

Burkina Faso : Sustainability and value added in agricultural supply chains | cotton (ProCoton)

Sustainable cotton production and processing is improved in Burkina Faso

Challenges

Cotton or "white gold" is Burkina Faso's leading agricultural export. It is therefore included in the National Economic and Social Development Plan 2021-2025 (PNDES-II) as a key development factor for the country.

The yield of seed cotton has remained stagnant in recent years. Although there are many reasons for this, the main ones are difficulties in accessing inputs in certain areas, inconveniences related to climatic hazards and pests. Despite these difficulties, Burkina Faso remains one of the largest cotton producers in Africa with a production of 518,545 tonnes of seed cotton in 2021/2022.

As for processing, barely 1% of cotton fibre is processed locally by the country's craftspeople. Poorly structured, these actors in the textile industry operate mainly informally and often have little access to technical services, financing and training. With regard to industry, the only spinning factory, FILSAH, has a capacity of around 10,000 tonnes of fibre per year. Almost all of the remaining cotton fibre production is therefore exported without any substantial local processing, thus limiting its contribution to the national economy.

ProCoton is part of the Global Programme "Sustainability and Value Added in Agricultural Supply Chains", which is part of the special initiative "ONE WORLD – NO HUNGER: Transforming Agri-Food Systems".

Commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the programme is addressing cotton speculation in Cameroon, Uzbekistan and India, in addition to Burkina Faso.

Project Title	Sustainability and value added in agricultural supply chains cotton (ProCoton)
Commissioner / Client	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Implementing Organisation	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Project intervention areas	Burkina Faso : Hauts-Bassins, Cascades, Boucle de Mouhoun, Central-East, Central-South, Centre and Central-West regions
Supervisory Body	Ministry of Industrial Development, Trade, Handicrafts and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
Duration	01.2020 – 05.2024

Our approach

The project is based on a value chain approach. Activities focus on two aspects of the cotton sector:

- Development of sustainable cotton production;
- Improvement of the cotton processing stages, from yarn production to finished products.

4 scopes of action

- Sustainable management of farming techniques, which aims to disseminate sustainable cotton production approaches such as "Cotton made in Africa" (CmiA) and organic fair-trade cotton. Furthermore, awareness-raising activities are carried out with



Photo (left) Tour of high-density demonstration fields in the central south region

Photo (centre) : Cotton field ready for harvest

Photo (right) : Dyers manufacturing cotton yarn dyeing catalogues.



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Photo (left) : Women at a high-density demonstration field in the Central South region

Photo (right) :
Faso Dan Fani weavers in a training session on the large weaving loom.

the authorities and the rural population in order to prevent the worst forms of child labour.

- **Increase in local value creation.** The aim is to strengthen actors' organisational and technical capacities throughout the cotton processing value chain. Craftspeople and their organisations are trained, and support is provided for creating and implementing a textile incubator. Emphasis is placed on the adoption of innovations and sustainable technologies, including dyeing, weaving and business management.
- **Sustainable global supply chains.** This scope of action follows public-private cooperation partnerships between world leaders in the private textile and clothing sector and actors in Burkina Faso.
- **Sustainable cotton sector.** This promotes experience sharing as well as exchange and coordination meetings with stakeholders in other partner countries.

... in facts

"This training came at the right time. We had a bleaching order for 9 packs of raw cotton fabric and we were able to apply the first modules of the training, saving on products, water, time and without using the chlorine bleaching technique (a toxic product), the only one we knew"

Sakandé Djélia, weaver-dyer, chairwoman of the COFATEX cooperative, Bobo Dioulasso.

Achievements in figures ...

- The technical capacity of **8,000 organic cotton producers** on integrated pest management and organic fertilisation has been strengthened.
- More than **7,000 weavers** have been trained on **weaving techniques, standards and specifications of the Faso Dan Fani Label**, as well as more than **1,200 sewers** on standards and techniques of cutting and sewing the Faso Dan Fani fabric.
- **80 textile companies** were trained on exporting final products
- a **working group** for the establishment of the Child Labour Monitoring System in the cotton sector was created.
- the **West Africa Organic and Fair-Trade Cotton Coalition** with Mali, Senegal and Benin was established.

"High density seeding offers better yield potential than previous practices. There are more seedlings for the same area and we notice that the plot with high densities is more productive than the reference plot. In view of the yield, next season I will adopt high density seeding on my entire field."

Santiago Hamidou, conventional cotton producer from Tiougou.

Published by	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH Registered office at Bonn and Eschborn, Germany Sustainability and value added in agricultural supply chains cotton (ProCoton) 01 BP1485 Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso T: +226 25 43 35 97 E: alessandra.fiedler@giz.de
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Update	September 2022

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