

# Challenges for West African Cotton Growers

By  
Madougou Abdoulaye

Secretary General of the National Cotton Growers Council of Benin

# Plan

1. Introduction and major issues
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# Introduction and major issues

In sum, West African farmers want to:

- Make their work easier and raise their income, by means of:
  - ✓ a rational transfer of technology;
  - ✓ better farmer organization;
  - ✓ a timely supply of sufficient quantities of high quality inputs;
  - ✓ responsible participation in all activities contributing to the development of the cotton industry.

# Introduction and major issues (cont.)

But what is actually happening?

- ✓ farmer impoverishment;
- ✓ gradual soil degradation;
- ✓ misuse of plant health products (application to food crops, spraying of bodies of water for fishing purposes for example);
- ✓ distress sales of inputs and their corollaries such as underdosing and the mismanagement of mutual guarantee funds;

Thus, there are challenges which need to be overcome in order to ensure the competitiveness of West Africa's cotton industry.

# Challenges

There are environmental, economic and sociopolitical challenges.

## **1. Environnemental considerations**

- ✓ Ensure the sustainability of farming systems;
- ✓ Ensure good quality cotton production;
- ✓ Ensure that pesticides are used with caution;
- ✓ Maintain fiber quality;
- ✓ Practice rational land management through soil and environmental protection measures

# Challenges (cont.)

## 2. Economic considerations

- ✓ Competitiveness of African cotton on world markets;
- ✓ Production cost management;
- ✓ Better yields;

## 3. Social and political considerations

- ✓ Strengthen the operations and viability of cotton growers organizations;
- ✓ Reinforce accompanying political measures to protect the interests of cotton growers.

# Conclusion and prospects for the acceptance of Bt cotton

Since cotton is a strategic crop for most West African cotton-producing countries, it would be advisable:

- to involve farmers organizations at all stages (decision-making, execution, evaluation, etc.) of the implementation of measures for the introduction of Bt cotton;
- to resolve problems relating to both seeds and other inputs.

# Conclusion and prospects for the acceptance of Bt cotton

- Transparency in calculating profits should be the rule, in the interests of farmers, farmers organizations and all stakeholders in the cotton sector.

**Thank you for your kind attention**