

National validation workshop on cotton by-products development in Malawi

Lilongwe, Malawi, 8 March 2022

1. Background

Cotton is grown primarily for its lint, while there are commercial applications for other parts of the cotton plant as well, such as stalks, husks, cottonseeds, and short staples. Such by-products represent an opportunity for producing countries to increase the benefits they derive from growing cotton.

A **feasibility study on the development of cotton by-products in Malawi** was carried out within the framework of a project implemented by UNCTAD and financed by the Enhanced Integrated Framework. The study was carried out by Dr. Mavuto Tembo, independent consultant, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Trade.

The feasibility study aims to assess the potential of Malawi to develop cotton by-products. Among the important elements of the study are the identification of priority cotton by-products, assessment of the investments and technologies needed, analysis of the roles of existing and potential stakeholders, as well as the review of government policies for the cotton sector.

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WTO-UNCTAD-ITC Initiative on cotton by-products



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A validation workshop for the aforementioned study will finalize its preliminary findings and recommendations. The consultant will present the study and its results, while participants will have the opportunity to share their views as well as information and new data on the potential for value addition activities addressing the by-products of the cotton plant in Malawi. Specifically, participants will focus on completing the analysis and validating the following parts of the study:

- The stakeholder analysis grid for each cotton by-product;
- The strengths-weaknesses-opportunities-threats (SWOT) analysis to assess the potential expansion of various by-products;
- Recommendations on how farmers could benefit more from cotton by-products given the current lack of significant investment funds;
- Identifying opportunities for public-private partnership (PPP) projects to develop specific by-products and support private sector investments;
- The current state of policy support and measures to accompany investments, technology transfer and value chain development activities.

Relevant stakeholders, including cotton farmers and their associations, government officials, as well as national and international partners, will provide valuable input to the finalization of the report through comments and group discussions. The information gathered, including new data and recommendations thus shared by participants, will be fully reflected in the final report, which will be published in due course.

2. Date and venue

The workshop will be held in Lilongwe, Malawi, on Tuesday, 8 March 2022 at the Sunbird Capital Hotel (upon invitation).

Invited participants and organizers are required to comply with the health rules in force to access the meeting.

3. Provisional programme

08:30 - 09:00	Registration
09:00 - 10:00	Opening session
10:00 - 10:20	Coffee break and group photo
10:20 - 11:00	Presentation of the Feasibility study on the development of cotton by-products in Malawi
	Dr. Mavuto Tembo, independent consultant
11.00 - 11.30	Discussion, Q&A
11:30 - 12:00	Formation of thematic breakout groups
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch break
13:00 - 15:00	Session of the thematic breakout groups
15:00 - 16:20	Plenary session: Summary of findings, recommendations, and conclusions on the draft feasibility study from the breakout groups
	Discussion
16:20 - 16:30	Closing ceremony

4. Resource persons

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