KATOEN COTTON SA

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Candia BG2RF kort, kragtige katoen

FiberMax® katoen

CANDIA BG2RF

Bayer se katoenkultivar Candia BG2RF bevat beide die BollGuard®- en Roundup Flex® -geen. In grootskaalse kommersiële aanplantings oor verskeie seisoene het die kultivar in al die kernproduksiegebiede goed presteer.

CANDIA BG2RF BESKIK OOR DIE VOLGENDE EIENSKAPPE:

- Uitstekende ontkieming en groeikragtigheid;
- Kompakte plant met uitstekende bolproduksievermoë; en
- 'n Goed ontwikkelde wortelstelsel.

Candia BG2RF toon 'n goeie ontkieming.

WISSELBOU

Candia BG2RF het 'n goed ontwikkelde wortelstelsel. In huidige produksiestelsels bied katoen 'n goeie alternatief in wisselbou stelsels vir die tradisionele koring en mielies stelsel.

Candia BG2RF bied uitstekende bolproduksie vermoë

OPBRENGS EN KWALITEIT

Met die evaluasie en kommersiële aanplantings het Candia BG2RF 'n baie goeie opbrengs gebied. Die veselgehalte was ook goed en veselpersentasie was tot 3 % bo die standaard met vanselfsprekende ekonomiese voordele.

SAMEVATTING VAN DIE LNR-IIG KULTIVAR EVALUASIES:

	Loskop	Upington	Weipe
	Candia BG2RF	Candia BG2RF	Candia BG2RF
Opbrengs kg/ha	6 984	7 042	5 816
Veselopbrengs kg/ha	3 100	3 159	2 825
Vesel %	45	43.8	46
Lengte (mm)	31.6	30.9	31.5
Eenvormigheid	85.1	82.3	85
Veselsterkte	29.4	31.2	27.3
Micronaire	3.8	4.2	3.5
Volwassenheid	0.88	0.88	0.83

SAMEVATTING VAN DIE LNR-IIG KULTIVAR EVALUASIES:

PROEWE - KOEGAS B						
Datum	Var 1	Var 2	Var 3	Var 4	Var 5	CANDIA 2BRF
Opbrengs t/ha	5.1	6.5	6.5	6.6	7.3	8
Mikronêr	4.0	3.3	3.1			3.5

UITSTEKENDE BOLPRODUKSIE

Candia BG2RF is 'n baie kompakte plant maar bied 'n besonder goeie bolproduksie vermoë.

Bayer se Candia BG2RF is beskikbaar by GWK in die Noord-Kaap, Obaro in Noordwes of Loskop Katoen in Limpopo.

VIR MEER INLIGTING KONTAK

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Katoenstripper in aksie op droëlandkatoen

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SOUTH AFRICA

VOORWOORD / PREFACE

Vir die 2de keer die afgelope dekade toon plaaslike katoenproduksie vir twee opeenvolgende jare 'n styging en die verwagting is dat die 2017/18-plantseisoen 'n verdere toename tot gevolg sal hê. Daar is min twyfel dat die vooruitsigte vir toekomstige groei in 'n groot mate deur droëlandverbouing bepaal sal word. Hierdie tendens is positief en wil dit tog voorkom asof die knelpunte wat produksie oor die jare geïnhibeer het, nou grootliks aangespreek is.

Die redes vir die opeenvolgende groter oeste hou verband met groter sekerheid. Eerstens, weet boere nou alreeds met planttyd watter prys hul kan realiseer deurdat pryse vooraf verskans kan word. Insgelyks kan vesel deur die Katoencluster bemark word met die voordeel dat diegene wat met die Cluster kontrakteer, reeds met planttyd aanspraak kan maak op 'n katoenprys vir die nuwe seisoen. Tweedens, die beskikbaarheid van die mees gevorderde GMO-tegnologie en kultivars maak dit makliker en meer winsgewender vir die boer om met katoen te boer. Beter beheer oor insekte en onkruid het tot gevolg dat opbrengste, beide in die geval van besproeiings- en droëlandverbouing, toegeneem het. Derdens, heelwat werk is gedoen om die persepsie by finansierders dat katoen 'n hoë-risiko gewas is, te verander. Handelsfinansiering kon sodoende ontsluit word wat betaling vir katoenlewering deur die pluismeulens bespoedig en sodoende die boer se kontantvloei verbeter het. Vierdens, die kwessie van oesmeganisering en voortspruitende finansiering is aangespreek deurdat finansierders en insetverskaffers die aankoop en finansiering van nuwe oesmasjiene vir boere nou moontlik maak. Die aanduidings is dat daar 8 nuwe oesmasjiene in die 2017/18-plantseisoen deur boere aangeskaf gaan word wat die totale verkryging met vanjaar se aankope, op 12 masjiene te staan sal bring met 'n totale investering van nagenoeg R 100 miljoen!

Met inagneming van bostaande verwikkelinge en die groterwordende katoenverbruik deur die voorsieningskettings, huidiglik meer as 30% van die lokale oes, kan ons met reg sê dat die basis vir volgehoue groei nou gevestig is wat die groeiverwagtinge van die katoenbedryf fundamenteel kan verander!


Hennie Bruwer

For the 2nd time in the past decade local cotton production showed an increase for two consecutive years and a further increase is expected for the 2017/18 planting season. There is little doubt that the prospects for future growth will to a large extent depend on dry land cultivation. This trend is positive and it would appear that the problems that have inhibited production over the years, have now largely been addressed.

The reasons for consecutive higher crops have to do with greater certainty. Firstly, the price that farmers can realise is now known beforehand at planting time as they are able to hedge prices in advance. Similarly, lint can now be marketed through the Cotton Cluster with the advantage that those who contract with the Cluster, can already lay claim to a cotton price for the new season at planting time. Secondly, the availability of the most advanced GM technology and cultivars make it easier and more profitable for farmers to farm cotton. Better control of insects and weeds has resulted in increased yields both in the case of irrigation and dryland plantings. Thirdly, much work has been done to change the perception among financiers that cotton is a high-risk crop. Trade Financing could thus be unlocked that expedited payment for cotton delivered to ginners, thereby improving farmer's cash flow. Fourthly, the issue of crop mechanisation and ensuing financing has been addressed as financiers and input suppliers can now make the purchase and financing of new harvesters possible for farmers. Indications are that 8 new harvesters will be imported by farmers in the 2017/18 planting season which will bring the total acquisition with this year's purchases, to 12 machines with a total investment of approximately R 100 million!

Considering the above developments and the growing uptake of local cotton by the supply chains, currently more than 30% of the local harvest, we can rightly say that the basis for sustained growth has now been established which may fundamentally change the growth expectations for the cotton industry.

COTTON SOUTH AFRICA
KATOEN SUID-AFRIKA

Geenbewerkingspraktyke

Bewaringsboerdery

Die idee van moderne geenbewerking het in die 1940's met Edward Faulkner begin maar dis eers na die Tweede Wêreldoorlog deur boere en navorsers op proef gestel. Geenbewerkingsboerdery (ook zerobewerking of direkte besaaiing genoem) is 'n manier om gewasse van jaar tot jaar te verbou sonder om die grond deur bewerkings te versteur.

Konvensionele grondbewerking behels die verwydering van onkruid en die versteuring van grond waartydens die grond in rye gevorm word vir oesgewasse en in vore vir besproeiing. Dit lei tot ongunstige resultate, soos grondkompaktering; verlies van organiese materiaal; verswakking van grondversamelings; dood of ontwrigting van grondmikrobes en ander organismes, onder meer mikorrisa (swamwortels), geleedpotiges en erdwurms asook gronderosie waartydens bogrond weggewaai of weggespoel word. Geenbewerkingspraktyke voorkom hierdie gevolge. Volgens hierdie boerderymetode word oesreste en/ of ander organiese stowwe op die grondoppervlak behou en word daar gesaai/bemes met minimale versteuring van die grond. Voortdurende geenbewerking moet baie anders bestuur word om opbrengs op die landerye te handhaaf of te vermeerder. Reste, onkruid, landboutoerusting, oesrotasie, water, siektes, peste en bemestingbestuur is net 'n paar van die talle praktyke wat verander wanneer oorgeskakel word na geenbewerking.

Geen grondbewerking verminder arbeid, brandstof, besproeiing en koste van masjinerie. Geenbewerking kan opbrengste vermeerder weens hoër waterinfiltrasie en bergvermoë asook minder erosie. Nog 'n voordeel van geenbewerking is dat dit ekonomiese sin maak om, weens die hoër vogbewaring, 'n ander gewas aan te plant eerder as om die land te laat braak lê.

Namate volhoubare landbou gewilder word, word subsidies en toekennings geredelik beskikbaar gestel aan boere wat bewaringsbewerking toepas. Party groot energie-maatskappye wat van die meeste besoedeling veroorsaak weens hulle gebruik van fossielbrandstof, is bereid om koolstofkrediete te koop om boere aan te spoor om bewaringbewerking toe te pas. Die boere se grond word in werklikheid 'n koolstof sinkput vir die kragopwekkers se vrystellings. Dit help die boer op etlike maniere en dit help die energiemaatskappye om eise vir besoedeling-vermindering na te kom.

Geenbewerking dra by tot verhoogde CO_2-afskeiding en -berging deur die berging van organiese materiaal in die grond. Wanneer dit deur masjiene bewerk word, word die grondlae omgekeer en word lug deurgemeng en neem mikrobiese aktiwiteit drasties toe. Die gevolg is dat organiese materiaal in die grond baie vinniger afgebreek word en koolstof word uit die grond in die atmosfeer vrygestel. Dit tesame met die kweekhuisgasvrystelling van die plaastoerusting, vermeerder koolstofdioksiedvlakke (CO_2) in die atmosfeer.

Landerye is ideaal om as 'n koolstofsinkput gebruik te word, aangesien dit in die meeste plekke nie meer koolstof bevat nie. Daar word geskat dat 78 miljard ton koolstof wat in die grond vasgevang was, vrygelaat is as gevolg van konvensionele grondbewerking. Konvensionele boerdery-praktyke wat op grondbewerking berus het koolstof uit die ekostelsels van die grond verwyder deur oesreste soos oorblywende mieliereste te verwyder asook deur die gebruik van chemiese bemestingstowwe. Deur bewerkings uit te skakel, ontbind oesreste waar dit lê en deur winterdekgewasse (groenbemesting) te kweek, kan koolstof-verlies vertraag en uiteindelik omgekeer word. Buiten om koolstof in die grond te hou, verminder geenbewerking stikstofmonoksied (N2O)-vrystellings met 40% - 70%, afhangende van rotasie. Stikstofmonoksied is kragtige kweekhuisgasse wat 120 jaar lank in die atmosfeer bly.

Grond en water

Geenbewerking verbeter grondgehalte (grondfunksie), koolstof en organiese materiaal wat die grond beskerm teen erosie en verdamping van water en strukturele agteruitgang.

As daar tydens bewerkings minder oor die grond gery word, voorkom dit kompaktering.

Onlangs het navorsers by die Amerikaanse landbounavorsingsdiens gevind dat geenbewerking grond baie stabieler maak as geploegde grond. Hulle bevindinge is gegrond op 19 jaar se bewerkingstudies. Geenbewerking berg meer koolstof in die grond, en koolstof in die vorm van organiese materiaal is baie belangrik om gronddeeltjies bymekaar te hou (humus is die gom in die grond wat die struktuur verbeter). Die boonste twee en 'n halwe sentimeter van geenbewerkingsgrond is twee tot sewe keer minder vatbaar as geploegde grond.

Geenbewerkingsboerdery is besonder voordelig vir boere op groot oppervlaktes aangesien dit erosie teëwerk. Oesreste wat op die land gelaat word, help natuurlike neerslag sowel as besproeiingswater om in die grond weg te sink waar dit gebruik kan word. Die oesreste wat op die grondoppervlak gelaat word, beperk ook verdamping wat water vir die plant bewaar.

Grondbewerking verminder die hoeveelheid water, deur verdamping, met 0,85 tot 1,9 cm elke keer as daar oor die grond gery word. Met geenbewerking bly hierdie water in die grond en beskikbaar vir die plante.

Grondbiota, dierelewe, ens.
In geenbewerking word die grond onversteur gelaat en oesreste bly op die land lê. Gevolglik word grondlae, sowel as grondbiota, in hulle natuurlike toestand bewaar. Lande onder geenbewerking het meer voordelige insekte en erdwurms, hoër mikrobiese-inhoud en 'n groter hoeveelheid organiese materiaal in die grond. Aangesien dit nie geploeg word nie, is daar minder stof in die lug.

Geenbewerking vermeerder ook die hoeveelheid en verskeidenheid diere- en voëllewe. Dit is as gevolg van die verbeterde dekking, verminderde verkeer en die kleiner waarskynlikheid dat die neste van voëls en diere op die grond vernietig word (as 'n land geploeg word, vernietig dit 100% daarvan).

Toerusting/koste
Geenbewerking vereis gespesialiseerde planttoerusting wat ontwerp is om sade in onversteurde oesreste en grond te plant. Dit is duur om nuwe toerusting te koop en hoewel die koste herwin kan word deur ploeë ens., te verkoop, word dit gewoonlik nie gedoen totdat die boer besluit om heeltemal oor te skakel nadat hy dit 'n paar jaar lank op die proef gestel het nie. Dit het tot gevolg dat meer geld op die korttermyn belê word totdat die ou toerusting verkoop word.

Dreinering
As grond swak dreinering het, moet daar dalk tydens geenbewerking van dreineringstelsels gebruik gemaak word om van die oorskot water ontslae te raak. Boere moet onthou dat waterinfiltrasie ná 'n paar jaar van geenbewerking sal verbeter, en daarom moet hulle vyf tot agt jaar wag om te sien of die probleme voortduur voordat hulle besluit om in so 'n duur stelsel te belê.

Slote
Slote kan op die langtermyn 'n probleem wees. Terwyl baie minder grond verskuif word wanneer geenbewerking toegepas word, sal enige dreineringslote wat vorm elke jaar dieper word aangesien hulle nie deur ploeg gelykgemaak word nie. Dit kan beteken dat sooidreinerings, waterweë, permanente dreineringsweë, dekgewasse, ens. gebruik moet word.

Toename in die gebruik van chemiese stowwe
Een van die doelwitte van geenbewerking is om onkruid te verwyder. Geenbewerking verander onkruid-samestelling drasties. Vinnig groeiende onkruid is moontlik omdat mededinging nie meer 'n probleem is nie. Party boere pak hierdie probleem aan deur 'n baie sterk onkruiddoder soos glifosfaat te gebruik. As gevolg hiervan word geenbewerking dikwels geassosieer met vermeerderde gebruik van chemiese stowwe in vergelyking met tradisionele bewerkingsmetodes. Daar is egter baie agro-ekologiese alternatiewe om vermeerderde gebruik van chemiese stowwe uit te skakel soos winter-dekgewasse wat 'n deklaag voorsien wat oortollige onkruidgroei beperk.

Bestuur
Geen bewerking verg verskillende vaardighede om dit suksesvol toe te pas. Soos met enige produksiestelsel kan die opbrengs afneem as dit nie reg toegepas word nie. 'n Kombinasie van tegniek, toerusting, plaagdoders, gewasrotasie, bemesting en besproeiing moet gebruik word volgens plaaslike toestande.

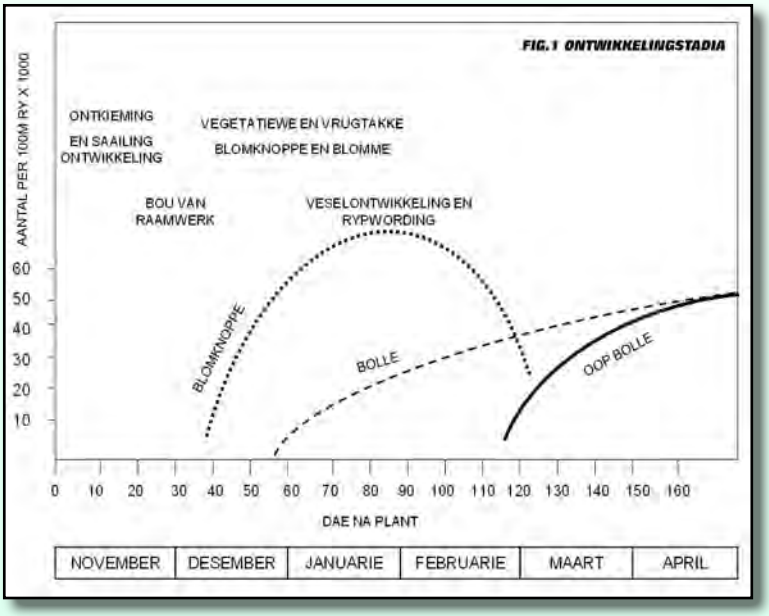
Dekgewasse
Dekgewasse word soms in geenbewerking gebruik om te help om onkruid te beheer en voedingstowwe in die grond te vermeerder bv. deur gebruik te maak van peulplante of deur gebruik te maak van plante met 'n lang wortelstelsel om mobiele voedingstowwe van die dieper grondlae na die oppervlak terug te voer. Boere wat met organiese geenbewerking eksperimenteer maak gebruik van dekgewasse om onkruid te beheer en ontwikkel verskeie metodes om die dekgewasse te vernietig (rollers, stoppelkappers, ens.) sodat die nuut aangeplante gewasse genoeg lig, water, voedingstowwe, ens., kan geniet.

Siektes, patogene, insekte en die gebruik van oesrotasie
Met geen bewerking lê oesreste van vorige jare op die grondoppervlak waardeur die grond afgekoel word en vogtigheid vermeerder word. Dit kan meer of minder siektes of variasies van siektes tot gevolg hê maar nie noodwendig meer of minder as met konvensionele bewerkings nie. Om van onkruid, peste, en probleme met siekte ontslae te raak word van oesrotasie gebruik gemaak. Deur die gewasse elke paar jaar te roteer, sal peste en siektes verminder aangesien die peste nie meer 'n genoegsame voedselbron sal hê nie.

Hein Schroder - Katoen SA
Internetnavorsing

DIE GROEIWYSE VAN KATOEN

Die katoenplant gaan hoofsaaklik deur vier hoofgroei-stadia: (i) Ontkieming en saailingontwikkeling; (ii) Bou van die raamwerk: wortels, stam en blare; (iii) Vegetatiewe en reproduktiewe takke: blomknoppe en blomme; en (iv) Veselontwikkeling en rypwording.



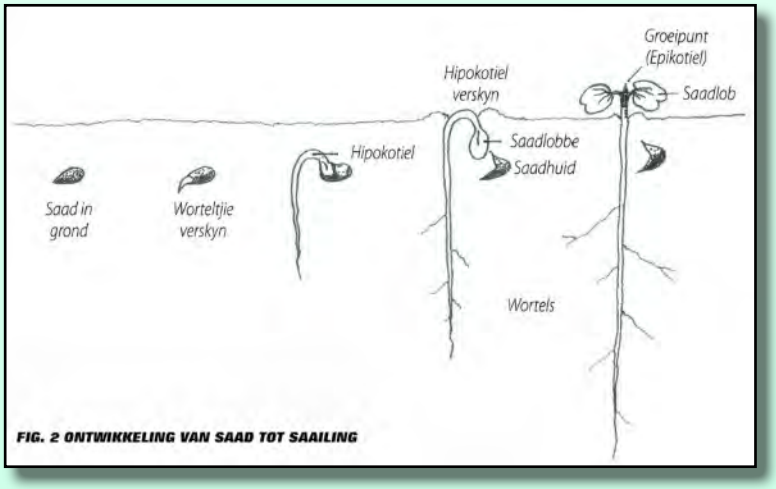


FIG. 2 ONTWIKKELING VAN SAAD TOT SAAILING

Onderskeid tussen die stadia is nie baie skerp gedefinieer nie, en as gevolg van die aanhoudende vrugvorming oorvleuel die stadia mekaar in 'n mate (FIG.1).

Ontkieming vind plaas sodra vog indring deur die vaatmerk, en die grondtemperatuur tussen 16ºC en 18ºC lê. Namate verlenging van die hipokotiel plaasvind, word die saadlobbe en die epikotiel opwaarts getrek deur die grondoppervlakte (FIG.2).

Wortelontwikkeling is geweldig afhanklik van hitte-eenhede. Temperature onder 10ºC tydens ontkieming vernietig die wortelgroeipunt en so 'n saailing vrek of word nooit 'n ordentlike plant nie. Tydens die vroeë ontwikkeling van die saailing is wortelgroei van kardinale belang. Bogrondse groei is relatief stadig voor die blaardak gevorm word. Die penwortel, egter, penetreer die grond nogal vinnig en kan tot 20cm lank wees teen die tyd dat die saadlobbe ontvou. Wortels mag selfs 'n diepte van 900mm bereik wanneer die bogrondse struktuur maar 300mm is.

Die Katoenplant het 'n hoofstam wat bestaan uit 'n reeks nodusse of knooppunte (waaruit blare en takke voortspruit), en internodia of litte (afstand tussen die nodusse). Die hoofstam sal aanhou groei volgens die onbeperkte groeiwyse van die gewas. Uit hierdie hoofstam spruit eers blare en dan takke op 'n vaste spirale patroon. Takke ontwikkel uit 'n knop wat sy oorsprong het net bokant 'n blaarstingel by 'n nodus. Daar word twee soorte takke geproduseer: Eerstens, vegetatiewe takke (monopodia), en dan reproduktiewe of vrugtakke (simpodia). Die vegetatiewe takke is basies dieselfde as die hoofstam en kom voor naby die grond, groei reguit en uit hulle kom weer vrugtakke te voorskyn. Die aantal vegetatiewe takke op 'n plant is afhanklik van omgewingsfaktore, maar veral van plantestand. Hoe laer die stand, hoe meer vegetatiewe takke. Vrugtakke ontwikkel uit knoppe op die hoofstam of uit knoppe by die knope op die vegetatiewe takke (FIG.3). Vrugtakke word geïdentifiseer deur die aanwesigheid van blomknoppe (squares), blomme, en bolle (FIG.4).

Percy Macaskill - Katoen SA

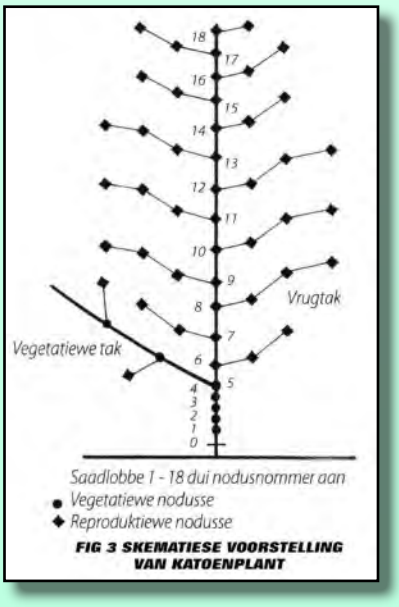


FIG 3 SKEMATIESE VOORSTELLING VAN KATOENPLANT

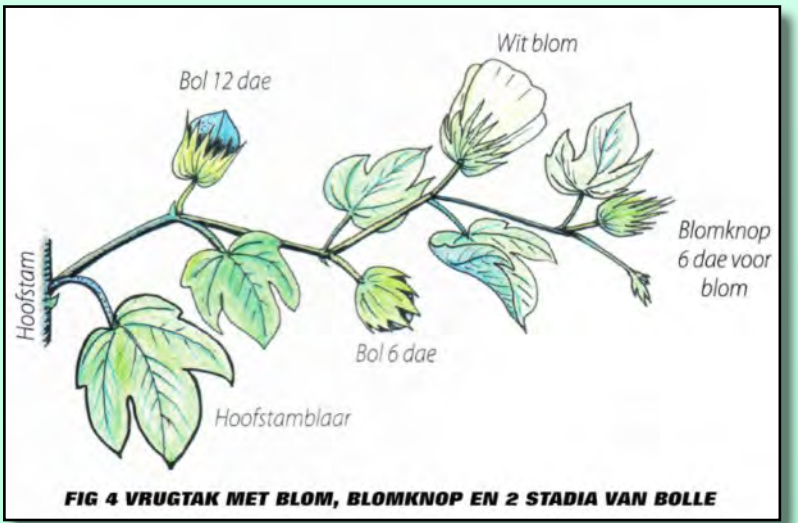


FIG 4 VRUGTAK MET BLOM, BLOMKNOP EN 2 STADIA VAN BOLLE

DIE SPRINGBOKVLAKTE BEGIN WEER PRONK

Meer as 4000 ha word hierdie seisoen in die Noordelike deel van die Springbokvlakte met behulp van die nuutste katoenstrippertegnologie ge-oes.

Behalwe vir die 2014/15 seisoen waar +/- 800 hektaar deel was van ‘n navorsingsprojek om die stripper-oesmetode te monitor en te evalueer, het die woord katoen in die laaste dekade en meer, 'n vreemde woord in hierdie gebied geword.

Die afname in katoenproduksie oor die jare heen op die Springbokvlakte kan aan verskeie faktore toegeskryf word maar met die ingryping van die Katoencluster en met die ondersteuning van die plaaslike pluismeule was daar weer opnuut belangstelling onder produsente en is die nuwe benadering met betrekking tot droëlandproduksie met entoesiasme ontvang.

Bydraend daartoe het die geloof en deursettingsvermoë van produsente binne ge-organiseerde landbou en met die broodnodige ondersteuningsdienste van die plaaslike pluismeule, droëlandkatoenproduksie op die vlakte weer laat vlam vat!

Om die duur strippertegnologie betyds plaaslik beskikbaar te stel het byna bomenslike vereistes gestel maar weereens met die onderlinge samewerking tussen verskillende finansiële instellings maar veral met die tussentrede van die chemiese maatskappy Nulandis, wat as tussentydse finansierders ingetree het, is die knoop deurgehak. Die eerste twee voorpunttegnologie John Deere CS690 oesmasjiene is aan die begin van die seisoen ingevoer, net betyds om meer as 4000 hektaar droëlandkatoen in die Noordelike deel van die Springbokvlakte te oes.

Opbrengste lyk baie goed en kwaliteite lyk op hierdie stadium heel belowend. Die wens is dat die Springbokvlakte in die toekoms weer sy regmatige plek in die katoenproduksiesektor sal inneem en weer as die klein Texas van Suid-Afrika bekend sal staan, soos in 1988 toe meer as 150 000 hektaar droëlandkatoen plaaslik aangeplant was.

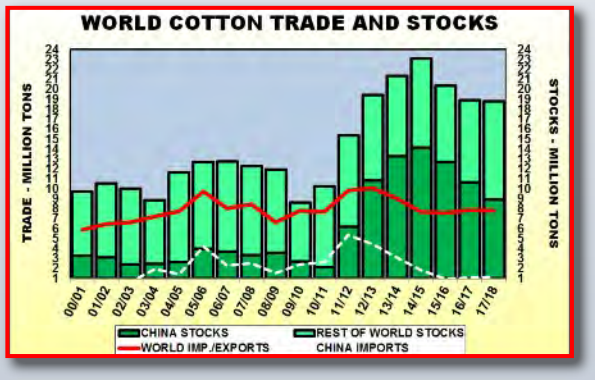
Hein Schroder - Katoen SA

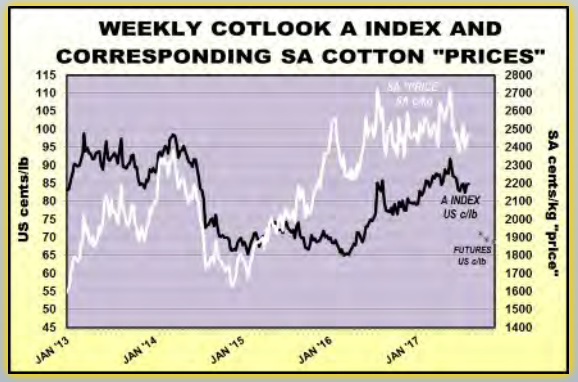
COTTON SA MARKET REPORT AS AT 1 AUGUST 2017

The large increase in ending stocks outside of China may put downward pressure on international cotton prices.

	A INDEX Avg: US c/lb	DERIVED RSA "PRICE" Avg: SA c/kg
Last week (24/07 - 28/07/17)	84.73	2453.55
July 2017	84.09	2347.71
Today (01/08/17)	**79.00**	**2326.63**
June 2017	84.76	2436.83
Today a year ago	*82.85*	*2549.18*
Today two years ago	*72.10*	*2051.54*

*The **COTLOOK A INDEX** is a daily indicator of international cotton lint prices and is the average of the cheapest 5 quotations (cost & freight) from a selection of the principal upland cottons traded internationally, destination Far East.*





The International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC) projects that world cotton production will increase by 8% in 2017/18 to 24.9 million tons. Cotton production in India, the world's largest cotton producer, is expected to increase by 6% to 6.1 million tons in 2017/18 due an early and adequate monsoon, a higher minimum support price and the prospect of better returns from cotton compared to competing crops. The ICAC expects cotton production in China to rebound by 7% to 5.2 million tons in 2017/18, which would be the first increase in five seasons and is mainly due to higher domestic cotton prices. In the USA, higher cotton prices, sufficient soil moisture in dryland areas and beneficial weather during planting time encouraged farmers to expand cotton area and the ICAC estimates a 10% increase in cotton production to 4.1 million tons for 2017/18. Cotton production increases are also expected from the two other large cotton producing countries namely Pakistan (+17%) and Brazil (+5%).

The ICAC expects world cotton consumption to rise by 2% to 25 million tons in 2017/18. A modest 1% increase is projected for China, the world's largest cotton consumer, whilst cotton consumption in India is forecast to increase by 2% to 5.3 million tons after declining by 3% in 2016/17.

Due to the fact that a number of large cotton producing countries such as Pakistan and India are likely to decrease their cotton imports in 2017/18 due to larger domestic supplies, the ICAC projects that world cotton trade will decline by 1% to 7.8 million tons in 2017/18. While the USA is expected to remain the world's largest cotton exporter, the ICAC expects that its exports will decrease by about 8% to 2.9 million tons in 2017/18 due to more competition from other countries. The ICAC however forecasts that cotton exports from India and Australia will increase, by 2% to 930,000 tons and by 8% to 760,000 tons, respectively.

World ending stocks of cotton are projected by the ICAC to decrease by 1% to 18.8 million tons in 2017/18 but most of the decrease will occur in China where cotton stocks are expected to decline by 16% to 8.9 million tons at the end of 2017/18. Ending stocks outside of China are forecast to grow by 19% to 9.8 million tons in 2017/18 which may put downward pressure on international cotton prices. The ICAC therefore forecasts that the A Index in 2017/18 will range between 54 to 87 US c/lb with a midpoint of 69 US c/lb, which would be 14 US c/lb lower than the 2016/17 average price index of 83 US c/lb.

Koot Louw - Cotton SA

As far as the local outlook is concerned, the 7th estimate for the 2016/17 production year indicates a total crop of 82 785 lint bales, up 64% from the previous season and 7% up from the previous month's estimate. About 80 785 lint bales are estimated to be produced from RSA grown seed cotton, up 60% from the previous season. The balance of 2000 lint bales relates to expected Swaziland produced cotton ginned by the Swaziland gin.

COTTON CROP REPORT - 7th ESTIMATE **2016/17 PRODUCTION YEAR** **31/07/2017**

PRODUCTION REGION	HECTARES IRRIGATION	HECTARES DRYLAND	YIELD IRRIGATION kg seed cotton/ha	YIELD DRYLAND kg seed cotton/ha	PRODUCTION 200 kg bales cotton lint	% OF CROP HAND PICKED	% OF CROP GINNED SO FAR
LIMPOPO PROV.							
Loskop	2406	0	4500	0	19489	0%	30%
North & South Flats	128	5105	4500	1200	12064	0%	30%
Dwaalboom/Thabazimbi	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0%
Limpopo Other	467	45	4800	800	4100	0%	30%
Weipe	1078	0	4500	0	8974	0%	0%
NORTHERN CAPE							
Vaalharts	1198	0	5726	0	12690	0%	70%
Lower Orange River	356	0	4350	0	2865	0%	65%
Rest of Northern Cape	403	0	5334	0	3756	0%	68%
NORTH WEST							
Stella/Delareyville/Setlagoli	527	2072	4207	1100	8318	10%	65%
Taung	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0%
KWAZULU-NATAL	402	1500	3192	600	3960	72%	29%
MPUMALANGA	0	2912	0	872	4570	100%	2%
EASTERN CAPE	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0%
RSA TOTAL	6965	11634	4657	1021	80785	10%	38%
Swaziland*	0	2000	0	600	2000	100%	0%
Botswana*	0	0	0	0	0		
Namibia*	0	0	0	0	0		
Zimbabwe*	0	0	0	0	0		
Mozambique*	0	0	0	0	0		
GRAND TOTAL	6965	13634	4657	959	82785	12%	37%

* Particulars relate to expected purchases of seed cotton by RSA & Swaziland ginners from these countries.

Mashiane Samuel Moloele believes that the love and passion for farming that he has, is the key to success for everyone who wants to farm.

PASSION - DISCIPLINE - TRAINING
THE KEY TO SUCCESSFUL SMALL-HOLDER COTTON FARMING

Sam was raised by his mother, a rural housewife in Senotlelo (Bloedfontein) while his father worked in Pretoria. He had 3 sisters older than himself and a younger brother. A single row plough and 8 donkeys were what he started his farming experience with. The crops he planted as a youngster included maize and sorghum, mainly to help support his family. When they had excess they sold it to neighbours and bartered it for patata, beans (dinawa) and maraka (indigenous cucurbit). He loved school and attended Khamane High School before starting work as a shutter carpenter with Stocks & Stocks Construction. This is where he learned about another pillar for success: "discipline". Back to school he went and obtained his P.T.C. (Primary Teachers Certificate) in 1975. In 1990 he took over the farm again and started with 2 ha. Slowly he escalated with maize and sorghum from 2 ha then 4 ha and eventually 9 ha.

Frans (left) with Samuel inspecting the latter's cotton

In 2014 Frans Malela, a very successful dryland cotton farmer acting as a mentor, encouraged Samuel to grow cotton. Despite little rain, cotton gave him an income where maize failed. He started with 3½ ha of cotton, expanded to 9½ ha in 2015 as well as in 2016 and he plans to grow 19 ha of cotton in the coming season at Senotlelo (about 50km from Marble Hall). Sam's dryland yield this year was a brilliant 1250kg seed cotton per ha. Well done Sam!

Farming is also about encouraging, training and teaching aspiring farmers. This is where Frans Malela comes in, acting as mentor and example for all aspiring cotton farmers in the area. The greatest encouragement Frans provided was the example of his own success with excellent yields over the past few years.

Percy Macaskill
Manager, Cotton SA Mentorship Program

Frans Malela's 2016/17 dryland cotton yielding an excellent 2200kg seed cotton per ha

COTTON

Australiese katoen hoog in aanvraag wêreldwyd want meer verbruikers vereis volhoubare vesel

Verbruikers se behoefte aan volhoubare vervaardigde goedere dryf beide die binnelandse en wêreldwye vraag na Australië se $2,5 miljard katoenoes, volgens kleinhandelaars en spinners.

Toonaangewende handelsmerke stel nou klerereekse bekend wat heeltemal van Australiese katoen gemaak is, as 'n alternatief vir goedkoper veselmengsels. Volgens Adam Kay, HUB van Cotton Australia, wil al hoe meer internasionale kleinhandelaars en handelsmerkeienaars die hele storie oor die produksiesiklus ken. "Hulle wil meer weet oor volhoubaarheid en die omgewingsverhaal," het hy gesê. Volgens mnr Kay, gebruik Australië minder grond om meer katoenvesel as enige ander land ter wêreld te produseer en sê Australië is ook die mees doeltreffendste katoenprodusent as dit by waterverbruik kom. "Ons het oor die afgelope dekade ons water-gebruikdoeltreffendheid met meer as 40% verbeter terwyl plaagdoder-gebruik oor die afgelope 15 jaar met 90% verminder is," het hy gesê.

Me Lisa Hunter, wat vrouensdrag vir Jeans-West in Australië bestuur, sê die omgewingsimpak is baie belangrik vir klante so ook die deursigtigheid om die katoen in 'n kledingstuk na die streek en die plaas terug te spoor. Hierdie jeans-kleinhandelaar sal hierdie lente die eerste katoenhemde op die rakke hê wat geheel en al van Australiese katoen gemaak is. Dit sal volg op Kmart wat 'n paar maande gelede 'n 100% Australiese katoen T-hempreeks en mansklerereeks geloods het.

Timberland Explores Sustainable Raw Material Sources in South Africa

Timberland, an American manufacturer and retailer of outdoors wear specialising in footwear with more than 240 retail stores worldwide, recently embarked on a 10-day journey to South Africa as part of a Land-Based Sustainable Raw Materials Tour, organised by OrganiMark and Textile Exchange. During the trip various role-players in the cotton industry were visited, amongst others: Cotton SA, Loskop Cotton Gin; a cotton farm; Prilla Cotton Spinning Mill in Pietermaritzburg and a towel manufacturer in Somerset West.

The farms, mills and tanneries visited all employed sustainable farming and manufacturing practices. Timberland sees South Africa is an untapped resource for high-quality sustainable raw materials which they would be proud to use in their footwear and apparel, whilst also putting South Africa on the map as a leader in environmentally responsible practices.

Pongola, KZN, is terug op die katoenkaart

Pongola se kommersiële boere vertel dat hulle in die verlede oor 'n lang tyd groot baat gevind het met die produksie van katoen. Dit is alombekend waardeur die katoenbedryf die afgelope jare beide op nasionale en internasionale vlak gegaan het en is daar vir meer as 12 jaar geen katoen in die Pongola-gebied verbou nie. Na 'n besoek in 2016 deur Hennie Bruwer, HUB van Katoen SA en ander verteenwoordigers uit die katoenbedryf, het Helgard Muller en 'n groepie boere besluit om weer katoen aan te plant.

Soos ons die uitstekende Pongola suikerboere ken, het hulle word by die daad gesit en ongeveer 220 ha is verlede jaar onder besproeiing geplant. Nou na die oes van die katoen, kan die voordele duidelik gesien word. Kweek wat vir suikerboere soos 'n vloekwoord is, is totaal onder beheer aangesien die Roundup Ready katoensaad dit moontlik gemaak het om tot 3 Roundup bespuitings toe te dien. Grondverdigting is ook in die proses verlig want soos katoenboere weet, dring die penwortelstelsel van katoen tot 1 meter diep in die grond in.

Selfs met die eerste oesresultate sê Helgard Muller dat hy beplan om katoen deel van sy gewasrotering in die

toekoms te maak en die vooruitsig is dat katoenhektare in die 2017-seisoen sal verhoog. In die foto staan Helgard in een van sy katoenlande, met Pongola se primêre landbougewas, naamlik suikerriet in die agtergrond.

Tertius Schoeman - Katoen SA

NEWS

WOOLWORTHS:
GOOD BUSINESS WITH TOMORROW IN MIND

In 2004, Woolworths became the first South African retailer to introduce 100% organic cotton to their women's and baby wear ranges. They realised that the only way to accomplish their goals is to start changing their approach to business.

Sustainability is one of the core values of Woolworths and is deeply entrenched in the heart of their business. Doing business today is about contributing to economic development and giving back to the people and the planet. This means addressing the sustainability of the value chain from field to shelf and beyond.

From a social perspective, their aim is to contribute meaningfully towards community development priorities wherever they operate, building long-term relationships with their suppliers and supporting the growth of small to medium-sized business enterprises. Their vision is to be the most sustainable retailer in the southern hemisphere.

As a member of the international Better Cotton initiative (BCI) they are using more and more responsibly-sourced cotton. They also more broadly promote farming methods that protect nature, conserve water and care for the people who produce the cotton. Woolworths has worked hard with their suppliers to get key spinners BCI accredited and to develop BCI-specific sourcing strategies. Working at scale with a range of local and international counterparts, suppliers and cotton farmers is the best way to drive broad change and BCI has created a good framework for that to be possible.

Real change is not achieved overnight. It happens one step at a time. Woolworths' aim is to have 100% of their cotton to be responsibly sourced by 2020 - a truly challenging and ambitious goal.

Justin Smith
Group Head of Sustainability, Woolworths Holdings

PESTICIDES IN THE COTTON INDUSTRY

"Cotton production pumps thousands of tons of pesticides into the environment each year." This is a statement commonly made and heard.

Pesticides are chemical compounds that are used to kill, amongst others, pests, insects and unwanted weeds. Despite their benefit, pesticides can cause harm to health and the environment. By their nature, pesticides are potentially toxic to other organisms, including humans, and need to be used safely and disposed of properly.

The World Health Organization (WHO) and international conventions such as the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides, provide a means for countries to protect their populations from exposure to toxic pesticides.

The South African cotton industry heard all these statements and comments, and has decided to follow the route of producing cleaner cotton. Government has adopted a "Pesticide Management Policy for South Africa" which includes South Africa's compliance with the various international conventions. The local industry has also adopted the principles of the Better Cotton Initiative (BCI). The BCI standard strives to make global cotton production better for the people who produce it, better for the environment it grows in, and better for the sector's future. By adopting best practices farmers can reduce pesticide use and increase cotton yields.

Cotton SA has information, which is available to all farmers, regarding chemical use in the cotton industry. The available information covers the whole spectrum: types, forms, effects, prevention and safety control. Lists of approved chemicals is also available, as well as information regarding risks, safety measures and spillage contingency plan.

Chemical safety is achieved by undertaking all activities involving chemicals in such a way as to ensure the safety of human health and the environment. It covers all chemicals and the full range of exposure situations. The South African cotton farmer, whether large or small, are serious to limit chemical usage and to farm according to integrated pest management plans and procedures.

Tobie Jooste / Helena Claassens
Cotton SA

NKOMAZI COTTON PROJECT

INFORMATION DAY & CERTIFICATION CEREMONY

On 27 June 2017, the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs: Mpumalanga (DARDLEA) presented a cotton information day at Khombaso, Nkomazi Local Municipality, Mpumalanga. Under supervision of Ms Zanele Mpangane and her team this day had something special about it. Mr V.R. Shongwe MEC of DARDLEA accompanied by Senior officials, presented the keynote address after a visit to the fields of local small-holder cotton farmers.

Many cotton farmers involved in the project attended the day and enjoyed the deserved accolades from all the speakers in recognition of their hard work. As proof, outside the large venue tent there were several hundred bales of cotton ready to be transported to the cotton gins at Jozini and Marble Hall.

"Attending farmer's days, can be a challenge, done it a lot of times but this was different!" says Tertius Schoeman

Mr Tertius Schoeman, recently appointed by Cotton SA as Agriculture Development and Transformation Manager, was involved in the Nkomazi Cotton Project as a mentor since 2014, although on a much smaller scale than today. With financial assistance from DARDLEA and The Dept. of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR), 718 farmers during the 2016/17 season planted a total of 2 767 ha of dryland cotton (1 460 ha of which were planted by hand and the balance by means of mechanization). An estimated 2 200 tons of seed cotton have or will be harvested, all by hand. This reflects the tenacity of the Nkomazi small-holder cotton farmers, farming on plots of between 1 and 10 ha. The farmers worked extremely hard and it was not uncommon to find Nkomazi cotton farmers in their fields at 05:00 in the morning and working late during planting time.

The day also served as a certification ceremony for 40 local small-holder farmers who recently successfully attended Cotton SA's Agriseta accredited training course. Mr David Mtsweni, manager of Cotton SA's small-holder training program, oversaw the handing over of the certificates with the MEC, Mr Shongwe doing the official handing over. The farmers appreciated the recognition of their achievements in front of the audience of over 500 people who attended the ceremony. A small mini cotton gin serving as a scale model of how a cotton gin operates, was also skilfully demonstrated by Mr Mtsweni to the MEC, senior officials and farmers.

Tertius Schoeman & David Mtsweni - Cotton SA

Mr Mtsweni demonstrating the operation of a mini cotton gin to the MEC Mr Shongwe and Ms Mpangane of DARDLEA.

Mr Shongwe MEC, DARDLEA, handing over certificates to cotton farmers with Mr Schoeman of Cotton SA on the right.

Solidaridad

Makhathini Involvement

Better Cotton for Better Lives

Like other rural parts of South Africa the Makhathini Flats area has different development initiatives that are aimed at improving the livelihoods of the people who call this interesting landscape their home. At first glance the main economic activities in Makhathini are agriculture, trade and tourism. In agriculture one can note cotton, sugarcane, livestock and vegetables as the main sources of farming income. Cotton farming - with its excellent forward and backward linkages, thanks to the existence of the Makhathini Cotton Gin as an off-taker - is a good opportunity to provide sustainable income to households in this area.

Mrs Gumede* is a 56 year-old smallholder farmer in the Biva location of the Makhathini Flats. She owns 3 hectares of farm land that plays a vital role in providing her a second source of income, next to social grants. Mrs Gumede is a widow with 6 children. She has an unpainted 5-roomed cement brick house with a typical Zulu rondavel next to it. This makes hers one of the better households in the area in terms of well-being. The many farmers (women and men) of this Northern Kwa-Zulu Natal area fall within a broad spectrum: ranging in age from early 20s to 90s; with total owned land ranging from less than a hectare to well over 10 hectares; and to those with no formal education, semi-literate to some with tertiary qualifications. The list continues, and it is the lower ends of the spectrum, such as unemployment, that are a cause for concern for any observant passer-by.

What is common among the many farmers in the area is the subject of this article; their cotton farming culture and link to the Makhathini Cotton Gin. The gin offers one of only but a few nearby formal agricultural markets that the farmers can readily access. The cotton sector in Makhathini, like the rest of South Africa and the world at large, is exposed to external factors, some of which influence production costs, while others affect the prices that farmers receive for their crop. Trade in cotton (from lint to garment) has made it easy for the textile industry to access and source from the cheapest producers in the world, irrespective of which part of the globe such textile value-adding players operate. This exposure often puts small, less organised farmers like those at Makhathini at a disadvantage as they now have to compete with more efficient, large scale producers.

The South African Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment policy, some South African retailers' own responsible sourcing initiatives, and the SA Cotton industry's general realisation that business as usual is detrimental to the existence of many businesses and jobs along the cotton value chain, have made way for a concerted effort that giving hope to a sector in decline. The different value chain players, from farmers to retailers, with support from government and nongovernmental organisations (NGOs), have established what is now known as the Sustainable Cotton Cluster (SCC). The SCC is aimed at, inter alia, strengthening cooperation among value chain actors. The SCC leverages resources from different partners to achieve its goals.

Similar to the external economic factors labelled as "global", which influence production and trade of cotton products, the origin of resources to support farmers like those at Makhathini, is not limited to

Makhathini or even South Africa. Stakeholders beyond South Africa, where cotton like that from Makhathini is likely to end up, are increasingly making efforts to ensure that the cotton (and products thereof) that lands on their shores is produced in a manner that is socially, environmentally and economically sound. One such stakeholder is Solidaridad, an international civil society organisation that has a history of working with smallholder farmers across the globe, using local and international funds. For Makhathini, Solidaridad has combined funds from the Government of the Kingdom of The Netherlands with those of the SCC, to provide considerable start up support to the industry-wide initiative to make the SA Cotton sector sustainable, by focusing on about 800 smallholder cotton farmers at Makhathini.

Solidaridad's understanding is that the SCC is working towards a South African sustainable cotton standard that appeals to the laws of the country, with some additional voluntary principles and criteria, as deemed necessary by the SCC platform members, while benchmarked against the Better Cotton Initiative (BCI). Solidaridad has been tasked to manage the transition of the Makhathini farmers as a group towards this new vision of the SCC. Ongoing activities managed by Solidaridad include training of the farmers, Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) and development of continuous improvement frameworks for smallholder cotton production, based on the Social, Environmental and Economic sustainability pillars that are core to BCI's principles and criteria.

Now, what does this mean for Mrs Gumede and the many other smallholder cotton farmers of Makhathini? This means that Mrs Gumede has access to training and support that helps her to meet international cotton production standards. Mrs Gumede can now make informed cotton production decisions that neither compromise her health nor that of her environment - and this does not come at an expense of her income because, ultimately, she will spend less on inputs, while maintaining the price of her cotton, so her profitability will go up.

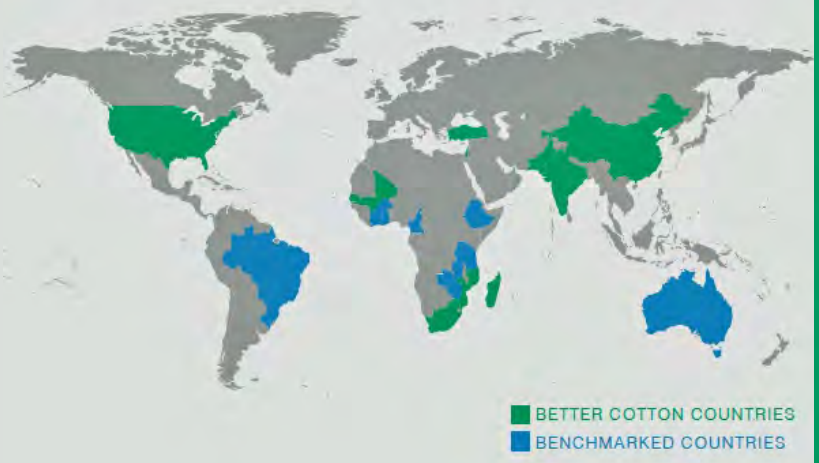
The above benefits are not limited to Mrs Gumede: the other farmers in Makhathini can also enjoy similar success. True to Solidaridad's Sustainable Landscapes approach, the benefits of producing cotton in a sustainable manner reach beyond the farm gate, as common resources like water and nature are conserved, farm workers feel valued and taken care of, and higher cotton yields keep the Makhathini Gin operational. Mrs Gumede and the many other farmers' success, as well as that of the rest of the SA cotton sector, relies as much on other stakeholders (cotton gins, spinners, government, traders, NGOs, etc.) as it does on each individual smallholder farmer.

**Not her real name.*

Solidaridad is a network organization for international cooperation with ten regional expertise centres on five continents dedicated to responsible food production to feed the growing world population and to providing the world with an alternative to the bio-based economy. Solidaridad brings together supply chain actors and engage them in innovative solutions to improve production, ensuring the transition to a sustainable and inclusive economy that maximises the benefit for all. Southern African activities are currently focused on horticulture, sugar cane, soy, livestock and cotton.

SOUTH AFRICAN COTTON ON THE BCI MAP

GLOBAL REACH FIGURES 2015-16



1,528,537 Better Cotton Farmers	**3,491,263** Area Under Better Cotton Cultivation (ha)	**2,504,613** MT of Better Cotton Lint produced

12% of global production	**23** countries on **5** continents

Cotton SA through its Sustainable Cotton Cluster (SCC) program, embarked on implementing the internationally recognized standard of the Better Cotton Initiative (BCI) in the 2015/16 season. The Better Cotton producer data is captured and managed on the SCC platform, which enables the role players in the cotton value chain to trace cotton from the retailer back to farm level.

BCI is a non-profit organization stewarding the Better Cotton Standard System, and bringing together cotton's complex supply chain, from the farmer to the retailer. BCI has reached 1.5 million farmers in 23 countries, including China, India and Pakistan, being some of the world's biggest cotton producing nations.

The yearly BCI Global Cotton Conference was held in Berlin, Germany this year. The conference provided a unique opportunity to explore themes at field-level, the value chain and consumer-level whilst also sharing perspectives on the key means to unlocking a better future for cotton. BCI opened the conference this year to a broader cotton constituency including other cotton standards like CMiA (Cotton Made in Africa), myBMP (Australia), ABR (Brazil) as well as organic cotton. Retailers such as Nike, Adidas, Marks & Spencer and H&M were also part of the conference, sharing insights for the greater benefit of all.

Cotton South Africa is very proud to be part of this global initiative impacting sustainable cotton worldwide. A local cotton gin and its farmers are now BCI compliant and attention is being given to also get the cotton of the other gins BCI compliant.

Tobie Jooste - Cotton SA

On a recent scouting trip with CSIR to investigate areas where cotton was previously produced, a single surviving cotton plant was found in the Steelpoort area of Mpumalanga. After deliberation with the local farmers and Hennie Bruwer, CEO of Cotton SA, it was established that it must have been planted 18-20 years ago, as that was the last time cotton was cultivated in this area.

This illustrates the known fact that cotton is a hardy plant. It was evident that with no irrigation, occasional fire and tractors driving over the plant, it still survived over all these years. To everyone's amazement there were also a few bolls of cotton on the plant, ready for harvesting.

The delegation unanimously agreed that there is indeed some "steel" in this cotton plant, fitting for Steelpoort where chrome and vanadium are mined!

Tertius Schoeman - Cotton SA

Katoen Studiegroepe

Aan die begin van die huidige seisoen het daar twee baie suksesvolle studiegroepvergaderings in die Groblersdal- en Marble Hallstreke plaasgevind. Die spontane ondersteuning was opvallend wat die volhoubare ontwikkeling en bemagtiging van ons boere net verder beklemtoon het. Die belangstelling in sulke plaaslike ondersteuningsnetwerke wat tot die beskikking van al ons boere oor 'n langtermyn beskikbaar is, begin al hoe meer toeneem.

Tydens boeredae word landbouvoorligters van pluismeulens en ander rolspelers en belanghebbendes in die bedryf genooi om deel te neem om bv. lesings oor hulle kundigheidsgebiede te gee en word die geleentheid ook geskep vir boere om mekaar beter te leer ken.

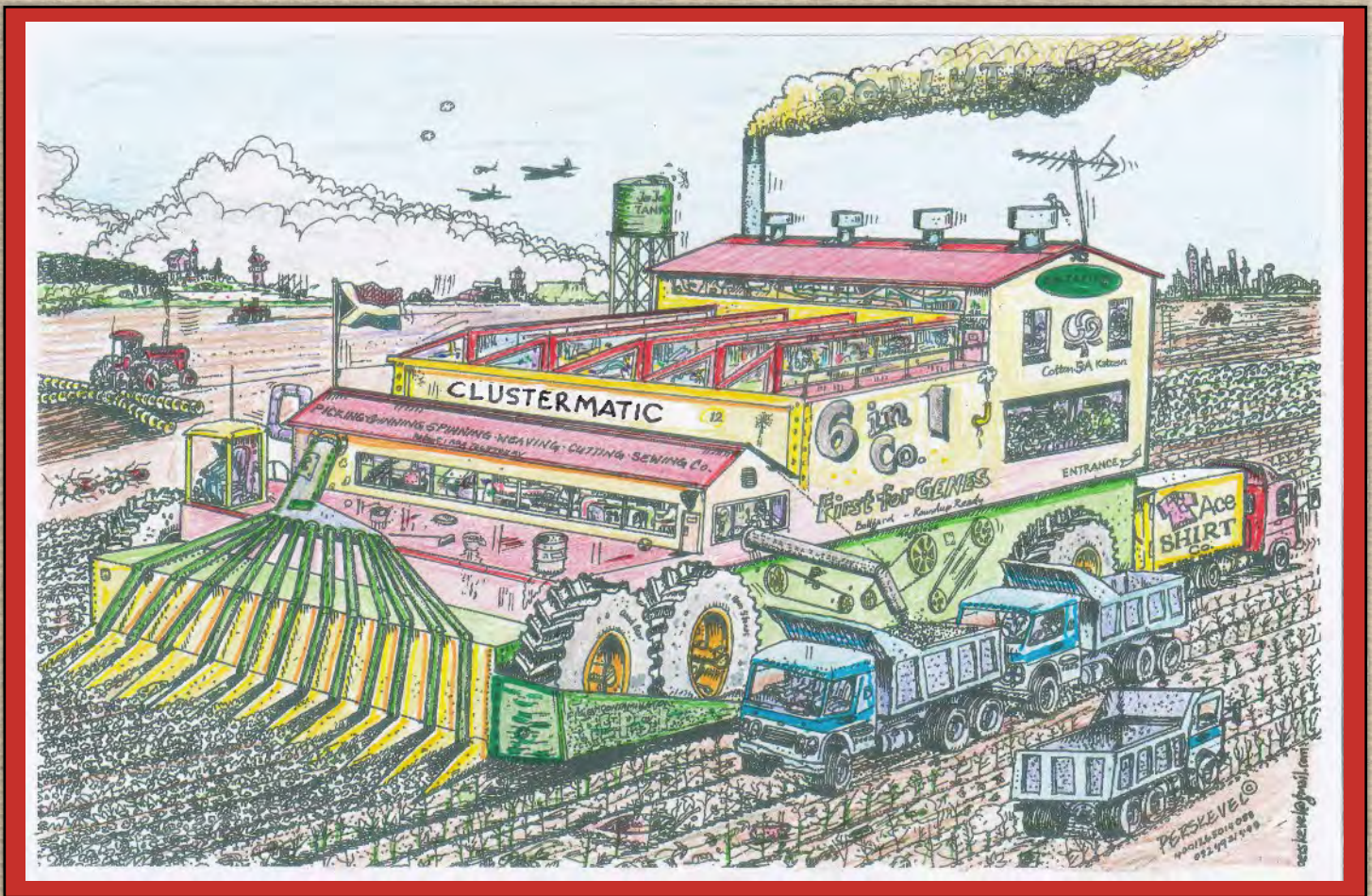
Boere wat binne sulke raamwerke verteenwoordig is kan dan makliker saamstaan om enige uitdagings die hoof te bied. So word verskille oorbrug en 'n groter gevoel van samehorigheid gekweek wat tot almal se voordeel is en uiteraard beter resultate lewer.

Tydens sulke studiegroep vergaderings ontstaan daar ook oor tyd 'n groter vertrouensverhouding onder mekaar en produsente werk dan ook meer en beter in krisistye saam en kan ook so van groter waarde wees indien die lede saam dink om effektiwiteit te verhoog en om meer met minder gedoen te kry.

Hein Schroder - Katoen SA

Groblersdal katoenstudiegroep

Marble Hall katoenstudiegroep



ROEDTAN KATOENINLIGTINGS- EN BOEREDAG

AFGRI en JOHN DEERE in samewerking met AFRIFERT, NULANDIS, GROCAPITAL, UNIGRO en LOSKOP KATOEN het op 20 Julie 2017 'n baie suksesvolle katoeninligtings- en boeredag te Roedtan, Limpopo, aangebied o.a. om die nuwe tegnologie John Deere katoenstrippers en -plukkers ten toon te stel.

Die dag het as vertoonvenster gedien vir die herlewing van 'n halfvergete maar belangrike sektor in die Suid-Afrikaanse landbou-landskap, naamlik die katoensektor.

Verteenwoordigers van AFGRI: Patrick Roux, Tinus Prinsloo en Ross Simmonds het die sowat 250 persone wat die dag bygewoon het, ingelig oor die dienste wat hulle aan die boerderygemeenskap kan lewer. Ander sprekers was Denny Docherty van John Deere, Quinton Kruis van Nulandis en Joseph Kempen van Loskop Katoen. Die algemene boodskap aan die boere was dat hierdie rolspelers hulle verbind het om boere wat met katoen wil boer, by te staan.

Outlook on Textiles & Clothing

Fast Fashion

THERE ARE VARIOUS DEFINITIONS FOR FAST FASHION, BUT BASICALLY IT ALL COMES DOWN TO "LOW COST CLOTHING COLLECTIONS THAT MIMIC CURRENT FASHION TRENDS" THAT ENCOURAGES CONSUMERS TO BUY HEAPS OF ITEMS, DISCARD THEM AFTER A FEW WEARS AND THEN COME BACK FOR ANOTHER BATCH OF NEW OUTFITS. FAST FASHION HAS ALSO BECOME ASSOCIATED WITH DISPOSABLE FASHION BECAUSE IT HAS DELIVERED DESIGNER PRODUCT TO A MASS MARKET AT RELATIVELY LOW PRICES. IT HAS COMPLETELY CHANGED HOW CONSUMERS MAKE PURCHASES

Designs move from catwalk quickly to capture current fashion trends. Emphasis is on optimising certain aspects of the supply chain for these trends to be designed and manufactured quickly and inexpensively to allow the mainstream consumer to buy current clothing styles at lower prices. Competition is fierce at every end of the fashion spectrum. The consumer in the fast fashion market thrives on constant change and the frequent availability of new products.

Supply chains are central to the creation of fast fashion. Designers need to understand their market, being able to respond to market demand. Some local retail groups have invested in quick turnaround strategies that are conducive to this kind of operation. Their acquisition of clothing manufacturers allows them to turn garments from concept to items available in store in less than 2 months. They have also formed strategic alliances with independent cut, make and trim factories, which is key to their supply-chain strategy in a fast-growing home market. There is collaboration throughout the fashion value chain, which is important for the growth of the industry as a whole.

Two terms that are important in the fast fashion industry are 'quick response' and 'marketing'. Quick response was developed to improve manufacturing processes in the textile industry with the aim of removing time from the production system. Marketing is the key driver for fast fashions.

The production of fast fashion is highly detrimental to our environment. Fashion is apparently the second largest polluting industry in the world. The slow fashion movement has arisen in opposition to fast fashions, blaming fast fashions for pollution (both in the production of clothes and in the decay of synthetic fabrics), bad workmanship and poor working conditions in developing countries.

It is said that the cotton required to make a simple t-shirt requires thousands of litres of water to produce *(what about dryland cotton?)*. The cotton is then processed into fabrics before being shipped halfway around the world *(being imported - why not use local fabrics?)* to be cut and assembled. This t-shirt is then exported thousands of kilometres to reach the stores. This convoluted process creates massive amounts of carbon dioxide which is bad for the environment.

Alas, fast fashion is not a new trend. It already started in the 1960's. What has become a major 'trend' is the human casualties of fast fashion, especially in developing countries.

Social Audits

IN A RECENT ARTICLE ON THE BIZCOMMUNITY'S WEBSITE, CHRISTIAN GERLING ASKS THE QUESTION: WHAT PREVENTS LOCAL CLOTHING AND TEXTILE MANUFACTURERS FROM BREAKING INTO THE INTERNATIONAL MARKET? ACCORDING TO GERLING, THERE ARE SEVERAL ANSWERS, BUT ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ELEMENTS IS THAT MANY DO NOT MEET THE SOCIAL AUDITING REQUIREMENT.

A social audit is a means to measure compliance with regulations and best practices throughout the value chain.

To be compliant, manufacturers in South Africa's clothing and textile industry need to prove that they are playing by the rules as set out in the various Acts, eg Basic Conditions of employment, Labour Relations, Occupational Health & Safety, Employment Equity and Skills Development.

The quality and the price of the local producers may be acceptable, but they also need to be able to demonstrate that the working conditions they provide for their workers comply with local laws and with international best practice. (Apparently, most overseas importers have a zero tolerance to gaps in labour standards.)

Within this context, it is clear that if local clothing and textile manufacturers wish to enter into and be successful in the international market, an independent social audit is as important as a quality and safety audit and a financial audit.

This is exactly what the Better Cotton Initiative (BCI) entails. The BCI exists to make global cotton production better for the people, the environment and the sector's future. Growing better cotton respects national and other laws and standards.

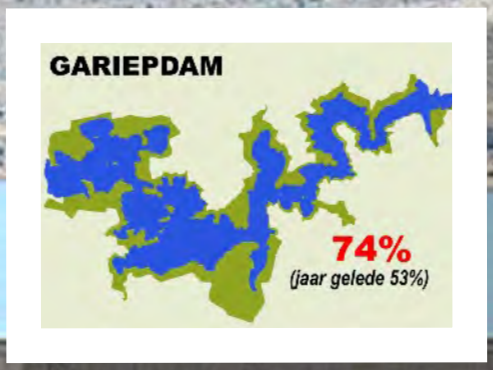
To be licenced to grow Better Cotton, farmers must at first reach a set of minimum requirements. Cotton farming takes place under a wide range of different conditions, one being social, which include labour for example. The BCI verification audit is done by an "independent third party" and is similar to an independent external audit.

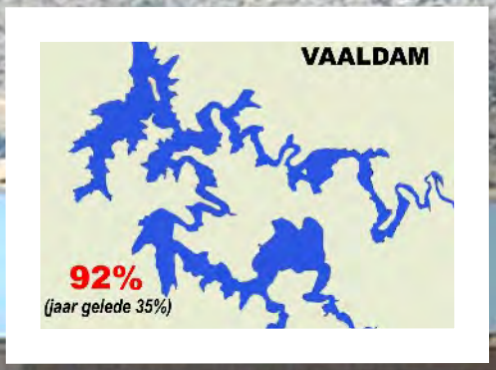
The local manufacturers in the cotton pipeline is serious about trading internationally and some of them have already embarked on social audits.

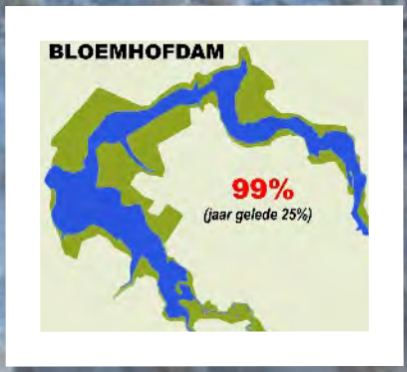
Helena Claassens - Cotton SA

STAND VAN DAMME & KLIMAATVOORUITSIGTE

SOOS OP 7 AUG. 2017







KLIMAATSVOORUITSIGTE: Augustus tot Desember 2017

Daar is 'n aanduiding van bo-normale reënval gedurende die vroeë lente (Aug-Sep-Okt) vir die Suid-westelike dele van die land. Maar ten spyte van natter toestande wat tydens die vroeë lente oor hierdie dele verwag word, is die negatiewe impak van droër toestande wat steeds kan heers in sekere dele van die Suid-westelike helfte van die land, 'n bekommernis. Daarom word aanbeveel dat die huidige droogte maatreëls (wat reeds in plek is) voort moet gaan vir die afsienbare toekoms.

Wat die Noordelike dele van die land betref, die meeste voorspellings dui op warmer as normale temperature, met 'n aanduiding van koeler toestande oor die Suide en Suid-westelike dele vir die laat lente (Okt-Nov-Des). Na die monitering van die El Niño Suidelike Ossilasie (ENSO) verskynsel vir 'n paar maande, spesifiek die ontwikkeling van 'n El Nino gebeurtenis, kan met vertroue voorspel word dat die ENSO verwagting tydens Suid-Afrika se somertydperk in 'n neutrale fase sal bly. Dit beteken dat nie 'n La Niña of 'n El Niño verskynsel voorspel word nie. Daarom, op hierdie vroeë stadium, is die voorspelling dat dit onwaarskynlik is dat ENSO 'n direkte invloed op Suider-Afrika se somerreënval sal hê.

SA WEERDIENS: 28 JULIE 2017

NULANDIS

Betrokkenheid by katoen

Die katoenbedryf is besig om te herleef nadat baie mense baie ure ingesit het om dit te bewerkstellig. Daar het nuwe strukture ontstaan wat stabiliteit in die prys van die gewas in die toekoms gaan bewerkstellig.

Wat katoen betref, het 'n maatskappy wat gevoel het om hande te vat met die produksie van katoen ook toegetree met navorsing en 'n nuwe benadering. Die maatskappy is Nulandis wat al baie jare in die verskaffing van landbouchemiese produkte betrokke is en ook die laaste 2 jaar ernstig besig is om nuwe produkte te toets op katoen in die Roedtan-omgewing waar die oplewing reeds begin het.

Die nuwe rigting van Nulandis is geskoei op die ontwikkeling van biologiese produkte wat tyd neem. Die doel is om die gronde en insekte wat deur anorganiese chemie negatief beïnvloed is, weer te herstel om sodoende volhoubare boerdery daar te stel.

Baie goeie resultate is reeds behaal oor die afgelope twee seisoene met die Nuway produkreeks, wat deur Nulandis daargestel is om die grond te gebruik om oesopbrengste te verhoog ten einde nie meer slegs afhanklik te wees van duur bemesting soos in die verlede nie. Nulandis se strategie is om met voeding en grondbiologie, plantenergie so te bestuur dat goeie opbrengste volhoubaar is.

Die reaksie wat waargeneem is oor die laaste twee jaar is genoeg om die turfgronde op die Springbokvlakte teen bekostigbare pryse, so te voed dat opbrengsverhogings klaar waargeneem kan word. Fosfaat wat 'n probleem op swaar gronde is, kan nou aangespreek word met hierdie kombinasie

Daar is heelwat produkte reeds in die mark en daar kom nog heelwat om die Nuway beginsel, wat die nuwe denkrigting in landbou is, te ondersteun. Daar is ook nuwe ontblaarmiddels en groeistumilante wat getoets en geregistreer gaan word op katoen.

Nulandis was ook betrokke by die invoer van die nuutste tegnologie oesmasjinerie vir katoen, sodat 'n boer op Roedtan sy oes betyds kon afkry.

As n mens kyk na tegnologiese ontwikkeling in landbougewasse, is katoen die gewas met al die nuutste tegnologie wat sy verbouing aansienlik vergemaklik het. Dit is ook 'n gewas wat al hoe meer droogtebestand is vir droë gebiede.

So op die Springbokvlakte sal 'n boer baie mooi moet dink of daar 'n ander gewas is wat makliker geproduseer gaan word. Die nuwe soort oesmasjiene het die oes van katoen ook baie vergemaklik. Hoe meer organies gedink word in die wêreld hoe meer organiese vesel gaan gebruik word om klere te maak.

Meer as 7 biljoen mense op aarde moet klere dra. Die potensiaal is legio.

Louw Pieterse - Nulandis

NULANDIS®
The one in crop care • Die een in gewasbeskerming

"Oh no, mum acquired new bed linen without checking for the Cotton Mark!"

People who know believe in the Cotton Mark.

When the Cotton Mark guarantees that the shirt, the sheet, the towel or anything else you're buying is quality-tested, 100% pure cotton, you can be sure it is.

The Mark also assures you that the cotton item you're about to buy will hold its shape, hold its colour and resist shrinking.

To be sure you're getting quality, look first for the Cotton Mark.

PURE COTTON AND QUALITY AND THAT'S A PROMISE.