The White Gold from Africa
The Cotton Sector in Franc Zone West and Central Africa

### Total production: 2013/2014 season

- **Total production:** 2.2 million tons seedcotton / 925,000 tons lint (4.25 million bales)
- **Market share:** About 10% of world exports
- **98% exported**

#### Thousand MT lint:

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<tr>
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<td>91</td>
<td>110</td>
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<tr>
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<td>22</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>34</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>15</strong></td>
<td><strong>497</strong></td>
<td><strong>483</strong></td>
<td><strong>693</strong></td>
<td><strong>919</strong></td>
<td><strong>925</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,087</strong></td>
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- **The White Gold from Africa**
Map of Cotton Producing Countries in West Africa (UEMOA)
Map of Cotton Producing Countries in Central Africa (CEMAC)
African Cotton Lint Superior Characteristics

- Grade: 80% Strict Middling and above.
- Staple length: 85% 1\textquoteleft\textquoteleft1/8 and above; 15% 1\textquoteleft\textquoteleft3/32 and 1\textquoteleft\textquoteleft1/16.
- Micronaire: G5 (3.5-4.9 ncl); average 3.7-4.3.
- Strength: minimum 28 gpt up to 30.
- Uniformity: 80% and above.
- No stickiness reported during the last 15 years.
- Few seed varieties (1 to 3 in each country) ensuring homogeneity and consistency of production.
- As seedcotton is handpicked, cotton lint from Africa:
  - is less trashy;
  - has less neps;
  - has less short fibers;
  - has a better length uniformity;
- As such, African cottons are ideally suitable for spinning fine combed yarns.

The White Gold from Africa
A Green Cotton for the Benefit of Economic and Social Development

- African cotton, entirely rainfed, has been cultivated for decades by small-scale family farms.
- Hand picking and smooth ginning preserve the intrinsic properties of the cotton lint.
- Low use of pesticides ensures a comparatively low pollution.
- Very low carbon footprint: protecting the environment & biodiversity.
- Main source of income for 15 million people.
- Engine of development, major contributor to the improvement of living conditions and poverty alleviation in rural areas (education, health).
Classification, Quality Control and Varietal Research

- Lint classification is centralized (one lab’ per country) and undertaken by experienced technical experts according to national commercial types ensuring homogeneity of production.

- National commercial types are regularly updated.

- Most countries in West and Central Africa are provided with:
  - State of the art instruments for testing and improving lint characteristics
  - R&D services working in cooperation with international research institutions.

- In West Africa, the Research and Training Center for the Textile Industry (CERFITEX) provides its expertise to national classification laboratories.
Ginning and Shipping

- 96 ginneries.
- Total ginning capacity: 3,275,000 metric tons seedcotton per season.
- High ginning outturn: 41% to 43% (100% saw gins).
- Modern ginning equipment (U.S. made) and quality management systems (SODEFITEX certified ISO 9001; certification of CMDT underway).
- Shipping ports: Dakar, Abidjan, Lomé, Cotonou, Douala, San Pedro, Tema.
The Quality Approach: Towards Zero Contamination

- Traceability and quality control implemented at all stages from sowing to export.

- Harvesting bags made of cotton provided to cotton pickers to prevent contamination with polypropylene.

- Raising awareness of all cotton stakeholders in the region (training programs, community radio, etc).
Cotton sector stakeholders are represented and supported by regional institutions:

The African Cotton Association (A.C.A):

- Promote and defend the interest of African cotton by improving its productivity, quality, competitiveness through increased added value.

The African Cotton Producers Association (AproCa):

- Represents and defends the interests of African cotton farmers.
- Promotes cooperation and dissemination of information within the cotton sector.
The Way Forward

• Maintain the efforts undertaken to improve quality and performance throughout the value chain.

• Strengthen regional cooperation between cotton companies.

• Establish tight linkages with buyers in international markets.

• Build a reputation of indisputable quality for African cotton in the world market.
Terima kasih atas perhatian Anda!