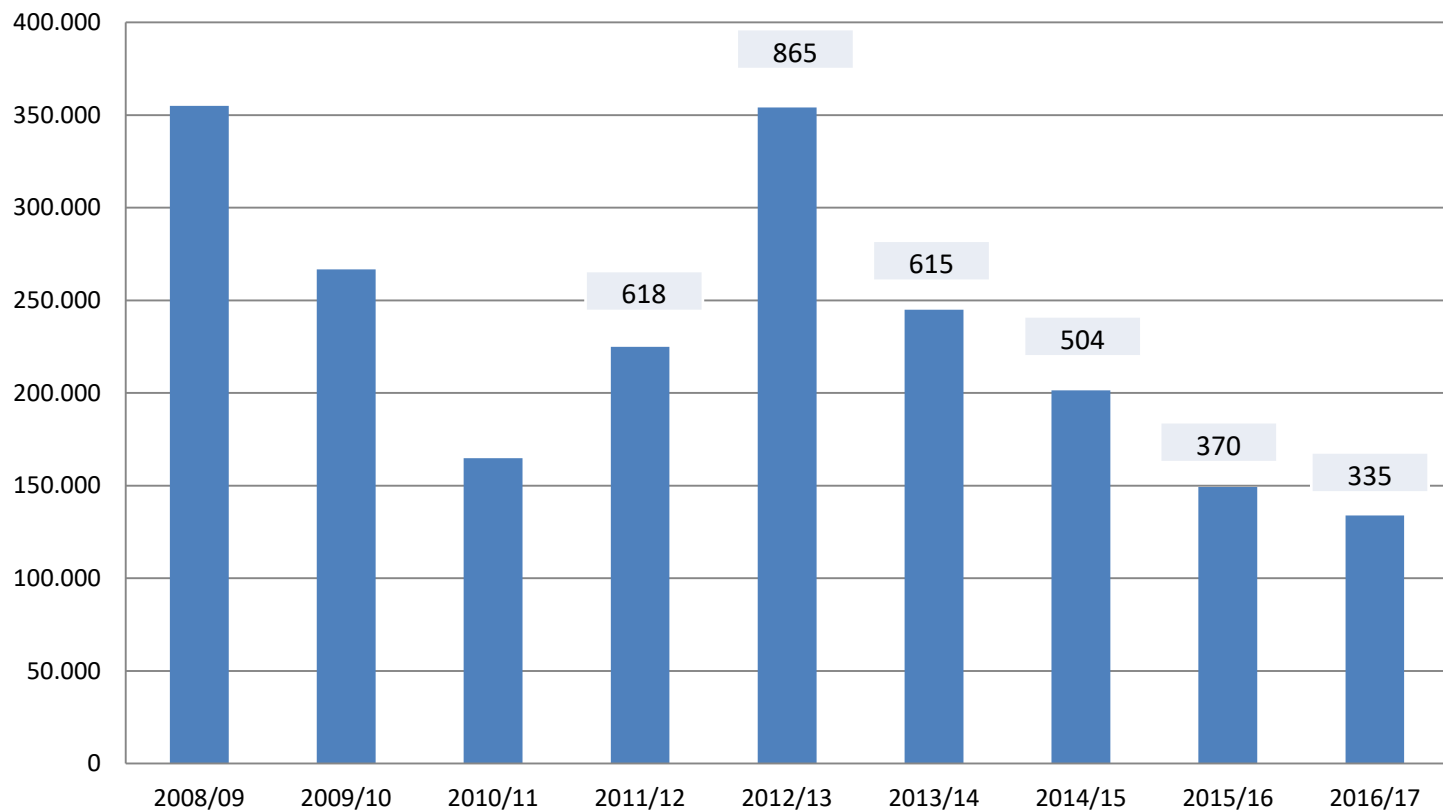


**Promoting cotton by-products in
Eastern and Southern Africa
National Capacity Building Workshop Tanzania**

Increasing seed cotton production

Dar es Salaam, 15-17 November 2017

Seed Cotton Production Tanzania (MT)



Possible reasons for declining seed cotton production

➤ Farm gate price for seed cotton

2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
USD 0.65	USD 0.43	USD 0.44	USD 0.46	USD 0.46	USD 0.46
TSH 1,000	TSH 660	TSH 700	TSH 800	TSH 1,000	TSH 1,100

- 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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