

## **1586 Screening of cotton (*Gossypium hirsutum*) for tolerance to early season drought in Namibia**

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### ***Abstract***

Cotton has been identified as a crop with promising potential. As such cotton variety evaluation trials have been conducted based on yield, fiber qualities, resistance to diseases and pests as well as adaptability to the climatic conditions. Some promising cultivars have been recommended for pre-release and communal farmers have planted them under dry land conditions. Seeds have been obtained from neighboring South Africa and Zimbabwe and this has complicated the evaluation process and cotton production. Namibia has experienced early season drought since 1997. It is against this background that the breeding programme be established in Namibia.