Promoting cotton by-products in Eastern and Southern Africa
National Capacity Building Workshop Tanzania

Increasing seed cotton production

Dar es Salaam, 15-17 November 2017
Possible reasons for declining seed cotton production

- Farm gate price for seed cotton
  
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2011/12</th>
<th>2012/13</th>
<th>2013/14</th>
<th>2014/15</th>
<th>2015/16</th>
<th>2016/17</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USD</td>
<td>0.65</td>
<td>0.43</td>
<td>0.44</td>
<td>0.46</td>
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<tr>
<td>TSH</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>660</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1,100</td>
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- Competition from other crops, e.g. soybean, sunflower
- The effects of climate change (rainfall pattern)
- Poor cotton management practices
- Deteriorating characteristics of the older cotton variety UK91
- Poor quality of pesticide inputs
- Possible development of pesticide resistance
- Weak governing bodies (TCB, TCA, TACOGA)
- Political/policy environment for the cotton sector
What changes are taking place? Will this be enough?

- A number of ginning companies have embarked on a serious drive to provide training in e.g. Good Agricultural Practices, Conservation Agriculture and Integrated Plant and Pest Management, demonstrating that profitable yields can be obtained (500 kg/acre and above), and climate change effects can at least be mitigated

- Use of molasses traps to reduce bollworm infestations, registration of alternative pesticides which can be used in rotation with or replace the currently used pesticides, and initial trials with bio-pesticides

- Replacement of the UK91 cotton variety by UKM08, which is claimed to have a GOT of 40-42%. Only acid delinted UKM08 seed is supposed to be planted in the 2017/2018 season

- Weaknesses in governing bodies such as TCB and TCA are being addressed

- A renewed effort is being made to introduce contract farming through the allocation of concession zones
What should be the Way Forward?

- Improving cotton industry data collection?
- Scaling-up of GAP/CA/IPPM training to farmers by improving extension service delivery?
- Strengthening research to continue the search for and optimize alternative options for the control of cotton pests (and diseases)?
- Ensuring adequate input and delivery to farmers? Can contract farming be the vehicle for this?
- Improve and safeguard the functioning of governing bodies?
- Redefine regulatory functions of Government?
How to move forward?

The Tanzania cotton industry is facing many challenges, for which there is no ‘silver bullet’ solving it all.

A dedicated effort needs to be made by cotton ginning companies and Government alike to enter into a proper dialogue and chart the way forward, thereby acknowledging and respecting each others’ core competencies.
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