National Capacity Building Workshop

Promoting Cotton by-Products in Zambia
6-8 December, 2017, Lusaka
Comments on Presentation

Study has provided a good analysis of the potential, current status and prospects for the development of cotton by-products in Zambia achieving the key study objectives to:

- Identifying impediments and opportunities.
- Understanding the infrastructure and technology at each level.
- Understanding producers demographic and income profiles.
- Understanding the motivations of chain players to invest.
- Identifying incentives for the various players to invest.
Impediments and Opportunities

• A brief analysis of the policy framework and environment. Policy makers are key stakeholders.
• Low production of seed cotton is the most important impediment affecting the whole sector. A more detailed analysis is deserving. Major causes of low production.
1. Low farm yields
• Agronomic-Timeliness of field operations
• Poor soils (inherent or due to prolonged cultivation) low organic matter, soil ph, etc.
• Low inputs, (fertilisers, pesticides)
• Low mechanisation to substitute the high labour costs
• Low technology adoption
Impediments and opportunities contd...

2. Economic factors (may even be more important than agronomic)
   • This is mainly price

3. Outgrower organisation and service delivery effectiveness
   • Extension and input support
   • Sector coordination
Textiles and clothing Industry

The textiles and clothing industries are important players in cotton value chain. Zambia had before 2006 a robust and notable textile industry employing over 10,000 workers. These industries have undergone a sharp decline due mainly to:

• Reduced domestic demand and foreign competitiveness
• Decapitalisation and outdated production technology
• Lack of capital and investment financing
• Inadequate protection
Recommendations

- Should be specific and should address the impediments and weaknesses raised in the value chain analysis such as low production and farmer productivity.