

SITUATION OF COTTON IN MALI

SUMMARY

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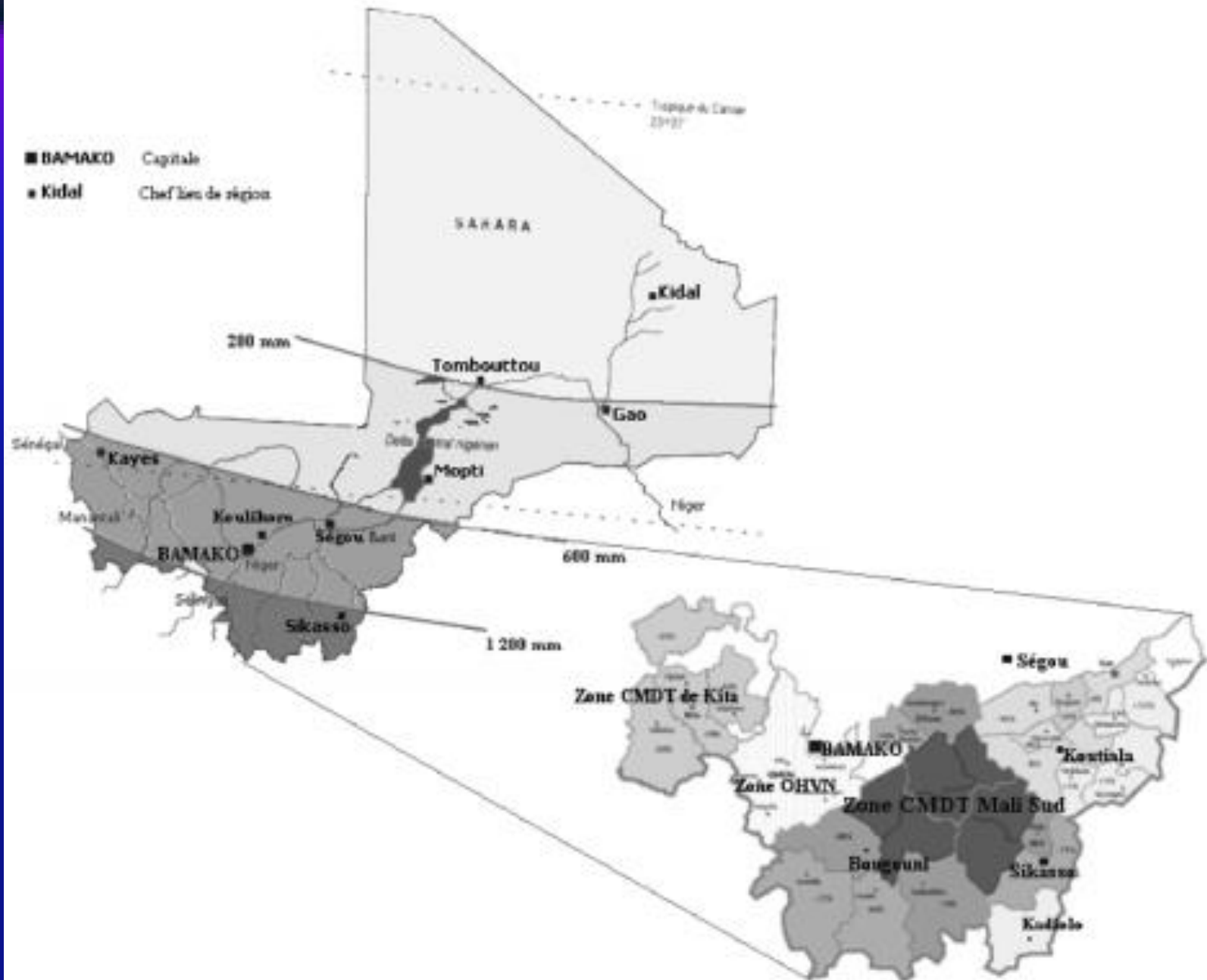
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I INTRODUCTION

- Mali is a French-speaking country located in West Africa.
- It is bordered by seven (7) countries: Mauritania and Algeria in North, Niger in East, Burkina Faso and Cote D'Ivoire in South, Guinea in South-West, and Senegal in West.
- Mali has an area of 1 241 238 square kilometers with a population of more than 15 million.
- The country has a dry tropical climate.
- Introduced by French colonizer, Cotton is still an important cash crop for Mali.
- Mali created its own company after independence in 1974 to promote and develop cotton.
- The National Cotton Company, CMDT, provides for producers: extension services, training, inputs and equipment. CMDT also sets the purchase price of raw cotton, and Producers sell their entire production to CMDT.

A MAP OF MALI WITH COTTON ZONE



Cotton is very important for the economy of Mali:

- Cultivation practiced by nearly 162,000 households;
- Provides raw material (seeds) for edible oil industry and for animal feed industry;
- Participates to the development of rural areas;
- Contributes to food self-sufficiency;
- Provides 30% of total export earnings.
- Overall Cotton provides a living for more than 3 million people in Mali and hence contributes effectively to the reduction of poverty.

II EVOLUTION OF COTTON PRODUCTION IN MALI

- Cotton production in Mali is essentially rainfed;
- It also is GMO-free;
- Cotton sector is characterized by a sinusoidal evolution of the production due to climate hazards, unpredictable world cotton prices, unstable yields, etc.
- Indeed, ICAC statistics show from 2009/10 campaign to 2016/17:
 - Production has increased from a minimum of 85,000 metric tons to a maximum of 261,000 metric tons;
 - Area in cotton has increased from a minimum 197,000 ha to a maximum 656,000 ha;
 - The yield has increased from a minimum 345 kg/ha to a maximum of 433 kg/ha.

EVOLUTION OF COTTON PRODUCTION (Con'd)

- the increase in the production of cotton in Mali is more attributed to area than to yields.
- Cotton production in Mali is affected by the quality of fertilizers, world market volatility, falling trend of yields and climate uncertainty.

It should be noted That the reforms have had impacts on Cotton production in Mali, such as the Agricultural orientation Law (reform of Cotton sector).

Also, The Government does not directly subsidize the purchase price of cotton, but it subsidizes the price of fertilizers.

III TRADE OF MALIAN COTTON

- Cotton is, in value, the second export product in Mali after gold.
- It is an important source of export earnings.
- The cotton sector represents 15% of GDP.
- Mali is the second largest producer of cotton in West-Africa after Burkina Faso and the fourth in Africa.
- Production of Mali is mostly exported to China.
- Malian cotton is sold by call to tender by CMDT.
- Only 2% of the total production is locally processed.

IV CHALLENGES

There are many challenges :

- **Political challenge:** subsidies provide by developed countries to their producers ;
- **Agronomic challenge:** falling trend of yields, agronomic research;
- **Environmental challenge:** use of pesticides;
- **Industrial and technical challenge:** need to increase the local processing capacity;
- **Commercial challenge:** increase the quality of fiber by avoiding contamination.

V PROSPECTS

The future of cotton in Mali and all Western- Africa countries requires:

- **Improve competitiveness of the sector:**

- ✓ Reduce production cost;
- ✓ Improve quality;

- **Ensure sustainability of the cotton sector:**

- ✓ Promote climate friendly practices;
- ✓ Enhance actors' adaptability to change;

- **Promote regional integration** through **African Cotton Association (A.C.A)** which has a mission to ensure the defense and promotion of African cotton in accordance with international trade rules by contributing to improve the productivity, quality, competitiveness and valorization of African cotton in a sustainable development perspective.

END

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION !