

Newsletter 6, July 2019

## PROMOTING COTTON BY-PRODUCTS in Eastern and Southern Africa

**Countries:** United-Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe

**Duration:** 2016–19

**Website:** <http://unctad.org/en/Pages/SUC/Commodities/SUC-Project-1617K.aspx>

### Regional workshop in South Africa



From 28-30 May, UNCTAD held a wrap-up regional workshop in Johannesburg, South Africa. Cotton SA, the industry association, hosted the workshop.

The workshop gathered approximately 70 participants, of which 30 stakeholders came from the South African cotton sector and 40 from the UNCTAD project. Several

partner institutions and development partners participated, as did a delegation from Mozambique.

The regional workshop was the last main activity before the scheduled close of the project at the end of 2019. UNCTAD therefore aimed for the workshop to allow the countries to share lessons and results from the project activities and present to partners and donors the commercial and policy initiatives developed.

To inform the discussion at the workshop, UNCTAD commissioned Mr. Stephen Kabwe of the Indaba Agricultural Policy Research Institute (IAPRI) in Zambia to draft a synthesis report of participants' experiences and the commercial initiatives developed through the project activities. Mr. Kabwe presented his findings at the workshop and received feedback to incorporate into the final report.

The three project countries – Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe – presented their experiences and plans



going forward. In general, they valued the new value addition opportunities the project featured and appreciated the inclusive, multi-stakeholder approach. They credited the project activities with generating both knowledge and motivation to pursue concrete investments in cotton by-products.

The countries also presented six concept notes for follow-on projects. They included concepts for research and development projects, demonstration facilities and commercial initiatives. These concept notes represent a key outcome for this capacity-building project: an application of the lessons learned into new, concrete initiatives. UNCTAD is committed to continue working with the countries to refine these concepts and submit them to relevant investors and development partners.

On 30 May, Cotton SA organised a field visit to the cotton-growing zone around Marblehall, north of Johannesburg. The participants visited a small-scale farm – employing rain-fed, hand-picked production – and a commercial farm with irrigation and an automated picking machine. The group finished by visiting the Loskop Ginners, the main seed cotton buyer in the area.



## Project extended to July 2020

The United Nations Capacity Development Office has extended our project until August 2020, with additional funds from the United Nations Development Account.

UNCTAD will use the additional funds to organize capacity-building activities in support of the initiatives

developed in each country over the course of the project. UNCTAD is currently discussing the programme for these activities with the project countries.

## New EIF-funded project approved

In early June, the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) approved funding for the first phase of a project proposed by the new joint initiative on cotton by-products, between UNCTAD, the World Trade Organization (WTO) and International Trade Centre (ITC).

The three agencies will implement the project in eight countries in Africa, including three from the UNCTAD project: Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mozambique, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.

The first phase will consist of a feasibility study to identify the priority by-products for development in the countries. The partner agencies aim to launch a pilot project as part of a second phase at the 12<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference of the WTO, in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan in June 2020.



## Next steps

In the coming months, UNCTAD will undertake the following activities:

1. Assist countries in refining concept notes for follow-on projects, for submission to development partners;
2. Disseminate project deliverables and lessons at international fora, including the inaugural World Cotton Day in Geneva on 7 October, WTO Cotton Days in Geneva in November and the 78<sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting of the International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC) in December; and
3. With the WTO and ITC, incorporate our project's work in Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia into the new EIF-funded project.

## Contact us

For information about the project, please contact the UNCTAD project team.

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