

KAT^{SA} COTTON EN

Volume 20 - No. 1
MARCH 2018





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Ginstar® is 'n ontblaringsmiddel wat ook die hergroei van katoenplante onderdruk. Dit is geformuleer as 'n suspensie konsentraat en vergemaklik die oes van katoen.

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- Hantering en vermenging te vergemaklik

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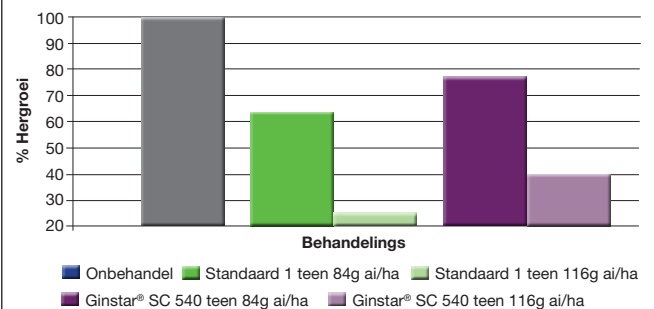
VOORDELE VAN GINSTAR®

- Geen hande-arbeid tydens oes
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POSISIONERING IN 'N SPUITPROGRAM

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% Hergroei 21 dae na toediening van Ginstar® SC



* VSA November 2002

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* Raadpleeg die etiket vir meer volledige inligting

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Science For A Better Life

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SOUTH AFRICA

VOORWOORD / PREFACE

Net toe dit wil voorkom asof daar met die verkiesing van 'n nuwe president vir die land, nuwe optimisme onder die sakelui, landbou en die publiek in die algemeen te bespeur was, word hierdie optimisme byna eenklaps vernietig met die mosie van grondonteiening sonder vergoeding wat in die Parlement aanvaar is. Dit is moeilik om hierdie verwickelinge te probeer verwoord, veral teen die agtergrond dat Suid-Afrika die enigste land op die kontinent met voedselsekerheid is, wat natuurlik die gevolg is van die Grondwet wat tot op hede eiendomsreg gerespekteer en gewaarborg het.

Hierbenewens is daar ook met groot belangstelling kennis geneem van die begrotingsrede en hoe daar moontlik met groter investering in die ekonomiese sektor groei ontsluit kan word wat genoegsaam sal wees om die gebrek aan werksgeleenthede aan bande te lê asook om transformasie te bevorder.

Welliswaar het die bostaande gebeure tot gevolg gehad dat die Rand ietwat teenoor die vernaamste geldeenhede versterk het wat natuurlik nie goeie nuus vir landbou-uitvoere is nie maar wel weer aan die anderkant die styging in boere se insetkoste kan beperk.

Die bou van veel groter vertroue tussen die regering en die sakesektor, wat landbou insluit, is van kritieke belang om volhoubare ekonomiese groei te verseker wat tot 'n nuwe voorspoedsiklus kan lei wat Suid-Afrika weer 'n aantreklike beleggingsbestemming vir die buiteland sal maak. Hier haal ek graag die woorde van ou President Eisenhower van die VSA aan wat by geleentheid gesê het:

"The proper role of government, however, is that of partner with the farmer - never his master. By every possible means we must develop and promote that partnership - to the end that agriculture may continue to be a sound, enduring foundation for our economy and that farm living may be a profitable and satisfying experience."

'n Mens kan maar net vertrou dat wysheid op die einde van die dag sal seëvier en dat landbou as die wenner uit die stryd sal tree!

Just when it seems that with the election of a new president for the country, new optimism among business, agriculture and the public in general was detected, this optimism was almost suddenly destroyed by the vote in favour of land expropriation without compensation in Parliament. It is difficult to try and articulate these developments, especially against the background that South Africa is the only country on the continent that has food security, which is obviously the result of the Constitution that up to now respected and guaranteed land ownership.

In addition, the budget speech was also noted with great interest especially how increased investment in the economic sector can unlock growth, sufficient to address the lack of employment opportunities and to promote transformation.

Admittedly, the above events resulted in the somewhat strengthening of the Rand against major currencies, obviously not good news for agricultural exports but which on the other hand may limit the rise in farmers' input costs.

The building of greater trust between the government and the business sector, which includes agriculture, is critical to ensure sustainable economic growth that could lead to a new prosperity cycle which will make South Africa an attractive investment destination again for overseas investors. In this respect allow me to quote the words of former President Eisenhower of the United States who once said: *"The proper role of government, however, is that of partner with the farmer - never his master. By every possible means we must develop and promote that partnership - to the end that agriculture may continue to be a sound, enduring foundation for our economy and that farm living may be a profitable and satisfying experience."*

One can only hope that wisdom will prevail at the end of the day with agriculture emerging as the victor!



Hennie Bruwer

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Schweizer-Reneke Droëlandkatoen



'n Konsortium van 5 boere het verlede jaar droëlandkatoenproewe te Schweizer-Reneke aangeplant, 'n nuwe gebied sover dit katoenproduksie betref. Soos op die foto's gesien kan word (geneem 20 Februarie 2018) lyk die katoen baie belowend inaggenome 'n reënval van ongeveer 300mm tot op daardie stadium.

Vier verskillende proewe is aangeplant naamlik: (i) kultivarproewe met 3 kultivars Candia BGRF, DP 1531 B2RF en DP 1541 B2RF aangeplant op 9 Oktober 2017 (plantpopulasie 80 000/ha); (ii) standproewe met Candia BGRF aangeplant op 9 Oktober 2017 (plantpopulasies van 60 000, 80 000, 100 000 en 120 000/ha); (iii) bemestingsproewe met Candia BGRF aangeplant op 9 Oktober 2017 (plantpopulasie van 80 000/ha met verskillende bemestingtoedienings); en (iv) 'n aalwurmproof met DP 1541 B2RF aangeplant op 11 Oktober 2017 (plantpopulasie van 80 000/ha met verskillende aalwurmbehandelings).

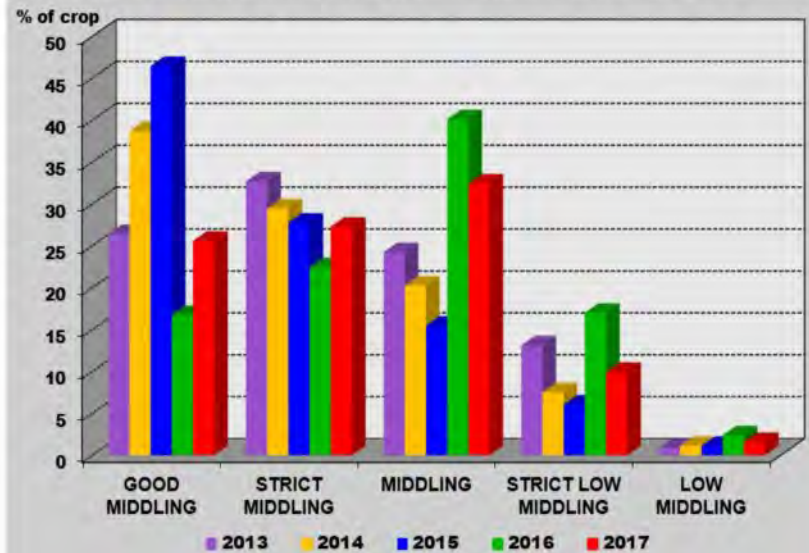
Die Suid-Afrikaanse katoenoes vir die 2016/17 produksieseisoen het 'n toename van 54% teenoor die vorige seisoen getoon waarvan byna 21% droëland katoen was wat deur katoen "strippers" ge-oes is. Alhoewel die groter oes en die betrokkenheid van die "stripper" manier van oes, 'n negatiewe invloed op die voorkoms en sekere kwaliteitsaspekte van die katoen kon gehad het, het dit nie gebeur nie en het die voorkoms van die katoen 'n effense toename in die rigting van die hoër grade getoon, d.w.s. na "Good Middling" en "Strict Middling" se kant toe terwyl die laer grade afgeneem het.

Uit die meegaande grafieke is dit ook duidelik dat die Suid-Afrikaanse Katoenoes die afgelope paar jaar oor die algemeen goed presteer het binne internasionale norme, byvoorbeeld wanneer dit met VSA katoen vergelyk word. Daar is egter rede tot kommer as gekyk word na die afwaartse neiging van veral die veselkwaliteit wat veselsterkte betref.

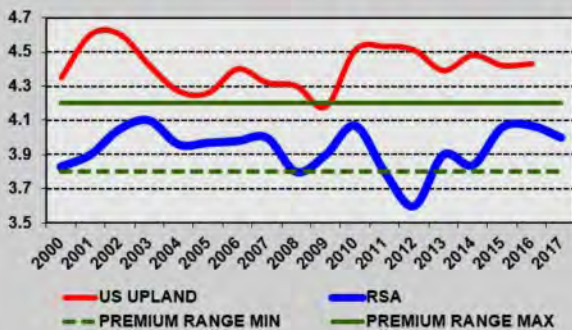
Die verwagte groot oes vir die 2017/18 produksieseisoen sal na verwagting ook 'n beduidende impak op die prestasie van die oes hê in vergelyking met dit wat die afgelope seisoen ondervind is. Daar kan byvoorbeeld meer laer grade en kortvesels van droëlandgebiede verwag word, maar indien ontblaring goed bestuur word en die klimaat saamspeel, kan die grade en kwaliteit wat in die verlede geproduseer is, beslis gehandhaaf word.

Prestasie van die 2016/17 Produksiejaar Katoenoes

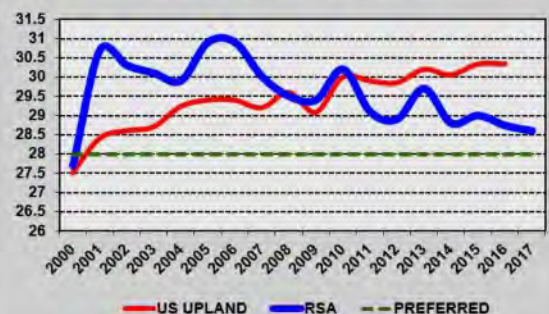
**SOUTH AFRICAN COTTON - GRADE PERFORMANCE
2011/2012 - 2016/2017 PRODUCTION YEAR**



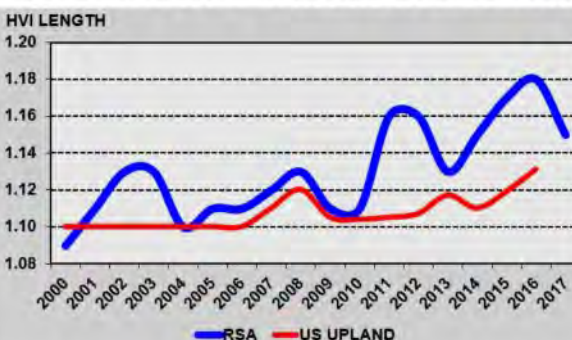
AVERAGE MICRONAIRE DISTRIBUTION



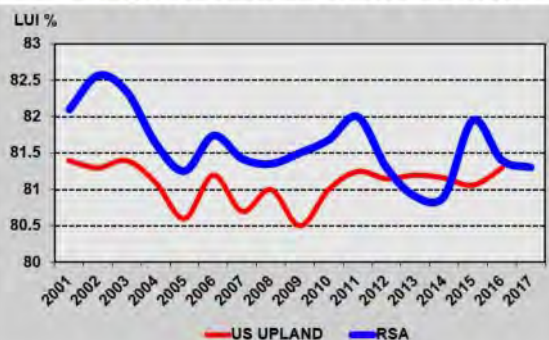
**AVERAGE STRENGTH DISTRIBUTION
GM/TEX - HVI LEVEL**



AVERAGE STAPLE LENGTH DISTRIBUTION



LENGTH UNIFORMITY INDEX TREND



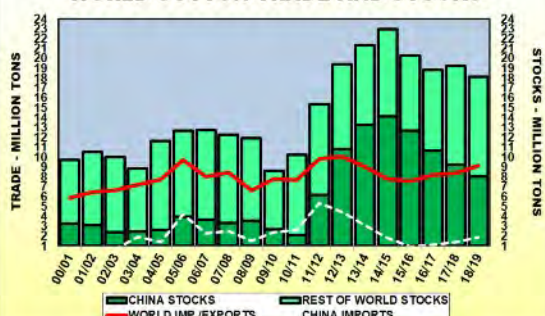
COTTON SA MARKET REPORT AS AT 1 MARCH 2018

Global Cotton Consumption Expected to Grow in 2018/19

	A INDEX	DERIVED RSA "PRICE"
	<i>Avg: US c/lb</i>	<i>Avg: SA c/kg</i>
Last week (19/02 - 23/02/18)	88.36	2303.78
February 2018	88.27	2327.08
Today (01/03/18)	92.40	2440.05
January 2018	90.99	2476.22
Today a year ago	85.29	2490.20
Today two years ago	64.30	2257.32

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.

WORLD COTTON TRADE AND STOCKS



Both global cotton consumption and production have been expanding since the 2015/16 season, but cotton production for this season is increasing at a faster rate. The International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC) estimates global cotton production to reach 25.8 million tons this season (2017/18) with consumption projected at 25.4 million tons. Production increases in 2017/18 are coming off gains in planted area (+12%) rather than yields. Although major producers, India and Pakistan, have increased planted hectares by 16% and 24% respectively, production losses from pink bollworm this season have limited cotton production increases to 7% and 8% respectively. Cotton production in the other two major cotton producing countries, China and the United States, are estimated by the ICAC to increase this season by 9% and 23% respectively.

Production increases are also expected in the Southern hemisphere which accounts for 12% of world cotton production. For the 2017/18 season, the following production increases are expected in the three major cotton producing countries in the Southern hemisphere (responsible for 95% of Southern hemisphere cotton production): Brazil up 11%; Australia up 4% and Argentina up 12%.

The ICAC expects world cotton trade to

expand by 3% to 8.4 million tons in 2017/18 with Bangladesh and Vietnam remaining the world's two largest cotton importers, accounting for 36% of the world's cotton imports. The United States remains the world's largest cotton exporter, accounting for 38% of world cotton export volume. World ending cotton stocks (China excluded) are forecast by the ICAC to increase by 22% at the end of 2017/18.

Looking towards the 2018/19 season, the ICAC forecasts global cotton production to decline by 2% and cotton consumption to increase by 4%. According to the ICAC the growth in cotton consumption can be ascribed to global economic expansion, an expected acceleration of consumer demand for textiles and rising environmental and production costs for synthetics. Based on these projections, global trade is expected by the ICAC to increase by 9% in 2018/19 with global cotton stocks declining by 6% (global stocks with China excluded is expected to remain more or less unchanged).

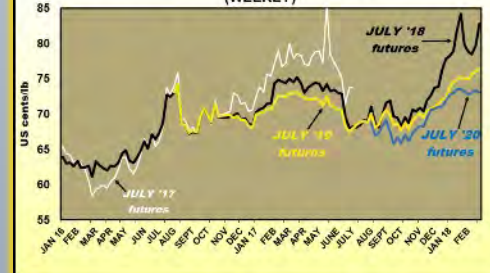
The Cotlook A Index has averaged 88 US c/lb during the past month with a 2017/18 season to date average of 83.2 US c/lb, slightly higher than the 2016/17 season average of 82.8 US c/lb.

Koot Louw - Cotton SA

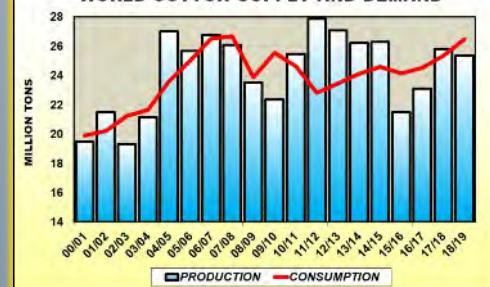
WEEKLY COTLOOK A INDEX AND CORRESPONDING SA COTTON "PRICES"



JULY COTTON FUTURES (WEEKLY)



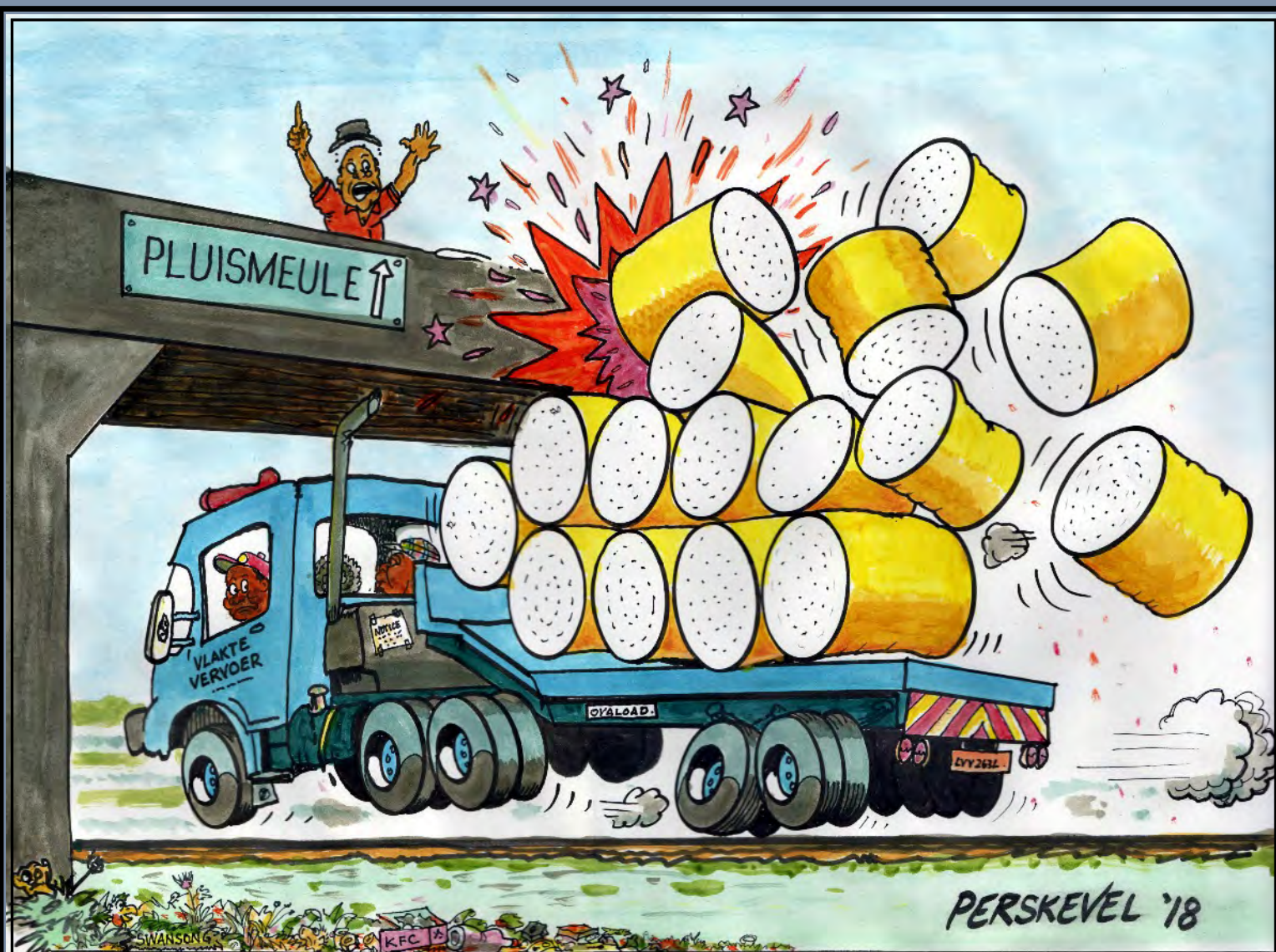
WORLD COTTON SUPPLY AND DEMAND



As far as the local outlook is concerned, the 2nd estimate for the 2017/18 production year indicates a cotton crop of 195 530 lint bales for the RSA, an increase of 152% over the previous season and 3% up from last month's estimate. Dryland and irrigation hectares show increases of 68% and 170% respectively over the previous year mainly due to the more favourable prices of cotton in relation to competitive crops but also due to renewed interest in cotton production.

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	5115	193	4200	800	38947	0%	0%
North & South Flats	736	9265	4200	600	15570	0%	0%
Koedoeskop/Dwaalboom/Thabaz	2717	0	5000	0	25132	0%	0%
Limpopo Other	690	171	4200	700	5432	0%	0%
Weipe	800	0	4500	0	6660	0%	0%
NORTHERN CAPE							
Vaalharts	3009	0	4949	0	27548	0%	0%
Lower Orange River	398	0	4500	0	3313	0%	0%
Rest of Northern Cape	3894	0	4992	0	36564	0%	0%
NORTH WEST							
Stella/Delareyville/Setlagoli	1042	4919	5000	1309	21552	8%	0%
Taung	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0%
KWAZULU-NATAL	1330	1110	4180	750	11826	26%	0%
MPUMALANGA	0	2017	0	800	2985	100%	0%
EASTERN CAPE	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0%
RSA TOTAL	19731	17675	4656	833	195530	4%	0%
Swaziland*	0	1000	0	600	1080	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	19731	18675	4656	820	196610	5%	0%

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



Microfibre Pollution

There's a new plastic scourge on the ocean and it's a bigger problem than plastic water bottles, fishing nets and other plastic debris you see on the beach. It's microfibre pollution.

In this context, microfibres are the microscopic threads that shed from synthetic textiles. Garments shed fibres when washed. It's one of the reasons they tend to get thinner and softer over time. When the fabric in question is made from a natural material, like cotton or wool, it's not such a big deal. Those fibres break down; they're biodegradable. However, when the fabric in question is synthetic, like polyester or nylon, it contaminates our water with plastics, which can break down into dangerous chemicals. Researchers estimate that more than 700 000 single fibres could be released from an average 6kg wash load of acrylic fabric.

These tiny fibres are too small to be filtered by standard methods. Studies estimate that up to 40% of them make it past water treatment plants and into waterways. According to a new report by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), of the 9.5 million tons of new plastic waste flowing into the ocean each year, an estimated 15-30% comprises fibres shed from clothing. No wonder scientists are finding that one in four fish samples contain plastic as they are small enough to be easily consumed by fish and other aquatic life. In

a small 2015 study out of California, 33% of the fish sampled had manmade debris in their gut, and 80% of that debris was made up of tiny threads. Continuing studies are beginning to find that microfibres may be the most prevalent and pervasive form of human-made water pollution on earth. This obviously has an adverse affect on the health of those species living in oceans, rivers, and lakes, and researchers are still trying to figure out the extent to which these toxic substances affect those higher up the food chain (like humans) who are consuming them second hand.

Microscopic plastic fibres are also pouring out of household taps from New York to Delhi, according to research by Orb Media, a non-profit digital newsroom in Washington, DC. Working with researchers at the State University of New York and the University of Minnesota, Orb tested 159 drinking water samples from cities and towns on five continents and found that 83% of those samples, contained microscopic plastic fibres. If synthetic fibres are in tap water, they're also likely in foods prepared with water, such as bread, pasta, soup and baby formula, researchers say.



Tiny plankton at the bottom of the marine food chain are also consuming microfibres, with devastating impacts on the ecosystem of our seas.

Dr Richard Kirby, a plankton scientist from Plymouth, collected a sample of the almost-invisible planktonic creatures that are at the bottom of the marine food chain by towing a net through the water off Devon. When he placed the sample under the microscope to look at what they had been ingesting he found plastic microfibres less than two millimetres long and finer than a human hair prevalent among them. The microfibres were either choking the plankton that ate them by blocking their gut or were taking up space that should be for food, potentially stunting their growth. And because the plastic fibres can also absorb toxic contaminants, any other animal that consumes plankton, such as sardines and anchovies, or creatures that eat them, could also be exposed to poisons.

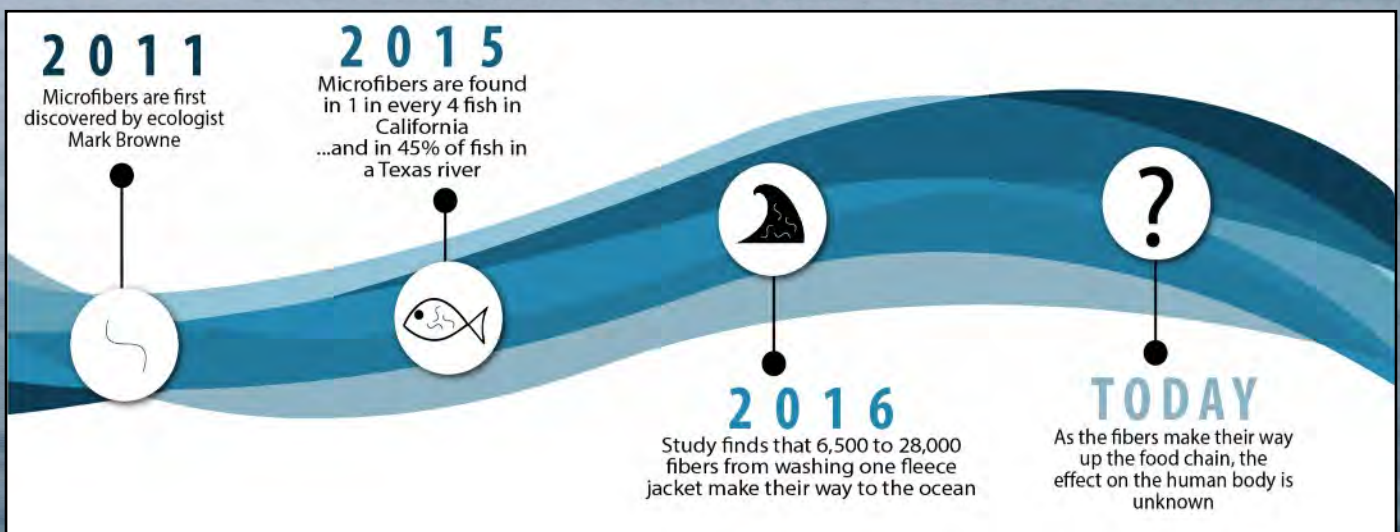


The problem of microfibres shedding from our clothes is not an easy one to fix. However, there are some small things to consider that can help lessen this pollution impact moving forward:

- Natural fibres like (cotton, wool, and linen) and natural-synthetics (like rayon, modal, and lyocell) shed biodegradable fibres that are not harmful in the same way as synthetics like polyester, nylon, and lycra.
- High quality garments tend to shed less than cheaper garments, as they're generally made with more durable textiles that do not break down as quickly.
- Front load washers are not only more efficient in terms of water use, they also filter out more microfibre particles than their top-load counterparts.
- Not everything has to be washed every time you wear it. Handwashing also helps, as its gentler on the fabric, causing it to shed less and extending the life of your garment.
- Some companies have developed microfibre filter bags that can be used to contain microfibres when washing clothes.

Ultimately, the clothing companies themselves have the main responsibility to deal with their products' impacts. Some companies have already begun to look at things like alternative material designs or fabric coatings.

Koot Louw - Cotton SA



COTTON

2015/16 Organic Cotton production

There were 18 organic cotton producing countries in 2015/16 and total production of organic cotton was 107 980 tons (0.5% of global cotton production).

The top seven countries - India, China, Kyrgyzstan, Turkey, Tajikistan, US and Tanzania - account for 97% of total organic cotton production. Overall, production decreased by 4% over the previous year. Primary reduction came from India, however most of the decline was offset by increases in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. In 2015/16 there were 302 562 ha certified organic land and 219 947 organic cotton farmers.

Early cotton sowing banned in Pakistan's Punjab

Pakistan's Punjab state has imposed Section-144, which prohibits an assembly of more than four people in an area, to discourage early sowing of the cotton crop. The decision was taken to save the crop from insect and pest attack, particularly pink bollworm and address production decline.

Early sowing of cotton crop acts as a breeding ground for pests hindering the official annual cotton production target. The rise in cotton production by up to 7% this year can be attributed to the ban imposed last year on early sowing of cotton according to Pakistani sources.

Swaziland Cotton Spinner Up in Flames

About 400 Spintex Swaziland workers' jobs are at stake after the factory was gutted by a mysterious fire. The incident, which led to the indefinite closure of the factory, took place on 4 December 2017 at around 6am in the presence of about 170 workers. Following the incident, the employer has screamed sabotage by the workers as there was an ongoing dispute over



working hours while the employees claim the fire was caused by a compressor that exploded.

A source, who was within the factory when the incident took place, stated that there were about 90 night shift workers who were waiting to clock out while 75-day-shift employees were preparing to start working when they heard a loud explosion sound from one of the departments. After the explosion, blazes of fire came out through the factory shell's roofing and windows. Luckily, no one was injured during the incident.

Times of Swaziland

NEWS



Suid-Afrika BCI Projek

Die BCI projek vir die huidige 2017/18 produksieseisoen is vol aan die gang met die opleiding van veldfasiliteerders en boere wat onlangs by die Loskop en Vaalharts pluismeulens plaasgevind het.

Die doel is om deur die loop van die jaar voort te gaan om BCI kennis aan alle deelnemers oor te dra. Die 1169 deelnemende boere vir die 2017/18 produksieseisoen is baie entoesiasies om deel van die BCI inisiatief te wees en 'n totaal van 15 594 ha sal na verwagting hierdie seisoen deel uitmaak van die BCI inisiatief. Dit sluit in 2 282 ha van kleinboere van die Mpumalanga en Kwazulu Natal distrikte.

Tobie Jooste - Katoen SA

Malawi cotton farming needs \$4.8 million for revival

The Malawi government should invest \$4.8 million into cotton farming to revive the industry which is at the verge of collapsing, African Institute of Corporate Citizenship (AICC) has said. There has been a decline in cotton production which is worrisome because cotton remains among the best forex earners which can replace tobacco. AICC Chief Executive Officer Felix Lombe said that Malawi's cotton production has gone down from 100 000 tons in 2012 to around 15 000 tons in 2017.

Farmers are not able to afford farm inputs, a situation that has forced many of them out of cotton farming over the years, Lombe explained. The result is that the number of cotton farmers in the country has gone down from 300 000 in 2011 to 150 000 in 2016. The cotton sector previously offered 15 000 fulltime jobs but now employs less than 300 people because most ginning and cotton value addition companies closed down as a result of the low production.

Mozambique developing standard for sustainable cotton

Mozambique is developing its own national standard for sustainable cotton production, which will mirror the principles and criteria developed by the Better Cotton Initiative (BCI). The new standard will also include additional sustainability criteria related to the parts of cotton supply chain not covered by the BCI standard.

The strategic partnership agreement signed by the Cotton Institute of Mozambique (IAM) and BCI embeds the Better Cotton principles and criteria within Mozambique's national regulations for cotton growing. This agreement will ensure that cotton grown in Mozambique by BCI licensed farmers can be sold as certified Better Cotton on international markets. Similar agreements exist with other cotton certification schemes, including Cotton Made In Africa (CmiA), Australia's myBMP and Brazil's Algodão Brasileira Responsável (ABR).

Three African nations may face AGOA sanctions

Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda will face US trade penalties, including losing eligibility for duty-free clothing exports to the US market under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), if they decide to stop import of used clothes from the United States, according to the US State Department. Washington sees stopping of used clothing imports, known as Mitumba in East African nations, as a blockage of free trade.

Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda argued last July that the ban was key to their efforts to develop domestic clothing manufacturing industries, which the Trump administration disputes, saying making inexpensive used clothing unavailable will adversely affect many in the three countries.



SMALL-HOLDER COTTON PRODUCTION

Cotton farmers from Nkomazi, Mpumalanga, leading the way!

To summarise the past small-holder cotton production season of 2016/17, one needs to understand the circumstances under which this community of farmers have to operate.

With only rainfed fields available, mostly between 1-10 ha and despite a much lower than average rainfall of 456 mm for the season, a record of 1 921 000 kg seed cotton was harvested. Although fertiliser was not available due to budget limitations and only a portion was fully mechanically cultivated, these farmers still managed to attain an average yield of 724 kg seed cotton per ha which is much better than the average yield of 371 kg/ha for Africa as a whole. This was the biggest cotton crop in the history of Nkomazi with all the seed cotton being handpicked and harvested in time. Translating the man-days required for this production into permanent workers, 835 persons were employed for the season.

With the mentoring and project management being taken care by Cotton SA, the 18 co-operatives with 718 active members made this massive effort possible by producing about 8 000 bales of seed cotton which were weighed and recorded separately for each farmer. Each co-operative's cotton was ginned separately and the co-operatives were paid directly by the cotton gins, who in turn paid the members farmers according to their deliveries. By handling their own financial affairs, the co-operatives are on their way to self-management. Backing the Nkomazi farmers, Cotton SA monitored the quality, strength and colour of the fibre throughout the season from samples

collected at both the Loskop Cotton gin at Marble Hall and the Makhathini Gin at Jozini who processed the crop with great efficiency and with good results. Another feather in the cap of these small-holder farmers, is the fact that 90% of all the cotton ginned was classified in the top quality class Deal or Good Middling. This boosted the income earned by these farmers for the 2016/17 production season.

During 2017 the Nkomazi farmers as a collective received another accolade. Their cotton was certified as BCI (Better Cotton Initiative) compliant according to strict international standards. The Nkomazi farmers were the only small-holder cotton production unit in South Africa to be awarded this licence, which gave them an advantage in the market place.

The cotton was taken up by local participants in the Cluster's Integrated Supply Chain Program thus ensuring a secure off-take at a determined price. As traceability is becoming more important to all users of cotton worldwide, the 2018 season crop will have barcodes on each bale whereby the area, co-operative and farmer can be identified.

Although it is still early days, the current 2017/18 production season crop is coming along fine although less hectares were planted than last year but with the use of fertiliser for the first time and good rains, a yield of close to 1 000 kg per ha is expected at this stage. The future seems bright for the Nkomazi small-holder cotton farmers, a definite success story in the tough environment they have to face as emerging farmers, truly an example for the rest of Africa.

Tertius Schoeman - Cotton SA



Focus on Women in the Cotton Industry

Maria Swele - A woman worthy of the title 'Farmer'

Her advice to women is: *"Many people warned me against becoming a farmer, but I proved them wrong. Nothing in life is too difficult to achieve. Women no longer belong at home, you need to stand on your own feet and do something for yourself. Don't sit still and keep quiet when you face challenges, learn from others. You are strong, you are a woman!"*

Agriculture was traditionally regarded as a male profession, but women are more and more playing an influential role in developing the growth of agriculture. Maria Swele, a Limpopo-based cotton farmer is one of these women who has proven herself worthy of the title 'farmer'.

Maria grew up in the Matlerekeng Village. Her father passed away when she was still young and she was brought up by her mother, a domestic worker, who worked hard to provide her children with the opportunity of education. In 2002 Swele completed her matric and then completed a computer course at the University of the Witwatersrand. In 2003, she completed a short course in financial management in Dennilton.

Swele started her farming career in 2004, ploughing maize and sunflowers on a four-hectare farm. After being encouraged by her former employer, Frans Malela, himself a large-scale cotton farmer, she, in 2008, attended a cotton farming training course conducted by Cotton South Africa at Tompi Seleka, an agricultural college in Limpopo and decided to switch her focus to cotton farming.

She sells her cotton to Loskop Cotton, and through hard work she managed to buy her own farming implements, build her own house and bought a car. She not only manages to pay for her own three children's education, but also for the education of her younger sister. This is however not where Maria's generosity ends. She is also actively involved in the social welfare of the residents in the Matlerekeng village. She assists with the feeding schemes and provides scholars with an opportunity to learn more about the day-to-day activities of being a farmer.

"With the little that I make, I've helped some upcoming female farmers financially and they have managed to plant four hectares of cotton. Venturing into cotton enterprise has made a huge difference in my life. This has been a rewarding journey as it provided me with the opportunity to make a difference in my community", Swele said.



Maria is a role model, not only in her community, but for all women. Her passion, pride and commitment in her work has won her numerous awards over the past few years. In 2013, she was awarded with the Aspirant Young Farmer of the Year Award by the Department of Agriculture in Limpopo. In 2014, she was the runner-up for the same award and in 2015, she achieved 2nd place in the Female Entrepreneur Awards. In 2016, she came 2nd in the National Competition and also received the MEC's Special Award for Youth Project from the Limpopo Acting MEC of Agriculture Mr. Seaparo Sekwati.

Today Maria Swele is a successful farmer, who owns a 40-hectare farm in Matlerekeng, close to Marble Hall, where she employs 76 people, comprising of 70 women and 6 men. Though she is running her business successfully, Swele said it has not been an easy road and it took hard work and sweat to get where she is today.

Maria Swele last year attended a three month's training course in China, where she received advance training to enhance her skills as a female farmer. "This was very valuable training and I am grateful to the Department of Agriculture for this opportunity, and I can't wait to plough my knowledge back by teaching the other farmers what I have learned in China" said Swele.

Natasja Ambrosio - A Summary of Determination and Commitment

Natasja said that her biggest achievements as a woman is the fact that she can be a wife, a mother, and an athlete whilst pursuing her passion to improve conditions for people in South Africa. Her message to woman is: *"I want to encourage women to never underestimate the impact that they can have on the world around them, not to limit their world only to what happens inside their house, but to look at those around them that have a need, and think of a way to change their lives too".*

Another woman playing a leading role in shaping South Africa's textile and fashion industry is Natasja Ambrosio, the Sustainability Exec: Value Chain & MRP Foundation Director at Mr Price Group in Durban.

Natasja is one of the pioneering women in the Sustainable Cotton Cluster pilot programme, and does not only play an influential role as a career woman and steering committee member, but also masters the art of balance, by raising a family, being a wife and a mother of 2 girls (7 and 12years). Natasja is also a committed triathlete, which requires her to train 8 sessions a week across 3 disciplines (running, swimming and cycling).

Natasja grew up in the Free State and attended an agricultural high school in Kroonstad in the latter part of the 1980's. After completing her matric she studied fashion design at Wits Technikon, but soon left JHB.

"I longed for an outdoor environment where I could enjoy nature's beauty. Durban gave me this as I moved here in 1992. My first job was with Mr Price, and I've never looked back. The business has provided me with so many personal growth opportunities, and also paid for all my subsequent studies. Whilst I was working I completed a degree in Industrial Psychology, Sociology and Development Studies, and in 2013 graduated with a Masters in Sustainability at Stellenbosch University" said Ambrosio.

When & how did you become involved in the Sustainable Cotton Cluster?

"I commissioned a feasibility study in 2012 to understand whether Mr Price could potentially sell products made from local cotton. After the completion of the study, we were approached by Cotton SA and Heinrich Schultz to become the lead retailer in establishing the cluster, which required Mr Price to commit to benefiting local cotton into products through a local value chain."

What is your view of the Sustainable Cotton Cluster?

"I think it's one of the most progressive initiatives of the clothing and textile industry in recent times. It has the potential to significantly change the landscape of the way the world sees South Africa as a producing country. I personally believe in the vision of the cluster, and I will continue to commit my time and effort in every possible to see this vision become a reality. As far as I am aware, there is not another country globally that have established a vision so bold for their cotton industry, and we have a unique situation where it is very possible to build a sustainable and competitive cotton value chain here on our soil. "



What has your contribution been towards this programme?

"I have contributed a lot of time to provide strategic guidance to the cluster, but also to ensure that I connect Mr Price and other retailers to the vision of the cluster. I had to spend a lot of time in the earlier days, convincing people of the potential benefits. I continue to play a role to connect people to the vision and hopefully inspire them to be as excited as I am about the impact that the cluster can have on this country."

Tanya Aucamp - OrganiMark

Outlook on Textiles & Clothing

South Africa's growth in real domestic product (GDP) slowed, employment growth in the domestic economy remained insufficient to fully absorb new entrants into the labour market and the economic environment in South Africa in the recent past had been characterized by very weak demand for consumer products.

During the third quarter of 2017 the production capacity utilization for textiles was 65% and that of clothing was 75%, lower than the same time the previous year. Insufficient demand is quoted as the reason why capacity utilization is low. A total number of 73 504 workers were employed in the textile and clothing sectors, down by 6.2%. The average volume of production index for the spinning, weaving and finishing sector remained the same as the previous year. This is good news, especially when taking into account that the knitting sector's index decreased by nearly 4% while that of other clothing decreased by 11.5%. Factory sales for the spinning, weaving and finishing sector increased by 1.8% to amount to R6.3 billion while that of other textiles increased by a mere 0.6% to R10.6 billion. The knitting sector's sales increased by 8.7% per cent to R1.9 billion while the clothing sector's sales increased by 1.3% to R13 billion.

It is clear that the local textile and clothing industry is on the decline. Capacity utilization is low as a result of insufficient demand. The volume of production index showed a decline and retail trade sales for textiles, clothing, leather and footwear decreased. Employment is also declining. During the first nine months of 2017, textiles and clothing to the total value of R30.9 billion have been imported, about 7% down from the same period in 2016. The total

value of cotton products imports represented approximately 35% of the total import value of textiles and clothing. Textiles and clothing to the total value of R11.6 billion have been exported, of which cotton products represented approximately 15%.

There was a 24% increase in the total volume of cotton yarn imports during the first nine months of 2017. A total of 14 359 tons of woven cotton fabrics (about 12% of total fabric imports) were imported during the same period, about 19% more than the previous year. The majority of imported woven cotton fabrics originated from China (51%) and Pakistan (26%). During the same period a total of 655 tons of cotton yarns have been exported, 108% more than the same period in 2016. The majority (about 83%) of cotton yarns went to Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland. A total of 3 804 tons of cotton woven fabrics have been exported, which represented about 35% of total fabric exports. This was 17% less than the same period the previous year.

Clothing imports declined by 11% to amount to R16.4 billion, half of which originated from China. About R8.1 billion represented imported cotton clothing. Exports of all clothing have declined by 47% from 2016 to 2017 to amount to R2 billion, while exports of cotton clothing have declined by 39% and amounted to R637 million.

Economic growth is slowing down and uncertainty in the domestic economy remains high. The decline in the local textile and clothing industry is expected to continue during 2018.

Helena Claassens - Cotton SA



Cotton as a beauty care ingredient

Cotton is known for many things: breathability, softness and comfort amongst others but now aspects of the fibre are making their way into skin care products as ingredients that supposedly calm, hydrate and repair your skin.

Natural oils have become very popular as an ingredient in skin care products. Cottonseed oil in particular is a versatile oil to use as it can easily be mixed into other oils and topical combinations. The trend of using cottonseed oil in products like soaps and cosmetics is expected to grow as cotton and its derivatives have notable levels of vitamin E and other antioxidants that can boost skin health. The oil is said to improve the appearance of the skin by moisturizing dry skin and preventing premature aging. By eliminating



oxidative stress in the skin, cottonseed oil can minimize the appearance of lines and wrinkles, and even help to get rid of blemishes and scars.

While cotton oil has good hydration and anti-inflammatory properties, there are other oils that can also produce these effects, so cotton-based skin care isn't necessarily better, just different.

Cottonseed oil is also regarded as one of the best hair repairing oils. The oil is irreplaceable in hair repair, guaranteeing moisture and softness as well as regenerating damaged and brittle hair. It is claimed that the oil will not only deeply moisturise damaged and dehydrated hair but will also nourish the scalp and help to get rid of dry dandruff. Cotton oil is said to also prevent hair from greying too soon.

Koot Louw - Cotton SA

COTTON COSMETICS



COTTON 2040 - Global coalition set to make sustainable cotton the mainstream choice

Leading international brands and retailers, cotton standards and other stakeholders across the supply chain have come together to form Cotton 2040.

The initiative is convened by Forum for the Future, an international non-profit organisation working with business, government and civil society to solve complex sustainability challenges. The aims of Cotton 2040 are to maximise and accelerate current sustainability initiatives in the global cotton industry and to drive more sustainable cotton firmly into the mainstream. By bringing industry stakeholders together, and aligning efforts in priority areas for action, it seeks to ensure that their collective impact is more than the sum of their parts.

Through research and close consultation with many stakeholders in 2015/16, four priority areas for cross-

industry action were identified. These workstreams are pre-competitive and action-driven collaborations bringing together a number of organisations across multiple sectors for collective action.



The four workstreams are:

- 1. Building demand for sustainable cotton:** Enabling an increased demand for sustainable cotton within the fashion and apparel industry;
- 2. Closing the loop on cotton:** Scaling up cotton recycling and circularity;
- 3. Traceability:** Building greater visibility and transparency throughout the cotton value chain and across standards; and
- 4. Upskilling for resilience:** Creating a cross-industry forum to build resilience among smallholder cotton farmers in a changing world.

Koot Louw - Cotton SA

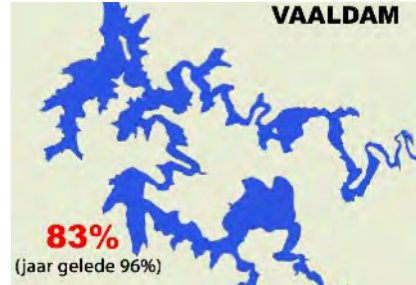
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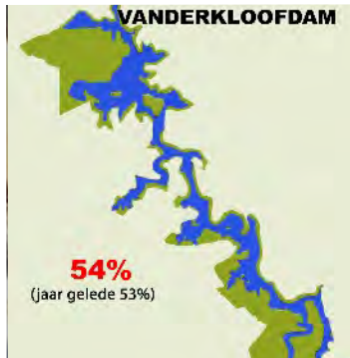
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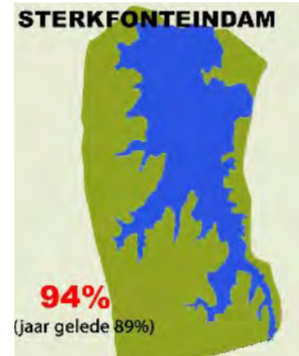
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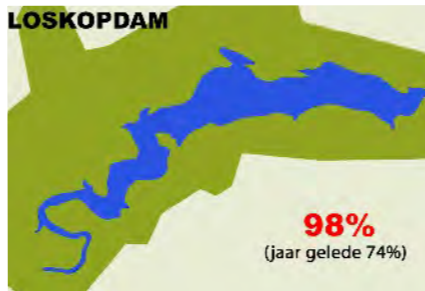
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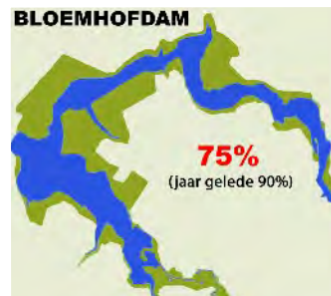
STERKFORTEINDAM



LOSKOPDAM



BLOEMHOFDAM



KLIMAATSVORUITSIGTE: Februarie tot Junie 2018

Die El Niño-Suidelike Oosillisie (ENSO) sal na verwagting in 'n swak La Niña-fase bly tot vroeë herfs (Feb-Mrt-Apr). Dit dui op bo-normale reënval later in die somerreënvalseisoen wat kan uitbrei tot vroeë herfs vir die verre Noordoostelike dele van die land. Potensiële oorstromings bly gevolglik 'n bekommernis tot vroeë herfs.

Oor die algemeen kan laer temperature ook te wagte wees gedurende die vroeë herfs periode aangesien meer wolkbedekking en reën meer dominant as gewoonlik sal wees. In teenstelling egter, sal die Suidwestelike dele van die land na verwagting oor die algemeen hoër temperature as gewoonlik ervaar tydens die laat herfs seisoen.

SA WEERDIENS



COTTON PICKER

frees human hands

Cotton—the universal fiber used by everyone, can now be harvested mechanically.

A machine to replace the deft motions of the hand picker has been a long-time challenge. The fluffy seed cotton must be pulled from each individual boll. Saving it ahead of damage by weather is important to its quality. When cotton is picked by hand—from one boll at a time—it takes about four

to five days of human labor to pick the 100,000 odd bolls from a single acre.

Now, the revolving spindles of the Allis-Chalmers two-row Cotton Picker can pick up to 50 times as fast as a man by hand.

This last step in mechanization of the cotton crop is freeing human hands for new industries and new types of farming so important to the cotton-growing areas.



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ALL BEAR THE
COTTON MARK."*

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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.*