

# COTTON DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION

## COUNTRY REPORT ON IMPROVING COTTON PRODUCTIVITY IN UGANDA

Presented by:  
**Lubwama Damalie,**  
Agronomist.

### Structure of the Report:

- | Introduction to the Cotton Sector in Uganda
- | Functions of Cotton Development Organisation
- | Achievements in cotton production in Uganda
- | Constraints to improving cotton productivity
- | Interventions to address productivity constraints
- | Future plans of the Cotton Sector in Uganda
- | Way forward
- | Conclusion

### 1. Introduction:

- | In 1994, the marketing, processing and export functions of the Cotton Sub-sector were liberalized.
- | Subsequently, Cotton Development Organization (CDO) was formed by an Act of Parliament and charged with promoting, regulating and coordinating all aspects of the sub-sector.
- | CDO is governed by a Board of Directors nominated by stakeholders and falls under the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries.

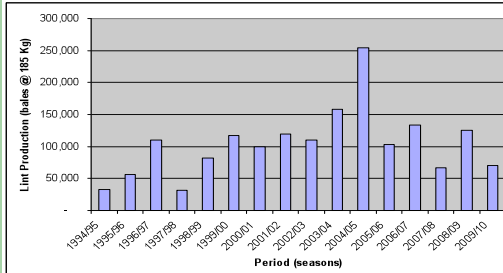
### 2. Functions of CDO:

- Registration of sector participants
- Set standards for seed cotton and Lint against International standards
- Lint Classification
- Seed for Planting
- Set Indicative price
- Collect, maintain & disseminate data
- Facilitate production, research & extension
- Train Technicians
- Promote formation of associations among sector players
- Monitor & advise on production inputs
- Ginnyery Inspection
- Advise Government on policies related to the sub-sector

### 3. Achievements in cotton production:

- | Purification of cotton planting seed by Research.
- | Improved agronomic and technological packages have been developed by Research and disseminated to farmers using demonstration plots.
- | Quality of planting seed has been improved through delinting and grading.
- | Cotton yields have increased from an average of 150 Kg per acre in 1994/95 to the current average of 400 Kg per acre.
- | Annual National production has also increased from 33,000 bales in 1994/95 to a post-liberalization high of 254,000 bales in 2004/05.
- | Quality of lint has improved through better crop management and strict monitoring of ginneries – Ugandan lint earns a premium on the International Market.

### Cotton production trends since 1994:



### 4. Constraints to improving cotton productivity:

- | Fluctuations in farm-gate prices which affect farmers' morale to implement improved agronomical practices.
- | Lack of domestic value addition which results in dependence on International lint prices.
- | Lack of a sustainable inputs provision system.
- | High cost of inputs without accessible and affordable credit for rural farmers.
- | Inadequate cotton-targeted extension services.
- | Lack of organized grass-root farmers' groups which makes service delivery difficult.
- | Overdependence on rain fed production.
- | Declining soil fertility coupled with high cost of fertilizers.
- | Low levels of agricultural mechanization.
- | High food prices in the recent past.

### 5. Interventions towards improving cotton productivity:

- | Ginneries Production Support Program (2003 – 2006).
- | Government support for provision of planting seed, production inputs and extension services to cotton farmers.
- | Intensifying farmer training on the recommended agronomic practices for increasing productivity and quality using demonstration gardens.
- | Mobilization of farmers to form groups/associations to ease extension service delivery, facilitate access to inputs and production credit, and give the farmers higher bargaining power.
- | Testing Biotech cotton for herbicide resistance and control of Bollworms.

## 6. Future plans:

- | Establishment of a Cotton Development Fund, supported by the value chain, for provision of production inputs and extension services to reduce dependence on Government funding.
- | Increasing domestic Value addition to lint and other cotton by-products to reduce dependence on World determined cotton prices.
- | Introgression of the Bt and herbicide resistance genes into Uganda's varieties if proved beneficial to farmers.

## 7. Way forward:

- | CDO has developed a 5-year Cotton Sub-sector Strategic Plan to guide cotton production, provision of production inputs, value addition and to mobilize investment into the sub-sector.
- | The Strategic Plan focuses on increasing cotton yields to an average of 850 Kg per acre and National production to 500,000 bales by 2014/15.

## CONCLUSION

- | Cotton is one of the most strategic commodities in the world and is vital in increasing household incomes and eradicating poverty.
- | Despite the challenges in improving production and productivity, the potential for the sub-sector to contribute meaningfully to the economic development of Uganda still exists given the commodity's multiple levels of industrialization.
- | The Government of Uganda is therefore committed to supporting the sub-sector through inclusion of cotton in the ***Government Strategic Intervention for Promoting Production, Processing and Marketing of selected Export Commodities*** which was initiated by H.E. the President of Uganda in 2001.