

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- Decapitalisation and outdated production technology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.