

## Programme Launch & Sensitisation Workshop held in Blantyre (Malawi) during July 2 – 3, 2012

The programme was launched in Blantyre, Malawi on 3rd July 2012 by Honourable Deputy Minister of Agriculture & Food Security H.E. Mr. Jeremoth Ulemu Chilapondwa. Other dignitaries present at the event included Dr. Jeffrey Luhanga (Principal Secretary for Agriculture and Food Security), Mr. Patrick Khembo (Chairperson of Cotton Development Trust) and Representative on behalf of Chief Executive for Blantyre City Council. The launch programme was attended by stakeholders from across the value chain - Cotton Farmer Association, Ginners Association, Financial institutions, Textile Industry, Cotton Development Trust, Representatives from Agriculture Development Division & others. H.E. Mr. Jeremoth Ulemu Chilapondwa said that cotton has potential to provide livelihood opportunities to the people. He said that the Technical Assistance Programme will enhance the upstream & downstream capabilities of the cotton sector through capacity development and technology transfer activities.

The delegation from India also called upon H.E. Professor Peter Mwanza, Honourable Minister of Agriculture and his Ministry Official on 2nd July 2012 in Lilongwe. The Indian delegation was led by H.E. Mr. D.V.N Rao, Charge d' Affaires, High Commission of India in Malawi. The delegates also had a meeting with Mr. Nebert Nyirenda, Principle Secretary Ministry of Industry & Trade in Lilongwe. Detailed discussions were undertaken during all meetings & workshop highlighting the key features, components and activities of TAP.



H.E. Mr. Jeremoth Ulemu Chilapondwa, Hon'ble Deputy Minister of Agriculture & Food Security announcing launch of Programme in Blantyre (Malawi)



Various Stakeholders during the programme launch in Blantyre (Malawi)



H.E. Professor Peter Mwanza, Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture & Food Security, Malawi (middle)

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- Regional Training Programme - New Dimensions in Agricultural Extension Management, September 2012
- Regional Training Program - Modern Cotton Production Technology, October 2012
- Regional Training Program - Post-harvest management and value addition of crop residues, December 2012
- Exposure Visit to India for Policy Makers, December 2012
- Training Programme on Organic Cotton for Uganda

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## Cotton TAP Workshop held in New Delhi (India) on April 13, 2012

A sensitisation workshop was organised by IL&FS Clusters on 13th April 2012 at Niryat Bhawan, New Delhi. The workshop was co-chaired by Mr. J.S Deepak Joint Secretary, Trade Policy Division (TDP), Department of Commerce & Mr. Ravi Bangar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs. Ambassadors, High Commissioners & dignitaries from all seven participating African countries attended the programme.

The workshop included detailed presentation on the programme work plan, implementation mechanism and expected impact. The country specific action plans were also discussed. The representatives of the programme Implementing Agencies explained their activities in details. All the dignitaries acknowledged the initiative & consented to extend required support.



Programme workshop with dignitaries from seven participating African countries

## Programme Launch & Sensitisation Workshop held in Cotonou (Benin) during May 23 – 24, 2012

The Cotton Technical Assistance Programme (Cotton TAP) was launched in Benin on 23rd May 2012 by H.E. Mr. KATE Sabai, Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Livestock & Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Benin. The launch programme was attended by various representatives from Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock & Fisheries (MAEP), National Society for Agriculture Promotion (SONAPRA) and Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Hon'ble Minister expressed appreciation to Government of India for rendering efforts to design and implement the TAP initiative in the country. Separate workshops were conducted with stakeholders at Société Nationale pour la Promotion Agricole (SONAPRA) and Institut National des Recherches Agricoles du Bénin (INRAB). Detailed discussions were undertaken during the workshop highlighting the key features, components and activities of TAP.



H.E. Mr. Kate Sabai, Honourable Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Government of Republic of Benin



Meeting with Officials at Société Nationale pour la Promotion Agricole (SONAPRA) & Institut National des Recherches Agricoles du Bénin (INRAB) in Cotonou, Benin

Department of Agriculture & Cooperation  
Directorate of Cotton Development  
[agricoop.nic.in](http://agricoop.nic.in)

DOCD operates under the aegis of the Department of Agriculture, Government of India and is responsible for planning, coordinating and monitoring cotton crop development. DOCD will work on the extension mechanism in the target countries in Africa.

Central Institute for Cotton Research  
[www.cicr.org.in](http://www.cicr.org.in)

CICR is the premier cotton research agency in India under the aegis of Indian Council of Agricultural Research. CICR is working on strategic research & technology transfer for cotton value addition.

Central Institute for Research on Cotton Technology  
[www.circot.res.in](http://www.circot.res.in)

CIRCOT operates under the aegis of Indian Council of Agricultural Research for diversified utilisation of cotton plant by products & processing crop waste and residues.

**IL&FS** | Clusters

IL&FS Cluster Development Initiative Limited  
[www.iflclusters.com](http://www.iflclusters.com)

IL&FS Clusters has a vast experience of working with industries across sectors in cluster development, skill development and livelihood enhancement.

## Programme Launch & Sensitisation Workshop held in Abuja (Nigeria) during May 25 – 26, 2012

The Programme (Cotton TAP) was launched in Abuja (Nigeria) on 25th May 2012 by H.E. Mr. Bukar Tijani, Honourable Minister of State for Agriculture & Rural Development. The Cotton TAP delegation from India was led by H.E. Shri Mahesh Sachdev, High Commissioner of India in Nigeria. The launch workshop was also attended by officials from the Ministry of Trade and Investment and Department of Rural Development. Honourable Minister H.E. Mr. Bukar Tijani, welcomed the Cotton TAP initiative by Government of India and informed that the resurrection of cotton industry in Nigeria is amongst the primary agendas for national level transformation programmes. The Indian delegation also called upon the Honourable Minister of Trade and Investment, H.E. Mr. Olusegun Aganga.

Another stakeholder workshop was organised at the Office of Indian High Commission in Abuja, Nigeria which included representatives from Agriculture Research Institution, Cotton Association, Textile & Manufacture Association, Cotton Ginning Company, Investors, Women Empowerment Associations, Chamber of Commerce & others.



H.E. Mr. Bukar Tijani Minister of State, Ministry of Agriculture & Rural Development (Centre)

H.E. Mr. Olusegun Aganga, Minister of Trade and Investment, Nigeria (Left) & H.E. Shri Mahesh Sachdev, High Commissioner of India in Nigeria (Right)

Meeting with various stakeholder from across the cotton value chain in Abuja, Nigeria

## Regional Launch & Sensitisation Workshop held in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) during May 28 -29, 2012

The regional launch workshop was organised in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso on 28th May 2012. The programme was launched by H.E. Mr. Patiende Arthur Kafando, Hon'ble Minister of Commerce and Promotion of Enterprises and Craftsman, Government of Burkina Faso. Speaking at the launch ceremony, the chief guest Hon'ble Mr. Mbatna Bandjang, Ambassador of Chad Mission in Burkina appreciated the assistance extended by India to Cotton-4 nations, Nigeria, Malawi & Uganda. Reiterating the significance of cotton in participating countries, he also said that the successful implementation of Cotton TAP in the region shall make the sector vibrant and competitive. The launch was also attended by various participants from the cotton sector.

In a separate meeting, the delegation from India also called upon Hon'ble Mr. Gnissa Isaie Konate (Minister for Scientific Research and Innovation) and Hon'ble Mr. Lawrence Gouindé SEDOGO (Minister of Agriculture, Water & Water Resources).



H.E. Mr. Patiende Arthur KAFANDO, Hon'ble Minister of Commerce and Promotion of Enterprises and Craftsman

H.E. Mr. Gnissa Isaie KONATE, Hon'ble Minister for Scientific Research and Innovation (Left)

H.E. Mr. Lawrence Gouindé SEDOGO, Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture, Water & Water Resources (Left)

## Programme Launch & Sensitisation Workshop held in N'djamena (Chad) during May 31 –June 1, 2012

The Programme was launched in N'djamena on 31st May 2012 by Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, H.E. Dr. Djime Adoum. The delegation was accompanied by Mr. Barka, Administrateur au Consulat Honorarire de l'Inde au Tchad. H.E Dr. Djime Adoum, welcomed the initiative of the Indian Government and assured direct engagement of his office to co-ordinate the programme.

During the visit, Cotton TAP delegates from India also met Mr. Ibrahim Malloum, Director General, Nouvelle Société Textile du Tchad & Dr. Koye Djondang, Director Scientific, Institut Tchadien De Recherche Agronomique pour le Developpement (ITRAD) and discussed the Cotton TAP programme in details.

## Programme Launch & Sensitisation Workshop held in Kampala (Uganda) during June 28 – 30, 2012

The Programme was launched in Uganda on 28th June 2012 at Cotton House in Kampala by Mr. James Collins Dombo, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture Animal industries and Fisheries, Government of Uganda. Dr. A. K. Krishna Kumar, Executive Director, IL&FS Clusters led the programme delegation from India which comprised of representatives from Programme Implementing Agencies. The Indian High Commissioner to Uganda H.E. Mr. Soumen Ray was also present at the occasion.

Other dignitaries present at the event included acting High Commissioner of Uganda in New Delhi (India) H.E. Mr. Katureebe Tayebwa, representatives from Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperative, Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industries and Fisheries, Ministry of External Affairs, Uganda Ginners Cotton and Exports Association, National Agricultural Research Organisation, Cotton Development Organisation and associated organization.

Detailed discussion was held on the programme Action Plan for Uganda. Appreciating the specialized interventions for Uganda comprising training on Organic Cotton and establishment of Bio-pesticide unit, Mr. James Collins Dombo welcomed the Cotton TAP and informed that it conforms to the Five Year Agri Development Plan of Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry & Fisheries. The delegation from India also called upon the Hon'ble Dr. Zerubabeeri Nyira, Minister of State for Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF). The delegation visited National Semi-Arid Resources Research Institute (NaSARRI) in Serere (Uganda) and Busitema University Campus in Tororo.



Official Launch of Programme in Uganda by Hon'ble Mr. James Collins Dombo, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industries and Fisheries



Hon'ble Professor Zerubabeeri Nyira, Minister of State for Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industries and Fisheries & H.E. Mr. Soumen Ray, Indian High Commissioner to Uganda



Meeting with Professor Mary J.N. Okwakol, Vice Chancellor, Busitema University & other Officials



Meeting with Dr. Beatrice Akello Omonuk, Director of Research, NaSARRI & other Officials