

81ST PLENARY MEETING

MUMBAI, INDIA

🌐 2-5 December 2023

**Cotton Value Chain:
“Local Innovations for Global Prosperity”**



Mr Dafulin Kaonga

Dafulin Kaonga has an MSc in Agriculture and has worked for more than 40 years in Zambia's agriculture sector, primarily in cotton production in tropical conditions. He has experience in cotton agronomy, entomology, extension, and designing and implementing programmes promoting conservation farming in cotton growing amongst small-scale farmers. He has held various senior positions in the Zambia cotton Industry, including Executive Director of the Zambia regulatory body (Cotton Board of Zambia). He has also represented Zambia at ICAC Plenary meetings from 2011 to 2015. Mr Kaonga has been the National Project Coordinator for the International Trade Centre (ITC) in Zambia since 2020, coordinating three components of ITC projects in Zambia: increasing farmer income through value addition with access to handlooms to supplement their income through weaving, spinning, and generating additional earnings; supporting the cotton sector in regulatory changes in marketing seed cotton; and doubling yields by working with as many as 50,000 farmers. The ITC project has been implemented with Cotton Development Trust (CDT), the ICAC, and local stakeholders. With ITC intervention, 70% of demo farmers achieve a remarkable 1,000 kg/ha of seed cotton, doubling the average Zambian yield.