

OVERVIEW OF THE TANZANIA COTTON INDUSTRY

Introduction

- Cotton in Tanzania is a lifeline of more than 14 million people. Cotton is grown in 13 regions out of 21.
- On average, an area of 400,000 ha is planted to cotton by some 500,000 small holder farmers in 42 districts.
- Farm size ranges between 0.5 to 5 ha
- All cotton is rain fed

Production

- As reported in Rustenburg in 2006, during 2005/06 farming season, Tanzania witnessed worst drought in many years as a result production fell by 65% from 126,181 tons to only 43,763 tons of lint in 2006/07
- Total dependence on vagaries of weather makes it difficult to predict with certainty cotton output

(Product....)

- During 2006/07 farming season 410,000 ha were sown to cotton but due to excessive rain the marketing season of 2007/08 recorded 200,000 tons of seed cotton

Marketing and Ginning

- 40 cotton buyers were registered to procure seed cotton during 2007/08 season
- Due to stiff competition, seed cotton prices sky rocketed from an average of shs.350 per kg paid to farmers in the preceding season to shs.500 and above
- 32 ginneries were licensed to operate in the season.

Cotton exports

- Over 70% of cotton produced is exported as lint.
- During 2006/07 season, Tanzania exported 17,920 tons of lint worth US\$ 20 millions compared to 98,528 tons valued at US\$ 101 millions exported in 2005/06

- Lint exports for 2007/08 up to 31st March 2008 reached 33,271 tons valued at US\$ 47 millions.
- Major markets include China, Indonesia, Thailand, Kenya, Portugal, Bangladesh, Vietnam and Pakistan.

Local Consumptions

- Local consumption is limited due to low textile mill capacity.
- Currently, there are 20 working spinning and weaving mills in the country.
- During 2006/07 season the mills consumed a total of 25,843 tons of lint

- The mills capacity is estimated at 200 million meters of woven fabrics.
- Domestic demand is estimated at 300 million meters of woven fabrics.
- Currently, mills employ about 18,000 people.

Cotton Development Measures.

- i. Enhancing the usage of inputs through introduction of contract farming
- ii. Develop and transfer new cost effective production technologies through Farmer Field Schools, cinema shows and radio programs
- iii. Release new seed varieties with better Ginning Out Turn (GOT) and other quality parameters

- Undertaking campaigns to revamp productivity and re-opening of new areas for increased cotton production.
- Introduction of Conservation Agriculture. Trials are now in progress in 6 districts
- Contracting seed multiplication, processing and distribution of seeds for planting to competent companies
- New initiatives on value addition through Gatsby Charitable Foundation Project

Crop forecast for 2008/09

- During 2007/08 farming season a total of 486,000 ha have been planted to cotton, if weather pattern won't change, we forecast to produce 432,000 tons of seed cotton
- Factors which have lead to the anticipated cotton output increase include:-
- Good weather which has so far prevailed and adequate supply of pesticides
- Record producer price paid to farmers in 2007/08 marketing season

**Thank you for your
attention**