



REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

COUNTRY STATEMENT ON THE COTTON SUB-SECTOR FOR FY 2018/19

Presented at the:

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INTERNATIONAL COTTON ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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PERFORMANCE OF THE COTTON SUB-SECTOR IN UGANDA - FY 2018/19

1. Introduction:

Cotton is one of the Uganda Government’s strategic commodities under the Agriculture Sector Strategic Plan (2015/16 – 2019/20). The Plan focuses on increasing agricultural production and productivity, increasing access to critical farm inputs and improving agricultural markets and value addition.

2. Cotton production and domestic consumption –

- A total of 189,444 bales (@ 185 Kg) of lint were produced in 2018/19. This represented a 6.4% drop in production compared to the FY 2017/18 production of 202,357 bales. During FY 2018/19, cotton production was adversely affected by erratic rainfall patterns which had a big impact on crop establishment and performance.
- About 8,541 bales of lint were procured for use by the two vertically integrated textiles mills. Domestic demand for lint during FY 2018/19 was low mainly due to carry over stocks from 2017/18.

3. Lint exports – during FY 2018/19, 180,903 bales of lint were exported mainly to Singapore, France, UK, UAE. Over US\$ 55 million were earned from these exports.

4. Quality of Uganda’s lint –

- 84% of the ginned lint was classed in the top 3 cotton grades during 2018/19 compared to 69% in 2017/18. This was attributed to intensive sensitization of farmers and other stakeholders on post-harvest handling and quality management.
- Uganda’s official standards as approved by the International Cotton Association (ICA) and Bremen Cotton Exchange in June 2018 and the performance by grade in 2018/19 are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Uganda’s official Cotton Standards and performance by grade in 2018/19

	Major Characteristics	Value Differences		
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Grade Standard	Length (mm)	Strength (g/tex)	Micronaire	(Points /US cts/lb)	International equivalent (USDA Standards)	Performance by grade in 2018/19
Roller Ginned cotton						
UCON	28 & above	30 - 33	3.7 – 4.3	150 points (+1.5 cts)	Good Middling	10.6%
UCOB	28 - 29	30 - 33	3.7 – 4.3	75 points (+ 0.75 cts)	Strict Middling	14.2%
UCOP	28 - 29	28 – 32	4.0 – 4.2	Base Grade	Middling	59.0%
UCOA	26 - 27	28 - 30	4.0 – 4.2	-100 points (-1.0 cts)	Strict Low Middling	13.9%
UCOM	26 & below	27 - 30	4.2 – 4.4	-250 points (2.50 cts)	Low Middling	1.2%
Saw Ginned cotton						
UCOSA I	27 & above	28 - 30	4.0 – 4.2	100 points (+1.00 cts)	Strict Middling	0.6%
UCOSA II	27 & below	27 - 30	4.0 – 4.2	Base Grade	Middling	0.5%
					Total	100%

5. Participation in International Programs on cotton:

a) UNCTAD Project on “Improving the value added of cotton by-products in Eastern and Southern Africa” -

Two events happened in May and June, 2019:

- The regional workshop for all the participating countries took place between 28 and 31st May, 2019 in Johannesburg, South Africa.
- The workshop organized by UNCTAD/WTO on cotton by-products took place in Geneva from 3rd to 8th June, 2019.

b) Visit to Uganda by ICAC Officials

Between 3 – 10th July, 2019, the ICAC Executive Director, Mr. Kai Hughes and the Head of Technical Information, Dr. Keshav Kranthi visited Uganda. The purpose of the visit was to extend and strength technical support by ICAC to Uganda’s Cotton Sub-sector.

6. Way forward:

The Government of Uganda is in the processing of formulating the National Development Plan (NDP) III. One of the programs under this Plan is Agro-industrialization. Since cotton has one of the longest value chains among agriculture commodities, it fits very well under NDP III.

Cotton Development Organisation has therefore identified four interventions in the Cotton Sub-sector to support realization of agro-industrialization, namely; production research, provision of cotton production support services, promotion of proper post-harvest handling and quality management and promotion of domestic value addition to lint and cottonseed.

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