop existing enterprise clusters and develop cotton textile industrial parks. Second, the current resource-based industry is transformed into an economical industry, which transforms Xinjiang's cotton from initial processing to deep processing. To improve its own value, it also pays close attention to close cooperation with leading enterprises in the domestic cotton industry.

### 4.3. Actively provide technical support and exchange opportunities for Xinjiang cotton producers

Technical trade barriers have imposed restrictions on the drug residues, additive content and labeling of cotton in Xinjiang, reflecting the importing countries' requirements for the quality of agricultural products themselves and the efforts made to transparentize the consumption of residents in importing countries. The quarantine equipment is researched and improved to better carry out research on agricultural product quality testing technology and prevention of disease, so as to meet the corresponding standards of the importing country.

### 4.4. Strengthen the formulation of relevant incentive policies

In order to break through the barriers to trade in technology, the production costs and trade costs of exporters will increase, which will cause the burden on exporters and the exporters may abandon the export of cotton to Xinjiang. However, the export of agricultural products is very important for China. In order to increase the enthusiasm of exporters for exporting agricultural products, the government should formulate corresponding incentive policies.

#### 5. Conclusion

At present, non-tariff barriers have caused a great negative impact on Xinjiang's cotton exports, and they are also showing a growing trend. In the face of non-tariff trade barriers, it is difficult for any country or any enterprise to be outside the international tide. Our company should follow the trend and meet the challenge with an open attitude.

Xinjiang should actively take measures to try to circumvent its key points. It should reasonably ask for its own reasons, constantly adjust its industrial structure, upgrade its industry, improve product quality, and the government must increase its support and maintain it with international strength. Their own legitimate rights and interests, breaking through non-tariff barriers.

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