

Distinguished representatives from:

- World Trade Organisation (WTO)
- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
- International Trade Center (ITC)
- International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC)
- Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO)
- C-4 (Benin,Burkina Faso,Chad and Mali)
- Representatives from the participating countries
- Ladies and gentlemen

Greetings from Uganda

Cotton is a strategic crop in Uganda and its production started in 1903. It is used as an export good and a raw material for the domestic and edible oil industries. The value chain employs a total of 2.5m people directly and indirectly in the production and marketing of its primary products.

We therefore thank the C-4 (Benin,Burkina Faso,Chad and Mali) for the initiative taken to apply to the United Nations General Assembly for the recognition of a World Cotton Day (WCD) .

We also thank the United Nations General Assembly to accept and come up with 7th October as a WCD which is going to be an annual Global celebration of Cotton and its stakeholders from field to fabric and beyond.

Further still we thank WTO for hosting and organising the launch of the WCD in collaboration with Secretariats of ITC, ICAC, FAO and UNCTAD.

UNCTAD's project on "Improving the value added of Cotton by-products in Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) " resulted in formulation of Uganda's Action Plan and Policy Recommendations for the following initiatives;

1. Extend the market for cotton seed cake to the non-ruminants
2. Increase domestic absorbent cotton production
3. Develop a new value chain for cotton stalks to produce charcoal briquettes
4. Scale up commercial mushroom production using cotton biomass

From the above initiatives UNCTAD commissioned and has produced two investment profiles in the following areas:

- Briquettes and pellets production from cotton stalks and other biomass waste.
- Absorbent cotton wool production from short staple cotton and gin waste.

With Uganda's attractive investment atmosphere which includes conducive tax and non-tax incentives backed up by security of investment, investors are welcome to the Pearl of Africa to take this opportunity and invest in the above initiatives which in turn will spur;

- Increased returns from cotton and farmers incomes.
- Creation of employment.
- Creation of Import substitution

Statement by Eng Itungulu Frederick at launching of World Cotton Day (WCD) Geneva 7th Oct 2019

In support of development of cotton by-products and other initiatives, the Government of Uganda has prioritized strengthening agro-industrialization for increased household incomes and improved quality of life. The Government has also launched the Buy Uganda Build Uganda (BUBU) Policy to promote procurement of locally produced goods/services.

In conclusion, I wish to thank WTO,ITC,FAO,UNCTAD and ICAC for organising and facilitating the launch of WCD and C-4 for coming up with this bright idea.

I wish you all fruitful deliberations

For God and My Country