



Swaziland Cotton Board

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ACTIVITY REPORT FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2015

1. Background information

The Swaziland Cotton Board is a Public Enterprise under the Ministry of Agriculture. It was established by Cotton Act No. 26 of 1967. It is controlled and monitored as a Public Enterprise, (Public Control & Monitoring Act, 1989).

Vision

To be a world class cotton enterprise that is financially sustainable to improve the economic status of Swaziland.

Mission

The Cotton Board is a Public Enterprise with the objective of improving livelihoods through promoting cotton production, processing and marketing in Swaziland by providing growers with high yielding quality varieties, providing innovative extension advice, and making available to cotton processors a quality product.

Mandate

- Regulate Cotton Industry in Swaziland
- Grow the Swaziland Cotton Industry
- Promote Cotton Production in Swaziland
- Provide Market and Marketing intelligence
- Provide Technical Advice to Farmers.

2. INTRODUCTION

The report entails achievements for the period commencing on the 1st October to 31st December, 2015. These included: Cotton seed distribution to cotton farmers, Crop assessment, Sales of cotton products, Credit Revolving Fund, farmer's trainings and Buseleni farm operations.

3. COTTON SEED DISTRIBUTION

There were 4.5 tons of seed distributed over the quarter, giving a total of 5.570 tons distributed over the season. This leaves available stock of 24.475 tons of seed for 2015/16 season (April – December). The quantity of cotton seed distributed is enough to plant 557 Ha. It had not been captured how much of this quantity of seed has been planted, due to the prevailing drought situation that is affecting the whole country.

Seed of Alba QM 301 distributed to farmers is outlined in the table below.

MONTH	DISTRIBUTED ALBA QM 301(kg) 2014/15	DISTRIBUTED ALBA QM 301(kg) 2015/16
UP TO 30TH SEPTEMBER	5, 035	1, 070
OCTOBER	10, 085	1, 390
NOVEMBER	6, 240	755
DECEMBER	2, 460	2, 355
TOTAL	23, 820	5, 570

3. CROP ASSESSMENTS

Crop assessments were carried out in some parts of the cotton growing belt and an estimated area planted stood at about 500 hectares and out of the total plantings 250 hectares had emerged at the time of the report. This indicates a potential yield of 375 metric tonnes much lower than that of the previous season. This situation was execrated by the weather conditions that prevailed. The Lowveld Experiment Station recorded a total rainfall Of 258.2 compared to 243.6 of the previous season. Even though the rainfall seems higher than the previous season rain was very erratic and temperatures extremely high preventing farmers from planting their crops. Rainfall distribution at the Lowveld Experiment Station is shown on the table below: -

MONTH	RAINFALL	
	2014/15	2015/16
September	8.8	23.7
October	84.5	13.0
November	65.2	74.0
December	85.1	147.5
Total	243.6	258.2

Crop stage ranged from planting to the seedling stage. Crop condition is very poor following the adverse effects of moisture stress and extremely high temperatures. A lot of crops are waiting for effective rains for them to germinate. Otherwise farmers were busy with land preparation, planting weeding and spraying.

5. CHEMICAL SALES

Farmers continued to purchase chemicals through the credit scheme to control the various pests of cotton. These include distribution of Kalach (post emergent herbicide), Agro-prid to control aphids and jassids. The table below indicates figures for chemicals distributed on the quarter

Chemical name	Oct- Dec	Oct- Dec
Kalash (1kg)	700	160
Cotton feed	225	0
Agro prid	1,530	33
Cypermtrin (1L)	470	0
Fenveralent (1L)	94	0
Decis forte (1L)	124	0
Biomectrin (1L)	269	160
Fastac (1L)	97	3
Diazanol (1L)	90	0

6. PRODUCT SALES

Sales for the quarter were reduced to E2, 693, 505.36 from 174.224 tons of lint bales

Sales realized during the period stood as follows:

MONTH	LINT (TONS)	COTTON LINT (E)	FUZZY SEED (TONS)	FUZZY SEED (E)	TOTAL SALES (E)
Up to 30 th Sept	193.616	1,637,294	484.13	1,500,343	3,137,637
October – December	174.224	2, 693,505	0	0	2,693,505
TOTAL	367.84	4,330,799	484.13	1,500,343	5,831,142

It is noted in the table above that a total amount of E1, 876, 965 had not yet been reflected in the company books, which was outstanding to be paid by Spintex for lint and notes.

7. STOCKS AT HAND AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2015

Stocks recorded by the reporting period stood as follows.

PRODUCT	QUANTITY (Tons)	VALUE (E)
SEED COTTON	26.170	147, 598.80
COTTON SEED	24.475	527, 190.00
TOTAL		674, 788.80

Other stocks available

PRODUCT NAME	VALUE
PACKAGING MATERIAL	516, 008.30
CHEMICALS	109, 474.45
PRODUCTION STOCK	195, 459.65
TOTAL VALUE	820, 942.40

Total available stocks in during the reporting period was at **E1, 495, 731.20**

8. CREDIT REVOLVING FUND

This is a Fund created through government support to finance inputs for cotton farmers. The support entails planting seed, chemical for cotton management and other cotton related financial assistance. The Fund performed as follows:-

CARRY-OVER FROM PREVIOUS QUARTER	LENDINGS FOR THE QUARTER	RECOVERIES AND ADJUSTMENTS FOR THE QUARTER	BALANCE AT 31ST DECEMBER 2015
1, 879, 266	457, 257	8, 462	2, 328, 061

It is noted that World Vision supported cotton growers within Matsanjeni and Somntongo constituencies with credit facility for inputs. This has enhanced the credit revolving fund entirely. This facility has assisted cotton farmers with tractor hire services, buying seed and

chemicals. The project targeted 200 cotton growers and a budget of E400, 000 was allocated, though it shall depend on value of inputs utilized.

9. FARMERS TRAININGS

Review meetings and farmers training commenced on the 23th September 2014. The purpose was to review progress of the 2013/14 season and preparation of the season 2014/15. There were 40 officials who attended a review and planning session for the season 2014/15. Trainings of farmers on the other note commenced on the 29th September 2014, where 95 farmers received training in 3 locations on crop establishment in September and 393 farmers received training in 10 locations during the period under review. This therefore gives a total of 488 participants as compared to 575 farmers trained in the previous season on the particular subject.

COMMUNITY	NUMBER OF FARMERS IN 2014/15 SEASON	NUMBER OF FARMERS IN 2015/16 SEASON	TOPIC COVERED
UP TO SEPTEMBER	488	691	Crop Establishment
Lubulini	35	36	Crop Establishment
Phuzamoya	0	12	Crop Establishment
Maphatsindvuku	0	42	Crop Establishment
Hlane	0	17	Crop Establishment
Siphofaneni (SWADE)	0	7	Crop Establishment
Total	526	805	

10. BUSELENI FARM

A total of 27.6 hectares of land at Farm was prepared and planted with 10 hectares already emerged. The aim though was to plant 45 hectares but due to the prevailing conditions we managed the 27.6 hectares. Only 127.5 mm of rain was received since the beginning of the season in September. The distribution is shown on the table below:

MONTH	RAINFALL (MM)
September	0
October	0
November	30.5
December	97
TOTAL	127.5

Crop stage ranged from planting to the seedling stage. The main activities have been land preparation, planting, weeding and thinning.

11. CHALLENGES

A devastating storm that swept across Big Bend on the 12th December, 2015 damaged Ginnery Sheds, fence, Plant and Stock. The Damage is estimated at about E877, 900 with the total damage on the buildings standing at E702, 000 and Stock at E175, 900.

12. FINANCIAL REPORT

13. FOCUS FOR THE FOLLOWING QUARTER

1. Train cotton farmers on pest management
2. Distribute chemicals for cotton pest control
3. Crop assessments
4. Cotton seed planting, thinning, weeding and pest management at Buseleni Farm