

# BEST PRACTICES FOR COTTON YIELD ENHANCEMENT IN AFRICA



# Research

- **To a greater extent research in cotton must address the concerns of the cotton value chain in a “patriotic manner”.**



- **Research generates new technology and the following characteristics of good technology are necessary to consider.**

## a. Morality of Technology

- Technology that would have been **relegated** in some continents is presented as the “**saviour**” in Africa.

## **b. Ripeness of Technology**

- **Why all that rush? Take time.**
- ✓ **Develop a high level of personal/institutional confidence with the technology.**

**NOT FAITH**

- **Therefore test the technology  
again  
and again  
and again  
and again**

**Take time to work to make the  
technology to ensure that it is:**

**Affordable,  
Viable,  
Sustainable  
Easy to use**

## **c. Quietness of Technology**

**Deal with controversies**

**Technology should not be forced  
down the throat of the user.**



**THE RESEARCHER NEEDS TO  
ENSURE THAT GOOD  
TECHNOLOGY REACHES THE END  
USER**

# **Training of Trainers (TOT):**

**“A Conduit for Empowerment”**

- **Technology, Knowledge and Information generated by research should reach the grower in a practical manner.**

- **Unfortunately movement of research outputs tends to end with training of trainers.**
- **Research needs to link with all stakeholders.**



**However decades of agricultural research produced strategies that leave Africa with very few excuses for failing to raise cotton productivity**

- 1. Much of Africa has very good cotton varieties.**

# Focus on Zimbabwe

- **Has a range of good soils.**
- **Rainfall not very bad**
- **Rivers are many – Need more damming**
- **Cotton varieties are competitive.**
- **Cotton production technologies are quite sound.**

**BUT WE ARE RANKED LOW**

**800 KG/HA – NOT A VIABLE YIELD  
LEVEL**

# **EMPHASIS**

**1. Growing certified seed of adaptable cotton varieties.**

**Zimbabwe has a strong seed certifying institution.**



**2. Planting early in the season.**

**3. Ensuring that recommended plant populations for particular cotton varieties are achieved maintained throughout the growing season.**



**4. Sustaining an effective and efficient weed management regime.**

**5. Determination of fertilizer rates through testing,**

**Adequate nutrition promotes**

- **boll formation,**
- **boll retention, and**
- **boll weights**

## 6. Implementing Integrated Pest Management strategies.





**7. Pick/Harvest **ripe bolls** early enough to preserve colour and avoid unnecessary boll loss and boll weight loss.**

**8. Rid the seed cotton of contaminants during harvesting and storage.**

**Thank you**