



“Improving competitiveness of African cotton producers and exporters through South-South Cooperation”

20 November – 1st December 2006, Coimbatore, India

2 COIMBATORE CITY

THE HINDU • THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2006

Coimbatore blasts case

Prosecution evidence has failed to connect accused with crime they have been charged with, says defence. — Page 4

African cotton exporters meet Indian experts to discuss value addition

Visiting team has spinners, ginner and cotton producers from Ethiopia, Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia

M. Soundariya Preetha

COIMBATORE: A team of 21 cotton exporters from Africa is here on a 12-day visit for a workshop on cotton cultivation, commerce, quality aspects and value addition.

Business meetings

Apart from listening to experts, visiting industries and presenting the African cotton scenario they will have business meetings with input providers.

The visit is organised by the South India Textile Research Association jointly with International Trade Centre and the Union Ministry of Textiles.

Improvement

Beatriz Rodriguez, Assistant Trade Promotion Adviser, South-South Trade Promotion Programme, International Trade Centre, says the participants will learn how to improve cotton cultivation and productivity, and thus improve cotton exports to



WHITE GOLD: African cotton exporters at a cotton field in Coimbatore. — PHOTO: M. PERIASAMY

India.

The team has spinners, ginner and cotton producers from Ethiopia, Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.

Their exports are generally through international traders.

Currently, exports to India from East Africa are not much owing to technical

specifications of Indian buyers.

The workshop will help the participants understand the varieties of cotton and techniques used here.

“They will see the user industries, understand their requirements and get an exposure to different kinds of industries.”

The buyer-seller meet

- Participants to learn about various varieties

- Buyer-seller meet planned for Thursday

planned for Thursday will be with manufacturers of inputs and irrigation systems, as well as suppliers of seeds.

Similar team

In September, a similar team from West African countries visited China.

It is estimated that about 50 per cent of cotton produced by Africa goes to China.

Import

Addressing the African team on Tuesday, the South India Cotton Association secretary, K. Viswanathan, said India imported about 2.5 million bales in 2002.

Now, the total quantity was just lakh bales and most of it was Extra Long Staple Cotton.

SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION ON COTTON

This initiative, aimed at improving competitiveness of African cotton producers and exporters through South-South Cooperation, was jointly implemented by the South India Textiles Research Association, the Ministry of Textiles and the Ministry of External Affairs of India, and the International Trade Centre (ITC). The Government of India sponsored the participation of 22 representatives from Ethiopia, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.

The training programme, held in Coimbatore, India, from 20 November to 1 December 2006, encompassed a series of lectures focusing on cotton production management, processing, value addition and international trade, as well as study visits to cotton fields, research institutes, spinning and weaving mills and cotton machinery manufacturers.

Participants acquired a sound insight of the Indian cotton sector and the success factors behind India's cotton boom. Moreover, they understood the market requirements to comply with in order to enter this market. India is mainly importing long staple cotton from Sudan, Egypt, Uzbekistan and the United States while the participating countries only produce middle staple cotton. The possibility to start producing long fibre cotton using the Indian technology could be an entry point for several African producers to tap the Indian market. The diversity of activities covered allowed participants to understand that the final quality is determined by every process in the value chain, starting from the use of appropriate seeds for cultivation.

A business networking event with Indian companies was organized during the last day and allowed African participants to identify new sources of supply for cotton inputs, machinery, irrigation systems and traders that are likely to result in increased business between India and Africa.

However, participants indicated that for Africa to export cotton and cotton-valued-added products to India more technical assistance is required and they recommended the continuation of this project.

South-South Cooperation was qualified as an efficient mechanism to address African cotton critical issues that undermine their export performance.

TRAINING PROGRAMME IN COIMBATORE, INDIA

DAY 1	<p>Official opening (MEA, MOT, SITRA, ITC)</p> <p>International Cotton Production and Consumption (ITC and other Experts)</p> <p>Current International Cotton Price and Market. Projections for the future (ITC and International Experts)</p> <p>Quantitative and Qualitative Cotton demands of India in the coming years (SITRA)</p>
DAY 2	<p>Cotton and WTO (ITC)</p> <p>The African Cotton industry and its competitiveness (ITC)</p> <p>Visit to the Central Institute of Cotton Research in India / Agricultural University</p>
DAY 3	<p>Breeding methods and selection for improvement of the quality of cotton (CICR)</p> <p>High-yielding and drought tolerant cotton varieties (CICR)</p> <p>Potential for their cultivation in Africa and measures to be adopted by cotton growers to enhancing yield and quality (CICR)</p> <p>Multiple Adversity Resistant (MAR) varieties (CICR)</p> <p>Contract-Farming: an effective win-win solution for farmers and cotton consumers (SICA)</p>
DAY 4	<p>Visit to a contract farm and a ginnery</p> <p>Design, development and standardisation of equipment and techniques relating to cotton technology (SITRA)</p> <p>Strategies for sustained improvement in the quality of ginning (SITRA)</p>
DAY 5	<p>Modern procedures for testing the Quality of cotton fibres (SITRA, Uster, Premier)</p> <p>Visit to SITRA Laboratory and Premier Lab testing machinery manufacturer</p>
DAY 6/7	<p>Visit to OOTY</p>
DAY 8	<p>Quality requirements of Cotton to meet needs of Indian spinning mills (SITRA and Spinning Mills expert)</p> <p>Visit to Hi-tech Spinning Mills</p>
DAY 9	<p>Commercial aspects involved in the marketing of cotton – The Indian experience (By SICA)</p> <p>Progressive marketing strategies for cotton exporters to tap the Indian market (SICA)</p> <p>Futures trading in cotton – Benefits for Africa / Risk management in cotton trading through speculative buying (SICA)</p>
DAY 10	<p>The present scenario of India's textile exports and future potentials (SITRA)</p> <p>Visit to Hi-tech Weaving Units</p> <p>Visit to Tirupur Knitting Industries</p>
DAY 11	<p>African Cotton Presentation by African Participants</p> <p>Panel discussion with CEOs of spinning mills importing cotton</p> <p>Buyers – Sellers Meeting</p>
DAY 12	<p>Evaluation, Brainstorming, Way forward, Official closing</p>

The cotton value chain

20 November to 1 December 2006
Coimbatore, India,



Super Spinning Mills Limited & **The South India Cotton Association (SICA)**
Jointly Organise
ELS COTTON - PRECISION FARMING
IMPORTANT CHARACTERISTICS OF HYBRID COTTON SARA - 33 & SARA - 2

	Table 21	Table 2
Duration	100 - 110 Days	110 - 120 Days
Seed Cotton Yield	100 - 120 q/ha	100 - 120 q/ha
Stalk Length	14.2 - 15.0 cm	15 - 16 cm
Microaire	3.4 to 3.7	3.4 to 3.7
Strength	28 - 30 g/ten	27 - 28 g/ten
Recoverability	100 %	100 %



LIST OF AFRICAN PARTICIPANTS

ETHIOPIA	
ADEI ABEBA YARN SHARE COMPANY	Mr. Birhanu Sisay
ALMEDA TEXTILE PLC	Mr. Fitsum Hagos
AMIBARA AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ENTERPRISE	Mr. Mesay Abebe
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT	Mr. Getnet Geremew Ejigu
TENDAHO AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT	Mr. Negussie Agune
TANZANIA	
BOARD OF EXTERNAL TRADE	Mr. Emmanuel Miselya
RUWE FARMS CO LTD	Mr. Raphael Nkuli Mlulwa
SIMON AGENCY	Mr. Robert Kisena
TANZANIA COTTON ASSOCIATION	Mr. Benedict Maselle
TANZANIA COTTON BOARD	Mr. Marco Charles Mtunga
TANZANIA COTTON GROWERS ASSOCIATION	Mr. Lazaro Kulumba Nduta
UGANDA	
AWINGA MIXED FARM	Mr. Ovon Matatia
COTTON DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION	Mr. Hilary B. Magunda, Ms. Damalie Lubwama Mr. Patrick Illukat Opade
NYAKATONZI COOPERATIVE UNION LTD	Mr. Adam Bwambale
PHENIX LOGISTICS	Mr. Innocent Mwesigye
ZAMBIA	
COTTON DEVELOPMENT TRUST	Mr. Mwanya Muwansa
COTTON GROWERS ASSOCIATION OF ZAMBIA	Mr. Kasonde Mwale
MAGOYE COTTON FARMERS ASSOCIATION	Mr. Malambo Mweemba
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATIVES	Mr. Tundu Kaonga
MULUNGUSHI COTTON AND COOKING OIL CO. LTD	Mr. Weston Mwalanga

INDIAN COUNTERPARTS

SITRA	THE SOUTH INDIA TEXTILE RESEARCH ASSOCIATION, COIMBATORE
ICRIER	INDIAN COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS, NEW DELHI
TNAU	TAMILNADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, COIMBATORE
SICA	SOUTH INDIA COTTON ASSOCIATION, COIMBATORE
CICR	CENTRAL INSTITUTE FOR COTTON RESEARCH
SIMA	THE SOUTHERN INDIA MILLS ASSOCIATION, COIMBATORE
TEA	TIRUPUR EXPORTERS ASSOCIATION
	MAJOR GINNING AND SPINNING UNITS

IMMEDIATE RECOMMENDED STEPS BY PARTICIPANTS

- Elaboration by each delegation of an internal report detailing their future technical assistance needs to improve quality and expand exports.
- Organization of a follow-up meeting in Africa as closer regional cooperation with West African countries was regarded as a key activity for the region to advance.
- Delivery of specific Indian expertise in Africa to visit and advise African cotton producers.
- Replication of a similar training programme next year for other African countries.
- Establishment of a closer India-Africa cooperation, supported by ITC, to jointly exploit AGOA trade opportunities.

PROSPECTS FOR THE FUTURE

The Indian Government has already indicated that they would like to continue cooperating with ITC in 2007 on similar programmes, extending the country coverage also to West African countries.

This pragmatic and result-oriented programme in an area of importance for Africa has received the support of the WTO Secretariat as a “welcome opportunity to show how trade could work for development in the context of the DDA”.