



REPUBLIC OF UGANDA



COUNTRY STATEMENT ON THE COTTON SUB-SECTOR FOR FY 2020/21

Presented at the:

**79th International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC) Virtual Plenary
Meeting**

6th – 9th December, 2021

PERFORMANCE OF THE COTTON SUB-SECTOR IN UGANDA DURING FY 2020/21

1. Cotton production:

A total of 50,709 bales (9,381 Mt) of lint were produced. Cotton production during FY 2020/21 was severely affected by heavy rains and flooding especially during October to December, 2020. This destroyed several gardens and decimated productivity since it happened during the major period for boll development and maturation.

2. Lint sales:

- a) **Local sales** – 6,486 bales; representing about 13% of the total production, were consumed locally by the two vertically integrated textile mills and the six absorbent cotton wool manufacturers.
- b) **Exports** - Lint exports accounted for about 87% of lint sales. The major export destinations for Ugandan lint included Singapore, United Kingdom, Switzerland, Mauritius, Kenya, France.

3. Quality of lint:

- About 84% of the total number of bales classed were graded in the top three premium grades. Uganda maintained the high quality of cotton through intensive sensitization of stakeholders and strict monitoring of ginneries.
- Presentation of Uganda’s official standards for approval by the International Cotton Association (ICA) and Bremen Cotton Exchange was due in June, 2020. This was however not possible due to travel restrictions put in place to control the spread of COVID-19. Uganda therefore continued to use the standards that were approved in June 2018. The performance by grade in 2020/21 is shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Quality performance by grade in 2020/21

Grade Standard	Major Characteristics			Value Differences (Points /US cts/lb)	International equivalent (USDA Standards)	Quality performance by grade in 2020/21
	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	11.3%
UCOB	28 - 29	30 - 33	3.7 – 4.3	75 points (+ 0.75 cts)	Strict Middling	28.3%
UCOP	28 - 29	28 – 32	4.0 – 4.2	Base Grade	Middling	47.5%
UCOA	26 - 27	28 - 30	4.0 – 4.2	-100 points (-1.0 cts)	Strict Low Middling	12.5%
UCOM	26 & below	27 - 30	4.2 – 4.4	-250 points (2.50 cts)	Low Middling	0.4%
Saw Ginned cotton						
UCOSA I	27 & above	28 - 30	4.0 – 4.2	100 points (+1.00 cts)	Strict Middling	0
UCOSA II	27 & below	27 - 30	4.0 – 4.2	Base Grade	Middling	0
					Total	100%

4. Participation in international events:

a) SIMA Cotton Development & Research Association's training on 'Quality in Cotton' –

Arrangements were initiated between Cotton Development Organisation (CDO) and the Government of India in a Project aimed at improving Uganda cotton varieties and the planting seed system. A 5-year South-South initiative Cotton Development Project was developed under an MOU signed on 29th November, 2019 between Southern India Mills Association (SIMA) of India, National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO) of Uganda and CDO – Uganda. The Project is funded by ITC. Cotton germplasm has already been exchanged and is being used in both India and Uganda for improvement of the Uganda cotton varieties. Additionally, SIMA CD&RA has extended to CDO the Technology of “Kapas Pluckers” machines suitable for high quality picking of seed cotton at farmers' levels.

During 2020/21, the following activities were undertaken:

- The virtual training took place on 22nd March, 2021 and covered topics such as; Cotton Quality - Parameters & Measurement, Cotton grading – indices and instruments, Ginning technologies – Saw and Roller Gins and Value addition to cotton by-products.
- The training was attended by Researchers and extension staff from Cotton Development Organisation and the Cotton Research Program under the National Semi-Arid Resources Research Institute (NaSARRI) of NARO.

5. Plans for 2022/23:

- a) Support to Cotton Research – CDO will continue to collaborate with the Cotton Research Program and support development of new cotton varieties and production technologies especially for mitigating effects of climate change.
- b) Cotton Production Support Services – strengthen collaboration with Uganda Ginners & Cotton Exporters Association (UGCEA) for sustainable support to farmers during cotton production.
- c) Cotton quality and standards – CDO will present samples of Ugandan cotton grades to the International Cotton Association (ICA) - Liverpool and the Bremen Cotton Exchange for approval.

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