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)
  - 98% exported

### Market share:
- About 10% of world exports

### Thousand MT lint

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BENIN</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>118</td>
<td><strong>124</strong></td>
<td><strong>165</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burkina Faso</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>260</td>
<td><strong>275</strong></td>
<td><strong>273</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Côte d’Ivoire</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>152</td>
<td><strong>173</strong></td>
<td><strong>194</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mali</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>189</td>
<td><strong>184</strong></td>
<td>242</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senegal</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>14</td>
<td><strong>12</strong></td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Togo</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>42</td>
<td><strong>34</strong></td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cameroon</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>110</td>
<td><strong>91</strong></td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chad</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>34</td>
<td><strong>32</strong></td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<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>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

The White Gold from Africa
The White Gold from Africa

Map of Cotton Producing Countries in Central Africa (CEMAC)
African Cotton Lint Superior Characteristics

- Grade: 80% Strict Middling and above.
- Staple length: 85% 1"1/8 and above; 15% 1"3/32 and 1"1/16.
- 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 (SODEFITEEX 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).
Regional Cotton Institutions

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.