Uganda, Turkey to revive cotton industry

By Andrew Ssenyonga

The Government of Uganda has partnered with a Turkish company, Sub-Saharan African (SSA) Investments, to revive the production of cotton in Uganda.

The state minister for trade, Michael Werikhe, said the move is expected to build capacity of cotton farmers' organisations, partners and stakeholders to address challenges in the sector and create an enabling environment to boost trade in cotton.

"This will increase the volume of exports. The Turkish company will be expected to buy all the cotton produced," he said.

This was revealed during the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the Uganda Governmentand the investor, at the trade ministry in Kampala recently.

Werikhe said the pact is also aimed at solving the underlying challenges in the sector, which have for long hindered its development.

"We expect the Turkish company to bring on board experience, transfer of technology and market for the product," he said.

Adnan Sarihan, the director SSA Investments, said they are kick-starting their investment with $100m (sh363b).

"This will not only create jobs, but also make farmers have a stable projected income from cotton at the start of the planting season," he added.

Sarihan noted that even though the cotton industry in Uganda has made progress in research and studies, the sector has not realised its potential.

"The industry has not developed a market-oriented culture and direct market with clients," he said.

He said the project will start establishing the base for producing high quality lint of global standards using a modern ginning technology.

"Once we start producing and exporting lint, Uganda will immediately be globally recognised for its cotton," he added.

Sarihan stressed that they are prepared to play their part so as to materialise Uganda's goals and link the country to Turkey for direct access to the international textile market for long-term benefits.

He, however, noted that it is also evident that no economy can achieve its true potential without creating local heroes.



State minister for co-operatives Fredrick Gume, state minister for agriculture Christopher Kibanzanga, Werikhe, Yavuzalp and Sarihan interacting after signing the Memorandum of Understanding at the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Co-operatives in Kampala. Photo by Nancy Nanyonga

The project is expected to employ 200,000 Ugandans

Value addition

Sarihan assured Uganda that the produce will be processed locally to create more jobs for Ugandans.

"The Turkish firm has been carrying out research in growing improved breeds of cotton that have shown positive results. It is now time to go commercial and support the local farmers," Sarihan said.

He also promised to set up processing centres across the country to help in promoting the production of cotton.

"We are ready to set up five to seven centres in different cotton growing regions to help in training the outgrowers, storage of pesticides, fertilisers and improved inputs, among others," Sarihan explained.

He said the centres will process the product to lint, organise outgrowers in groups for improved production.

"We will be able to double production since more growers are sensitised," he said.

The cotton producing regions include Teso, Bukedi and Elgon, Busoga, Lango West Nile, Bunyoro and central. These produce 200,000 tonnes of lint cotton a year.

The Turkish ambassador, Sedef Yavuzalp, said the signing of the MOU between SSA Investments and Uganda is a big move towards the revival of the cotton industry in the country.

"Knowing that Uganda wa one of Africa's largest cotte producers in the 1960s, wished to do my best to he revive cotton farming ar the industry in Uganda," sl explained.

She added that the proje is important as it will cre employment for 200,0 Ugandans.

"It will increase the kn how of Ugandans in the cot sector and this will be d through the Turkish state of art technology," she said.

UBC

UGANDA BROADCASTING CORPORATION

NOTICE UNDER OPEN DOMESTIC BIDDING

TENDER FOR SUPPLY OF MOTOR VEHICLES

Procurement Reference No:REF: UBC/SUPPLS/17-18/00020

ADDENDUM No 1.

This Addendum No. 1 is issued following our Invitation to tender for supply of Motor Vehicles which ran in the print media of 21st December, 2017.

We wish to inform prospective bidders as follows:

The bid submission deadline has been extended to Friday, **2nd February, 2018.**

All other requirements in the bid document remain unchanged.

ACCOUNTING OFFICER

UNOC

UGANDA NATIONAL OIL COMPANY

Addendum No. 1

Procurement Reference No. UNOC SUPPLIES/17-18/00031

Addendum No. 1 to the invitation to bid for the Supply, Installation and Trair Accounting Software suite for UNOC Reference is made to the adverts appeared in the New Vision of **Tuesday January 9th, 2018** & in the **Daily Mon** of **Tuesday January 9th, 2018** for the Supply Installation and Training Accoun Software suite for UNOC.

This is to inform all interested parties that the deadline of bid submissior been extended from **Friday 9th February 2018** to **Friday 23rd February 201**

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

CamScanner