

## **HARVESTING AND MARKETING**

**Picking :-** Cotton should be picked clean and dry to get a good price in the market. *Desi* cotton is ready for picking in the third week of September. Picking should be done after every 8-10 days to avoid loss because of the *Kapas* falling to the ground. Do not keep the picked cotton in wet water channels in the field, as this practice impairs the quality of cotton. Store kapas in a dry godown. Keep produce of different varieties separately.

**Removal of cotton sticks :** Soon after the last picking, remove the cotton sticks along with the roots from the field and bury the remaining plant debris with furrow turning plough as sanitary measure against pests and diseases. Use or burn cotton sticks by the end of February at the latest. Use two-row tractor operated Cotton Stalk Uprooter for uprooting of Cotton stalks. The Cotton Stalk Uprooter should be operated at a speed of 7 to 9 km/hr and at a depth of 12 to 15 cm with 45hp tractor for efficient field operation. This equipment will provide 10 to 15% more cotton sticks by weight than conventional manual stalk chopping method with a field capacity of 1.25 to 1.50 acre/ hr.

### **Marketing Hints**

1. Kapas should be picked dry, free from trash, with no dew on it.
2. The first and the last picking are usually of low quality and should not be mixed with rest of the produce. High-grade kapas mixed with low grade kapas sells at a relatively low price.
3. Store kapas in damp proof and rat-free room.
4. Store different varieties separately.