The Societies recently published the second edition of its Cotton monograph (see www.societystore.org and dl.sciencesocieties.org/publications/books). CSA News interviewed David D. Fang, co-editor of the book to learn more about it:

**CSA News:** Tell me a little about the new book. How did it come about? Who is the audience? What can readers expect?

**Fang:** The first edition of the book Cotton was published in 1984. It has been widely used as a reference book by cotton researchers, educators, and students since then. However, after 30 years, much content of the original book become out of date or obsolete. This new book follows the flavor and legacy of the original book with a comprehensive update in science of all the aspects ranging from cotton genetics to marketing.

Anyone who has an interest in the cotton industry will be the audience, regardless of his/her prior knowledge in cotton. For readers with little knowledge in cotton, this book gives history on how cotton has become a world crop along with basic morphology and anatomy of cotton plants. Expert readers can get more in-depth information from the references cited in each chapter. In brief, readers will expect a broad and comprehensive coverage in almost all areas related to cotton production.

**CSA News:** Why is this monograph timely or important?

**Fang:** During the past 30 years, many changes have occurred in almost every aspect of cotton industry. Development of genetically modified (transgenic) cotton varieties revolutionized cotton production. Selections assisted by molecular markers and genomic tools are being implemented in both public and private breeding programs. New technologies such as remote sensing and unmanned robotics are aiding in the development of precision agricultural practices that will help growers to more effectively and efficiently manage fertilization, irrigation, and pest control operations and grow profitable, sustainable crops. Broad use of transgenic varieties has brought tremendous changes in growing practices and pest management. Newer high-speed spinning instruments have been developed that demand longer, stronger, and finer fibers. Consequently, genetic improvement in fiber quality has been stressed and improved harvesting and ginning instruments have been developed to minimize damage to fibers. All of these were not included in the original edition. This new book provides readers the state-of-the-art of technologies in cotton production and up-to-date sciences in cotton research.

**CSA News:** What aspects of the science of cotton does this monograph cover?

**Fang:** This new cotton monograph covers almost every aspect in cotton industry. It consists of four parts. The first part starts with the origin and history of cotton industry, followed by taxonomy and germplasm management of the genus Gossypium, botanical characteristics of cotton plants, fiber biology, and cytology. Part 2 discusses qualitative and quantitative traits with agronomical importance, breeding methods and strategies, and advances in marker-assisted selection, genome sequences, databases, and bioinformatics tools. Part 3 describes growing practices and pest management. The fourth part deals with harvesting, postharvest handling of fibers and seeds, and commerce of the world cotton industry.

**CSA News:** Anything else you’d like people to know about it?

**Fang:** This new book is the most comprehensive update on cotton sciences since 1999 when the book Cotton: Origin, History, Technology, and Production was published.

Order today at www.societystore.org or view it in the Digital Library at dl.sciencesocieties.org/publications/books

doi:10.2134/csa2015-60-9-12