



REPUBLIC OF UGANDA



COUNTRY STATEMENT ON THE COTTON SUB-SECTOR FOR FY 2017/18

Presented at the:

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INTERNATIONAL COTTON ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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PERFORMANCE OF THE COTTON SUB-SECTOR IN UGANDA - FY 2017/18

1. Introduction:

During FY 2017/18, the Cotton Sub-sector in Uganda focused on:

- Increasing cotton production and productivity through provision of key production inputs (seed, fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides, spray pumps, tractor hire services) as well as provision cotton-targeted extension services for mobilizing and training farmers on cotton agronomy.
- Increasing domestic consumption of lint through provision of lint buffer stocks to local textile manufacturers.

2. Key trends and developments:

- a) **Cotton production** - the quantity of cotton produced increased by 34% from 151,071 bales (@ 185 Kg) in FY 2016/17 to a total of 202,357 bales of lint in 2017/18. This was largely attributed to intensive mobilization and training of farmers for cotton growing, provision of production inputs (seed, fertilizers, pesticides, spray pumps, herbicides, and tractor hire services) at affordable prices and fairly good farm-gate prices received during 2016/17.
- b) **Domestic consumption of lint** - domestic consumption of lint increased from 7% of total national production in 2015/16 to 10% in 2017/18 due to increased Government financial support for provision of lint buffer stocks to local cotton textile manufacturers using the Lint Buffer Stock Revolving Fund. The two (2) vertically integrated textile mills that produce textiles, garments and apparels using locally grown lint and the six (6) absorbent cotton wool manufacturers continued to operate.
- c) **Lint exports** – the increase in cotton production during 2017/18 was correspondingly accompanied by a 30% increase in lint exports from 140,496 bales in 2016/17 to 182,357 bales in 2017/18.

3. Quality of Ugandan lint:

The quality of lint produced during 2017/18 declined slightly; 77% of the total lint produced was graded in the top three grades in 2017/18 compared to 86% in 2016/17. This was attributed to erratic weather patterns which affected crop development and maturity.

Uganda presented another set of standards in June, 2018 which were approved by the International Cotton Association (ICA) and Bremen Cotton Exchange for use as the official standards for the next two (2) years. The approved standards are shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Uganda Official Cotton Standards:

| Grade Standard | Major Characteristics | | | Value Differences (Points /US cts/lb) | International equivalent (USDA Standards) |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| | Length (mm) | Strength (g/tex) | Micronaire | | |
| Roller Ginned cotton | | | | | |
| UCON | 28 & above | 30 - 33 | 3.7 - 4.3 | 150 points (+1.5 cts) | Good Middling |
| UCOB | 28 - 29 | 30 - 33 | 3.7 - 4.3 | 75 points (+ 0.75 cts) | Strict Middling |
| UCOP | 28 - 29 | 28 - 32 | 4.0 - 4.2 | Base Grade | Middling |
| UCOA | 26 - 27 | 28 - 30 | 4.0 - 4.2 | -100 points (-1.0 cts) | Strict Low Middling |
| UCOM | 26 & below | 27 - 30 | 4.2 - 4.4 | -250 points (2.50 cts) | Low Middling |
| Saw Ginned cotton | | | | | |
| UCOSA I | 27 & above | 28 - 30 | 4.0 - 4.2 | 100 points (+1.00 cts) | Strict Middling |
| UCOSA II | 27 & below | 27 - 30 | 4.0 - 4.2 | Base Grade | Middling |

4. Participation in International Programs on cotton:

- **India/Africa Cotton Technical Assistance Program (TAP)** – The newly constructed Bio-pesticide lab at Serere was inaugurated in August, 2017. It is used for formulation, testing and preparation of Bio-pesticides and Bio-fertilizers. It also runs activities on soil testing to facilitate recommendation of appropriate fertilizers.
- **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)** – in March 2018, UNCTAD held a National Capacity Building Stakeholders' Workshop and Policy workshop for farmers, ginners, oil millers, animal feed manufacturers, academia and government ministries and agencies, The stakeholders identified three (3) priority cotton by-products for development in Uganda namely:
 - Utilizing cotton stalks to produce briquettes, pellets and substrate for mushroom growing.
 - Extending use of cottonseed cake for non-ruminant feeds by removing gossypol.
 - Increasing production of absorbent cotton wool.

5. Future plans:

- Strengthening and consolidating the Ginners Cotton Production Support Program for continued support to farmers through provision of affordable production inputs and free extension services for training them on cotton agronomy.
- In view of the changing weather patterns, collaborating with the National Cotton Research Program to accelerate development and release of new cotton varieties which are early maturing, high yielding, drought, disease and pest tolerant and with the desired lint quality parameters.
- Promote increased domestic value addition to lint in order to create employment, increase farmers' incomes, maximize foreign exchange earnings and create import substitution.
- Promote commercial medium/large scale production of cotton by providing technical support to medium/large scale cotton producers.

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