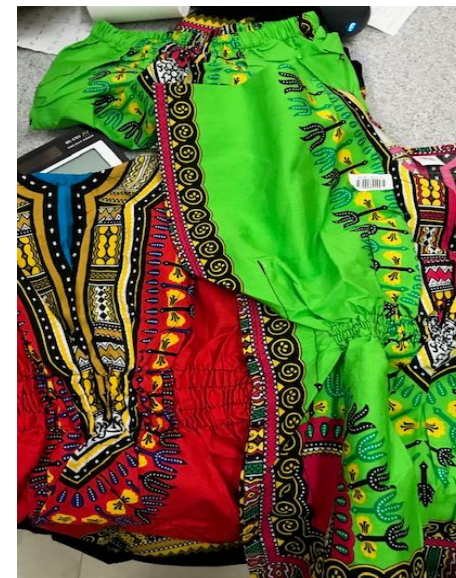


Enabling ecosystem for cotton-prenuer from farm to finished goods



**INTERNATIONAL
COTTON
ADVISORY
COMMITTEE**

81st Plenary Meeting
02 - 05 December 2023
Mumbai, India

Cotton Value Chain: Local Innovations for Global Prosperity

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Introducing the African Cotton Foundation

ACF is a private sector led Foundation driven by our vision of a sustainable, modern and thriving African cotton sector - where farmers are profitable, cotton-growing communities empowered, human rights respected, and the environment is conserved

We believe that multi-stakeholder partnerships and investments, R&D, policy dialogue, joint learning, and knowledge-sharing bring transformative change and create a sustainable African cotton value-chain.

Our mission is to support African cotton farmers and their ecosystem partners in improving their livelihoods, sustainability and resilience.

ACF serves as a strategic coordinator and project implementer with a primary focus on practical activities that optimize impact.

**A Sustainable African Cotton Industry can
deliver on several SDG commitments**



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An effective “Enabling EcoSystem” and any related policies must be based on current realities

Most African cotton is produced within a *smallholder farming system* – the same agricultural system and farmers who contribute significantly to the continents’ food supply, and, who are custodians of vast areas of land.

For the majority of these farmers the *Climate HAS changed*. Seasonal calendars have been disrupted and the frequency and/or intensity of extreme weather or weather-related events has increased.

Cotton as a commodity is subject to price fluctuations and other impacts such as input supply chains & prices far *beyond the influence or control of farmers*

Climate, Conflicts, Covid, & the Cost of Living Crises have triggered responses that frequently seem chaotic and are characterized by a plethora of demands and an absence of definitive implementable solutions.

Many Markets are in a state of Economic transition – *legislation* consistent with a *Value*-based economy vs Consumers who remain predominantly *Price*-focused.

African countries seeking to develop textile and apparel sectors of the value chain should take these factors into consideration

In the face of these challenges, let me re-iterate the call of an earlier speaker “Let us not leave anyone behind”



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Government Policy that encourages investment facilitates multi-stakeholder engagement through the entire value chain

(This is Not a Comprehensive List - Support for Policy Development is available from many resources including ACF, ICAC & other organizations attending this meeting)

- **Competitive Private Sector friendly investment landscape including:**
 - Guaranteed Protection of Investments
 - Repatriation of Forex
 - Clear & Efficient Private Sector to Government Communication Channels
 - Promotion of Local/Regional products
 - Lobby for longevity on preferential trade agreements such as AGOA

- **Infrastructure**
 - Time sensitive and consistently reliable access to ports
 - Consistent Low-Cost Energy Supply – opportunity for PPP to develop green energy driven economies
 - Infrastructure and robust legislation to ensure safe disposal (or re-use) of all waste (PPP)

- **Social & Economic**
 - Labor laws aligned with **atleast** ILO conventions
 - Remuneration: Governments play a critical but delicate role in balancing fairness with competitiveness. Policies must also facilitate economic growth in general but especially for the self-employed, micro and small businesses
 - Robust policies to identify incidences (or potential) of Child, Slave or Trafficked Labor and have sensitive, rapidly implementable programs to address these without causing further harm to victims.



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Government & Development Community Support Sector Priorities

- Focus on SMALL-HOLDER FARMER (rather than crop/commodity specific) programs
- Support Infrastructure that provides affordable platforms for cost-effective performance of critical technologies
- Optimize Implementation to scale, and longevity of projects by leveraging Private Sector reach and investment

Challenges present a wide range of **Opportunities for Entrepreneurs** which should be nurtured

- Production of soil amendment and plant nutrition products
 - ✓ Compost & BioChar (from farming communities to commercial processing of urban waste)
 - ✓ Inoculants, Extracts & Ferments
- Production of Biological Pest Products: Biocides, Predators, Pheromones, Fungi & Bacteria
- Technology:
 - ✓ Solution & Support Providers
 - ✓ Data Collection & Management
- Circularity: Innovative Re-Working of Textile Waste or By-Products
 - ✓ Fashion and Household Items for domestic and export markets
 - ✓ Biodegradable (cotton) disposable and sanitary products



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The Sustainability Of The Cotton Sector Is Dependent On Our Ability To Innovate

In partnership with Cotton Made in Africa
we are proud to have launched:



INNOVATIONS CLUB

by CmiA & ACF

Designed

To Inspire

To Share

To Resource

For Trainers of Trainers:

Agronomists, Extension and Project Managers from partner companies

Expanding and updating knowledge relating to:

- Natural Processes
- Local Ancestral Knowledge
- Science: Soil Biology, Soil Chemistry & Ecology
- Emerging Technologies

Carefully combining these to provide effective and practical solutions

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INNOVATIONS CLUB

by CmiA & ACF

Innovations Club provides a “safe and informative place” for Industry Peers, with similar knowledge levels, job demands and challenges to share experiences, challenges, learnings and progress

Healthy Soils & Eco-Systems which are:

- essential for all crops;
- consistent with all sustainability standards; and
- critical for meaningful carbon sequestration.

Contributors:

International and Regional Scientists and Academics

In Africa, the flower, food, fruit and wildlife conservation sectors have made significant advances in environmentally sound agronomy practices, the production of bio products, improved farmer adoption rates and stronger community engagement. Many of these are appropriate or can easily be adapted for cotton.

Results: enhanced ongoing projects, accelerated development of new programs, expanded capacity to deliver more frequent farmer trainings and increased the quantity of demo plots/field schools

To Inspire

To Share

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Thank You for your attention

