



CURRENT STATUS OF COTTON RESEARCH AND PRODUCTION TRENDS IN UGANDA

Presented by:

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STATUS OF COTTON RESEARCH

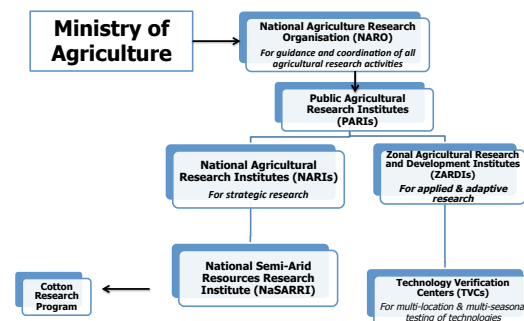
1. Introduction:

- Agricultural Research has undergone major reforms aimed at:
 - making it more competitive and
 - more responsive to farmers' and market requirements.
- The reforms resulted into the formation of the National Agricultural Research System (NARS) under the NARS Act of 2006.

1. Introduction cont'd:

- Under NARS, Agricultural Research can be conducted by:
 - Public Agricultural Research Institutes
 - Universities or tertiary institutions
 - Private sector & civil society organizations
 - Farmers' groups
 - Any entity with appropriate capacity to handle research
- The mandate for public cotton research is held by the National Semi-Arid Resources Research Institute since 1994.

2. Structure of Public Agriculture Research:



3. Sources of funding for Cotton Research:

- Annual budgetary provisions by the Government of Uganda (GoU) to NARO.
- Grants from pooled "basket" funding by Government and Development Partners accessed through competitive research proposals.
- Loans from Development Partners.
- Bilateral projects on Cotton funded by GoU and Development Partners e.g. ATAAS.
- Regional Research Projects funded by Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) through ICAC.
- Support from the International Trade Centre through the South-to-South Cooperation along the Cotton Value Chain.

4. Research agenda at NaSARRI:

- Breeding - for variety improvement and seed multiplication
- Agronomy - for development of crop management packages
- Entomology - for pest management
- Pathology - for disease control
- Other disciplines include:
 - Mechanization – animal traction
 - Biotechnology – Confined Field Trials

5. Research coordination:

Coordination of cotton research follows a bottom-up approach:

- Scientists and the NaSARRI management Committee periodically meet with the cotton industry stakeholders draw priorities for the future research.
- The research agenda is incorporated into the NaSARRI research programme for a given period.
- NaSARRI research programmes are incorporated into the National Agricultural Research Agenda after scrutiny by NARO Directorate of Research Quality Assurance and then approved by the NARO council.
- NARO research Agenda is further scrutinized by the MAAIF Top Management and fitted into the MAAIF annual work plan and budgets.

6. Work done so far:

- Five varieties have been developed and released with resistance to bacterial blight, Jassids and with improved lint quality parameters.
- Recommendations for spacing and seed rates have been developed for optimum plant populations.
- Pre-emergence and post emergence herbicides have been tested and recommendations made.
- Threshold levels for Aphids, Lygus, bollworms and Stainers have been worked out to guide IPM strategies.

6. Work done cont'd:

- Several organophosphate and pyrethroid insecticides have been tested and approved for use on cotton.
- Studies have been conducted on Fusarium and Verticillium wilts to determine distribution and impact .
- Testing of seed treatment products has been conducted.
- Ox-drawn implements have been designed including ploughs, seeders and cultivators.

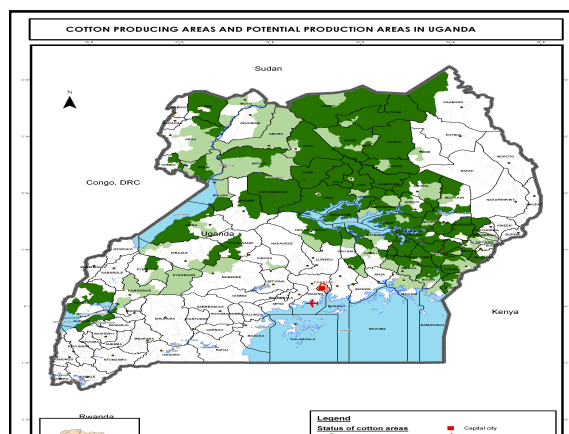
7. Challenges:

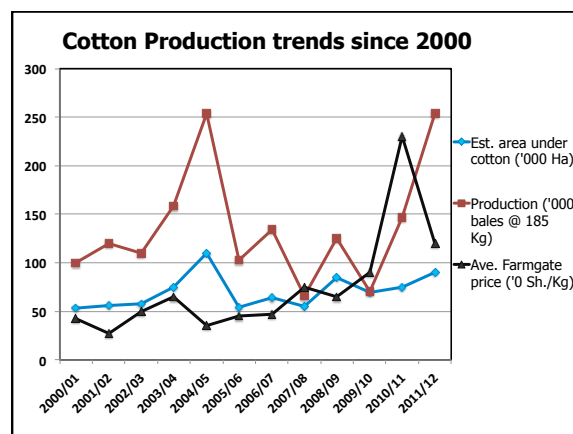
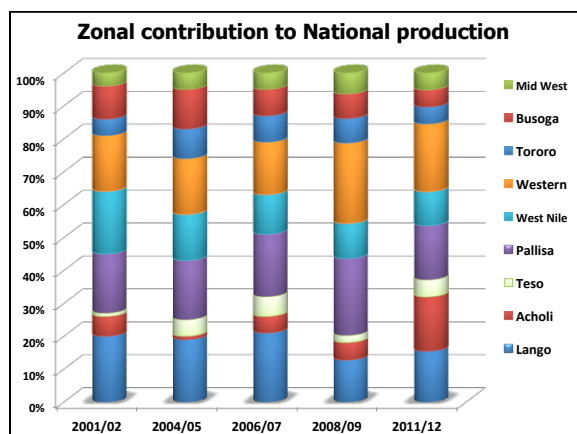
- Low levels of staffing in the Cotton Research Program.
- Inadequate laboratory equipment for ginning and conducting spinning tests for new varieties.
- Difficulties in acquiring germplasm for variety development.
- Emergence of new pests and diseases and in some cases breakdown on resistance to certain pests and diseases especially under major climatic changes at hand.

COTTON PRODUCTION TRENDS

Introduction:

- Cotton in Uganda is grown by small-scale farmers in about $\frac{2}{3}$ rd of the country.
- Production is characterized by annual fluctuations influenced mainly by:
 - Price movements
 - Weather patterns
 - Prices of competing crops
 - Competition for family labour with other crops
- Government and the private sector (ginners) have teamed up to support production through provision of planting seed, pesticides, pumps, ox-ploughs, tractor hire services and extension services for training farmers using demonstration plots.





CONCLUSION

- Cotton is regarded as one of the important traditional cash crops which contributes to poverty alleviation through provision of employment and household incomes.
- As such, it is one of the crops identified for support under the Ministry of Agriculture's Development Strategy and Investment Plan (DSIP).
- Improving the performance of the Cotton sub-sector through increased production and productivity will contribute to the DSIP objectives of increasing rural incomes and food security.