

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

**Regional Workshop on Promoting Cotton By-Products in Eastern and Southern
Africa**

**28-30 May 2019, Johannesburg, South Africa
Hosted by Cotton SA**

Remarks from Mozambique Delegation

By

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The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of UNCTAD.



REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY
MOZAMBIQUE INSTITUTE FOR COTTON**

REMARKS FROM MOZAMBIQUE DELEGATION

Regional Workshop on Promoting Cotton
By-Products in Eastern and Southern Africa

Johannesburg, South Africa

28 – 30 May 2019

Honorable Representative of the Government of South Africa, Mr. Thabo Ramashala, Director of Plant Production, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries;

Honorable CEO of Cotton South Africa, Mr. Hennie Bruwer;

Honorable Head of Commodities Branch, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Ms. Yanchun Zhang;

Honorable Director of Regional Integration and Trade, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, Mr. Stephen Karigi;

I acknowledge the presence of the Executive Director of ICAC, Mr. Kai Hughes;

Distinguished Delegates, my fellows from Eastern and Southern African Countries.

Ladies and Gentlemen

All protocol observed

Foremost, let me congratulate the government of South Africa for the new election and to host this important regional workshop on promoting cotton by-products in Eastern and Southern Africa. It represents a hope for cotton community in both Eastern and Southern African

Countries, in terms of development of cotton by-products industry, particularly for Mozambique.

This workshop allows to understand that in Africa we are facing a lot of challenges that undermine the growth of the cotton value chain due to several factors, starting from technology to political constraints. On the other hand, it's also a great opportunity to recognize these constraints and transform into our common action plans, priorities and overcome barriers, taking advantages of long term experiences of other countries that will be presented here.

Cotton remains a strategic crop involving more than two hundred and thousand rural households and Mozambique produces yearly around eighty thousand tons of seedcotton. From this output, after ginning, thirty eight percent comprises fiber, two percent is waste, and the remaining sixty percent represents cottonseed, which the majority, around forty percent, is exported to regional and international markets. Nonetheless, around twenty percent is employed in the seed-crushing mills for production of edible oil, soap and cake for livestock. Unfortunately, the value addition activities in the country are very limited. In a near future we expect to revert this scenario and that's why we are here.

Mozambique, such as other countries, will benefit from this project and we have high expectations in terms of increasing of the cotton yields, improvement of the cotton seed system, jobs and creation of the local market for cotton by products at large scale. The cotton sector in Mozambique is open to embrace the success of this project.

Unfortunately, in the past two months the country was affected by two cyclones, namely IDAI and Kenneth, many lives, crops, infrastructures have been lost. However, the process of recovering takes time but thanks to the support of our fellow African brothers and the International community this process is in a good pace. Therefore, this project may be a valuable contribution for development of cotton industry in the Country.

From this workshop we expect to exchange experience, identify opportunities for cooperation and identify needs for training on cotton by-products for both public and private sector, so that the awareness of exploring integrally the cotton value chain moves very fast.

I would like to congratulate the organizing committee of the workshop, for the preparedness of the workshop, wonderful venue and for everything they have done to us since our departure from home and I wish all the best for everybody and fruitful debates in this workshop.

Because I don't want to waste more time, let me extend my gratitude to DITC/UNCTAD for invitation and support of the Mozambique Delegation in this valuable forum.

Thank you so much.