

Newsletter 4, July 2018

## PROMOTING COTTON BY-PRODUCTS in Eastern and Southern Africa

Countries: Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe

Duration: 2016-19

Website: <http://unctad.org/en/Pages/SUC/Commodities/SUC-Project-1617K.aspx>

### Survey and national workshop complete in Uganda

With its partner, the Cotton Development Organisation (CDO), UNCTAD held a three-day national capacity-building workshop in Kampala on 14-16 March 2018. The objectives of the workshop were: a) for stakeholders to select priority commercial initiatives to add more value to cotton by-products; and b) for policy makers to recommend policies in support of these initiatives.



Participants in Kampala, Uganda (Photo credit James Kajubi for UNCTAD)

At the workshop, Dr. Isaac Shinyekwa presented his report of the survey on cotton by-products in Uganda, conducted as part of the project.<sup>1</sup> His invaluable analysis of commercial constraints and policy gaps informed participants' discussions on priority commercial initiatives and policies.

Participants also heard expert presentations by Dr. Keshav Kranthi of the International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC), on increasing seed cotton production yields, and by Dr. P.G. Patil of the Central Institute for Research on Cotton Technology (CIRCOT) on value addition technologies for cotton by-products.

Informed by these expert presentations and their deliberations, participants agreed by consensus on a National Action Plan to develop cotton by-products in Uganda. The Plan proposed the four following commercial initiatives:

1. Extend the market for cottonseed to the non-ruminants feed segment by implementing de-gossypol technology, as developed by CIRCOT in India;
2. Increase the supply of short-staple cotton for absorbent cotton production;
3. Develop a new value chain for cotton stalks, to produce charcoal briquettes; and
4. Scale up commercial mushroom production using cotton biomass.

The latter two initiatives will employ local technologies, developed by the Uganda Industrial Research Institute (UIRI). At the policy component of the workshop, participants agreed on four policy recommendations to support the commercial initiatives.

On behalf of the participants, UNCTAD drafted the detailed National Action Plan and submitted it to CDO for validation. UNCTAD will support the Plan's implementation with the remaining activities of the project.

## National Action Plan validated in Zimbabwe

On 31 January 2018, on behalf of the Government of Zimbabwe, Mrs. Abigail Shonhiwa, Secretary for Industry, Commerce and Enterprise, validated National Action Plan to develop cotton by-products in Zimbabwe, as proposed by participants at the national workshop held in Harare on 27-29 September 2017.

Following the validation of the National Action Plan, the Ministry of Industry and Commerce convened the multi-stakeholder oversight committee proposed therein, to plan the implementation of its priority initiatives, namely:

1. Establish a stabilisation fund for cotton prices;
2. Develop a new value chain for cotton stalks; and
3. Extend the market for cottonseed to the non-ruminants feed segment by implementing de-gossypol technology.

UNCTAD will assist the committee with the implementation of the National Action Plan, with secretarial support and the remaining project activities, for example advisory services, investment profiles, a study tour and a regional workshop for all four countries.

## Next steps

In the coming months, the UNCTAD project team will undertake the following activities:

1. Provide advisory services and draft investment profiles to support the implementation of each country's National Action Plan to develop cotton by-products; and
2. Prepare a study tour in India in early 2019.

## Contact us

For information about the project, please do not hesitate to contact the UNCTAD project team.

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<sup>i</sup> All four country surveys are available on the project site, along with documentation from all activities:  
<http://unctad.org/en/Pages/SUC/Commodities/SUC-Project-1617K.aspx>