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Cotton Industry - Code of Practice

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Foreword

This Kenya Standard was prepared by the Blankets, non-woven, threads and fibres Technical Committee under the guidance of the Standards Projects Committee, and it is in accordance with the procedures of the Kenya Bureau of Standards.

This Code of Practice (CoP) contains information on cotton production, processing and marketing. It aims to provide requirements and guidance to all its stakeholders in the cotton value chain, with the objective of promoting sustainability. It mainly focuses on quality, environmental protection, personnel safety and welfare.

In developing this CoP, a review of the present practices in the Kenyan cotton sector was considered vis-àvis good industry practices. In addition, reference was made to the policy, legal and regulatory framework that guide the industry operations along the value chain.

The provisions of this CoP are not intended to replace relevant national legislation or good practice on cotton production, processing and marketing. In the absence of national legislation and guidance, this CoP together with other national and international standards should serve as helpful guidance in improving the cotton industry.

This CoP also provides guidance on the steps taken by the Agriculture and Food Authority and relevant stakeholders in promoting the cotton sector. It is based on the provisions contained in The Crops Act, No. 16 and reference materials which are listed herein.

During the preparation of this standard, reference was made to following document(s):

Cotton Handbook Crops Act No. 16

Acknowledgment is hereby made for assistance received from these sources.

Cotton Industry - Code of Practice

1. Scope

This CoP specifies requirements and recommendations based on best practices for site selection, land preparation, production, harvesting and postharvest management, ginning, lint classing, spinning, seed milling, fabric and finished products manufacture, transportation and marketing of cotton (*Gossypium hirsutum*), see flow chart in Annex C.

The CoP is applicable to all players across the cotton value chain including existing and prospective farmers, processors, cotton buyers, extension agents, researchers, regulators and consumers.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

It is the responsibility of the user of this CoP to ensure that the latest edition of the documents, including any amendments thereof or new editions, listed below are referred to.

- 2.1 Crops Act, No. 16
- 2.2 Agriculture Fisheries and Food Authority Act, No. 13. The statute law (miscellaneous amendments) No. 7 of 2016.
- 2.3 Occupational Safety and Health Act
- 2.4 Kenya Seeds and Plant Varieties Act, CAP 326.
- 2.5 Weights and Measures Act, CAP 513
- 2.6 Pest Control Products Act, CAP 346
- 2.7 Factories and Other Places of Work Act CAP 514.
- 2.8 Environmental Management and Coordination Act
- 2.9 Cotton Handbook
- 2.10 Lint Sample Collection Protocol
- 2.11 KS 2174: Measurement of physical properties of cotton fibres by high volume instruments Test methods.
- 2.12 KS EAS 287: Oil Seed cake for compounding livestock feeds Specification.
- 2.13 KS EAS 298: Edible cottonseed oil Specification.
- 2.14 KS ISO 1130: Methods of sampling for testing of textile fibres.
- 2.15 KS 1829: Labelling of products general requirements.
- 2.16 KS 2659: Packaging of textile products code of practice (Mercy)

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

3.1 Aggregation Store

A store operated by a licensed seedcotton buyer under the provisions of the Crops Act CAP No. 16.

3.2 Authority

The Agriculture and Food Authority as established under Section 3 of the Agriculture Fisheries and Food Authority Act, No. 13 of 2013. The statute law (miscellaneous amendments) No. 7 of 2016.

3.3 Biological control of pests

Use of living organisms to regulate pest populations attacking a given crop or plant. Control agents include predators, parasites, fungi, bacteria, viruses and nematodes.

3.4 Buying Centre

A seed cotton collection store operated by an entity which is licensed to purchase seedcotton under the provisions of the Crops Act, No. 16.

- 3.5 Chemical disease and pest controlUse of man-made products to regulate pest and diseases.
- 3.6 Cotton lint Fibre produced after ginning seedcotton.

3.7 Cotton seed

Kernel produced after ginning seedcotton.

3.8 Cultural disease and pest control

Management of diseases and pests without use of chemicals, this includes destruction of crop residues, crop rotation and use of trap crops.

3.9 Environment

The physical factors surrounding human beings including land, water, atmosphere, climate, sound, odour, taste, biological factors of animals and plants and the social factor of aesthetics and includes both the natural and the built surroundings.

3.10 Ginner

A person (3.16) licensed to separate seedcotton into lint and cotton seed.

- 3.11 Ginnery A factory where seedcotton is separated into lint and cotton seed.
- 3.12 Grade A Seedcotton of superior quality as determined by the Authority;
- 3.13 Grade B

Seedcotton of lower quality as determined by the Authority;

Note 1: Grade is a scientific description of the quality of cotton according to the official standards.

- 3.14 Cotton classification instruments
 An integrated high speed system for measuring basic cotton fibre quality parameters.
- 3.15 Medium tilth Moderately compact and firm seedbed, which is not cloddy or loose.
- 3.16 Person Includes an individual, entity, company, association or any other incorporated body.
- 3.17 Seed

Part of plant which is or is intended to be used for propagation

3.18 Seedcotton.

Unginned cotton harvested from the field which consists of the seed with the attached lint as picked from the boll.

3.19 Seedcotton buyer

A person (3.16) licensed to purchase seed cotton under the provisions of the Crops Act No. 16.

3.20 Spinning Consistency Index.

A calculation for predicting the overall quality and spinnability of the cotton fibre. The Index is based on individual cotton classification instrument measurements of length, length uniformity, strength, Micronaire and Colour

4 **REQUIREMENTS**

4.1 Site Selection

The site should be located in an area where cultivation is not restricted by any regulatory authority as per existing legislations. The site should be suitable for sustainable cotton production by ensuring that:

4.1.1 The planting area does not contain any residue or contamination of hazardous substances that are likely to be of environmental concern or posing health and safety risk.

4.1.2 In case the planting area is located near or in the vicinity of an industry, or in any high risk area, a risk assessment shall be conducted by regulatory authorities to determine the suitability of production sites. A risk assessment report shall be maintained.

4.1.3 It meets the basic requirements for growing the crop as indicated in the Crops Act No.16 and Cotton Handbook. The grower shall investigate the temperature, altitude, rainfall (available moisture) for the site and carry out soil analysis to determine soil pH and nutrients. All the corresponding records shall be maintained.

4.2 Land Preparation

For optimum cotton production, the land should be prepared at least one month before the expected time of rains or planting.

4.2.1 The selected land should be prepared using machinery or manual implements to attain medium tilth in accordance with the Cotton Handbook.

4.2.2 In conservation farming, herbicides recommended by Pest Control Products Board (PCPB) should be used.

4.2.3 In water logged areas, furrowing is recommended to drain excess water.

4.2.4 In areas with scarce rainfall, tied ridging is recommended for soil moisture conservation,

4.2.5 Soil amendment should be implemented where necessary to bring the site to its optimum production levels.

4.2.6 Where pre-emergence weed control is required, appropriate pre-emergence herbicide should be applied and records maintained.

4.3 Planting

Planting can take place using machinery or manual implements. Regardless of the seasons and methods (irrigation or rain fed), dry planting is recommended using varieties that are approved by the Seeds & Plant Varieties Act, CAP 326. Planting should be completed at least one week before onset of the rains and records maintained (planting date, planting depth, seed rate, germination per cent and rainfall data).

4.3.1 Seed

Growers shall ensure that seeds for planting are packaged, labelled and treated in accordance with provisions of Seeds & Plant Varieties Act, CAP 326. For traceability the farmer shall maintain a record of the source and variety of the seed.

4.3.1.1 Seed dressing with chemicals which have anti-fungal and insecticidal properties, shall be ensured to prevent early pest and disease infestations.

4.3.1.2 The recommended seed rate and spacing for specific varieties shall be observed during planting. Seed should be placed at a depth of 3-5 cm.

4.3.2 Fertilizer

4.3.2.1 Farmers are encouraged to use a combination of inorganic and organic fertilizers to improve soil physical and biological properties.

4.3.2.2 The choice of fertilizer and the application rates should be guided by soil test results (see 4.1.3)

4.3.2.3 Records on the type of fertilizer applied shall be maintained

4.3.3 Gapping and Thinning

4.3.3.1 Gapping involves replanting empty hills within 3-7 days after germination where the germination is less than 80%.

4.3.3.2 Thinning entails uprooting excess plants 14 days after germination, to attain the recommended plant population and optimize on the nutrient utilization of plants.

4.3.3.3 Records on the date of gapping and thinning shall be maintained by the farmer.

4.4 Weed Control

Weeding is the destruction of unwanted plants. This reduces competition for nutrients, water and sunlight with cotton plants and inhibits build-up of pests and diseases in alternate hosts.

4.4.1 Weeding is carried out using physical, cultural, mechanical, biological or chemical methods. The method used should not injure the crop or cause damage to the environment.

4.4.2 Where chemical method is used, the herbicide should be approved by the regulatory authority and farmers should follow instructions for use, provided by the manufacturer.

4.4.3 Records on start and end dates, the method of weeding and type of herbicides used shall be maintained by the farmer.

4.5 Pests and Diseases Control

To maximize returns, the choice of pesticides and fungicides should be determined by the results of the pest and disease scouting and as per the recommendations given in the Pest Control Products Act, CAP 346.

4.5.1 During growth period of the crop, scouting should be performed to assess the levels of pest and disease infestation.

4.5.2 Pests and disease control should be managed by using cultural, biological and chemical methods.

4.5.3 Where pesticides and fungicides are used, they shall be handled in a manner that ensures the safety of handlers and the environment as guided by Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) and Environmental Management and Coordination Act (EMCA).

4.5.4 Records on pesticides and fungicides used and their dates of application shall be maintained.

4.6 Harvesting

4.6.1 Seedcotton should be harvested immediately the bolls open to preserve quality. Thereafter, it is sorted or classified into grades A and B in accordance with provisions of the Crops Act.

4.6.2 Seedcotton should be picked when dry. It is recommended that cotton is dried to attain a moisture content of 11% or less before storage (refer to KS 124).

4.6.3 During harvesting, it is recommended to use bags made of cotton material to reduce the contamination of the seedcotton.

4.6.4 Avoid the use of sharp or blunt objects that may cause physical damage to the seedcotton during packaging.

4..6.5 Records on weight per grade of seedcotton shall be maintained.

4.7 Storage of Seedcotton, Lint and Cotton Seed

The two grades (A and B) shall be stored separately to avoid mixing. Seedcotton may be stored in the farm store, buying centres, ginneries or aggregation stores. These stores should meet the following conditions:-

4.7.1 Dry, easy to clean and well ventilated to improve air circulation therefore preserve quality of the seedcotton (colour and other physical fibre properties) and to avoid build-up of excess moisture and rotting.

4.7.2 Proofed against rodents, water leakage and direct sunlight. In the case of ginneries and aggregation stores, installation of fire detection and fighting systems is recommended in accordance with the OSHA and The Factories and Other Places of Work Act CAP 514.

4.7.3 It is recommended to establish a store monitoring schedule (daily, weekly or monthly) to reduce post-harvest losses, based on prevailing environment. A record on store monitoring schedule shall be maintained.

4.7.4 Storage facilities at buying centres, ginneries and aggregation stores shall be approved by the Authority before its use in accordance with the Crops Act No.16.

4.7.5 The Authority shall schedule annual inspections to operational buying centres, ginneries and aggregation stores to check for compliance with the Crops Act No.16. Records of monitoring schedules and inspection reports shall be maintained by the Authority.

4.8 Seedcotton Marketing

Seedcotton marketing takes place between the producers and licensed seedcotton buyers in accordance with the Crops Act No. 16. The seedcotton buyer shall meet the following conditions:-

4.8.1 Use weighing scales that are calibrated in accordance with Weights and Measures Act, CAP 513.

4.8.2 Use the guiding floor price as established by various stakeholders under the guidance of the Authority at the beginning of every season to ensure transparency in compliance with the Crops Act, No. 16.

4.8.3 Undertake marketing at the premises (buying centres, aggregation stores and ginnery) licensed by The Authority.

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4.8.4 The terms of payment should be as agreed between the parties with the guidance of the Authority.

4.8.5 Records on the quantity and quality of the seedcotton purchased shall be maintained by the licensed buyer in accordance with the Crops Act, No. 16.

4.9 Transportation

Transportation of seedcotton by the farmer takes place from farm store to the ginnery, aggregation store (3.1) or to the buying centre (3.3) based on perceived returns. The licensed buyer transports the seedcotton from the buying centre or aggregation store to the ginnery.

4.9.1 To preserve quality, seed cotton shall be transported in respective grades A and B.

4.9.2 The means of transportation shall be clean, dry and properly secured to prevent physical damage, spillage, water, sunlight, dust and introduction of other contaminants in accordance with the Crops Act, No. 16.

4.9.3 Records on seedcotton purchases and the list of the sellers at buying centres, aggregation stores and ginneries shall be maintained.

4.10 Ginning

Ginning is a process of separating the lint (fibre) from seed using a ginning machine by licensed persons.

4.10.1 For best practice, ginning of seedcotton grade A is carried out before grade B. Whenever grade B seed cotton is ginned, the ginning system shall be cleaned before ginning grade A, to maintain the integrity of the lint quality.

4.10.2 The seed should be stored in bags or in bulk at moisture content of 7% for quality preservation and clearly labelled in accordance to KS1829.

4.10.3 The ginner shall maintain records on weight per grade for seedcotton, lint and seed.

4.11 Lint Baling, Sampling and Labelling

4.11.1 Lint Baling

4.11.1.1 Baling is the process of pressing the lint into the prescribed weights and volume. (Refer to Crops Act, No.16). Cotton lint is pressed into bales weighing between185 to 220 kilograms (Kgs). Other bale weights can be considered depending on the consumer preference and subject to approval by the Authority. The weighing equipment should be calibrated in accordance with the Weights and Measures Act, CAP 513.

14.11.1.2 Records on the calibration of equipment, weight and grade of each bale shall be maintained.

4.11.1.3 Bales shall be wrapped using high density polyethylene paper or cotton cloth to preserve lint quality and secured using natural or synthetic fibre material lashings. Bales of different grades should be stored separately to avoid mix up.

4.11.1.4 The lint bales should be stacked on pallets and avoid direct contact with the walls awaiting marketing. Bales should be stacked in such a manner as will ensure the stability of the bales and prevent any fall or collapse of the stacks. It should allow easy access for human and machinery and not to interfere with the lighting, ventilation and safety equipment in accordance with OSHA.

4.11.1 The conditions specified in clause 4.7 (storage) of this document shall apply for the lint bale storage.

4.11.2 Lint Sampling

4.11.2.1 Lint samples shall be collected from each bale by the ginner during the baling process. The lint samples shall then be labelled, packed, transported and delivered to the Authority in accordance to the Lint Sample Collection Protocol for classing (see clause 4.12 (Lint Classing).

4.11.2.2 Samples collection from other sources shall be taken in accordance to methods prescribed by ISO 1130. Each lint sample delivered to the Authority shall not be less than 300 grams.

4.11.2.3 Records shall be maintained by the ginner on the samples in accordance with lint sample collection protocol.

4.11.3 Lint Bale Labelling

The bales shall be labelled legibly and indelibly in accordance to KS 1829 with the following information:

4.11.3.1 product name,

4.11.3.2 grade,

4.11.3.3 client name (mark of the producer),

4.11.3.4 year of crop harvest (date of production),

4.11.3.5 lot and bale numbers,

4.11.3.6 bale net weight in kg,

4.11.3.7 type of gin,

4.11.3.8 cotton variety,

4.11.3.11 country of origin.

Note: Where ink is used for labelling, it should not penetrate to the fibre to avoid contamination

Note: Where ink is used for labelling, it should not penetrate to the lint to avoid its contamination.

4.12 Lint Classing

Lint classing is characterization of cotton by determining a number of quality parameters; primarily length, strength, colour, micronaire (fineness and maturity) and uniformity.

4.12.1 After receiving the lint samples from each bale, The Authority classifies the lint by determining physical attributes using Cotton classification instruments to establish the quality of the lint to promote trade, market access and maintain consumer confidence.

4.12.2 The classing of the lint fibre shall be carried out in accordance to KS 2174.

4.12.3 The calibration status of the cotton classification instruments shall be maintained.

4.12.4 Records shall be maintained for maintenance, instrument calibration and lint classing data by the Authority.

4.13 Lint Marketing

Ginneries are the main source of lint for processing by the spinning industries. Marketing of lint is influenced by quality levels, global stocks and source (country) which directly impacts the price. In addition, lint prices may be affected by the cost of other fibres and the fluctuation of exchange rate.

4.13.1 The spinning industries are the main market outlets for lint. The industry prefer consistency (low variability) in lint quality between different batches in order to achieve better spinning process efficiency.

4.13.2 Records on lint stocks shall be maintained by the ginner.

4.14 Spinning

Spinning is the process of converting fibre into yarns using a range of spinning technologies and equipment which are manual or mechanical. The technology and equipment used will depend on cost, yarn quality and throughput. Preferably, spinning should start after establishing the spinning consistency index during lint classing. The index assists in bale lay-down with the aim of optimizing the process.

4.14.1 The equipment shall comply with safety requirements in acordance to OSHA. To ensure safety, a monitoring schedule of the equipment, status report, energy consumption and any follow up actions shall be maintained.

4.14.2 Records shall be maintained on the source and quantity of lint consumption and yarns produced to determine the process efficiency.

4.15 Cotton Fabric Manufacturing

Cotton fabric manufacturing may be carried out using non-weaving, weaving or knitting processes in facilities approved by the Factories and Other Places of Work Act, CAP 514, OSHA and by any other applicable legislation. The process adopted depends on the desired end product.

4.15.1 Nonwoven fabric is prepared directly from lint without spinning process where mechanical entanglement or resin bonding of fibres takes place to form a fabric.

4.15.1.1 In woven fabric manufacture yarns run lengthwise and width-wise.

4.15.1.2 Knitting is the art and science of making fabric by interlocking yarns around and through one another.

4.15.2 The fabric may be dyed or printed and further processed in readiness for garment manufacturing for purposes of value addition.

4.15.3 Fabric manufacture generates various waste materials which should be disposed and records maintained in accordance to EMCA and OSHA.

4.15.4 Records shall also be maintained on quantity and range of products, energy consumption, type and quantity of dyes used.

4.16 Marketing of Finished Products

The finished cotton products offered to the market shall comply with the requirements stated in the respective Standards specifications. (Annex A: List of applicable Kenya Standards).

4.16.1 The products should be offered to the markets through licensed outlets approved by relevant Authorities. For greater market access and visibility, marketers are encouraged to link with agencies such as Export Promotion Council, Brand Kenya as well as advertising through multimedia.

4.16.2 Records shall be maintained on sales, inspection and testing of the finished products.

4.17 Seed Milling

Seed milling is the mechanical process of crushing cotton seed to produce oil and cotton seed cake performed by millers or ginning factories to allow further value addition.

4.17.1 The miller shall employ optimal methods that will ensure production of quality seed cake and efficient ©KEBS 2018 — All rights reserved 11

oil recovery. The equipment used should be operated, maintained and calibrated as per the manufacturer's recommendations.

4.17.2 Records shall be maintained on quantities of processed materials, oil recovery efficiencies, energy consumption, maintenance and calibration data.

4.17.3 To maximize returns to the value chain actors, cotton seed cake is primarily used in the formulation of ruminant animal feed complying with KS EAS 287.

4.17.4 Cotton seed oil is processed into edible and industrial cotton seed oil.

4.17.4.1 The edible cotton seed oil shall comply to KS EAS 298.

4.17.4.2 Industrial cotton seed oil may be used in the manufacture of soaps, bio-diesel and paints complying with respective product Kenyan standards.

4.18 Marketing of Cotton Seed Cake and Oil

Cotton seed cake is widely marketed as a protein supplement feed for ruminant animals and is of special value to the dairy industry because it increases the butter fat content of milk.

4.18.1 The main markets are ruminant animal feed manufacturers. Additionally, dairy farmers purchase a substantial amount of the seed cake. Seed cake processed from dehulled cotton seeds fetch premium prices as compared to cake from whole seed milling.

4.18.2 The edible oil is marketed almost exclusively to food formulation and processing industries. It is sold directly as a vegetable oil for consumption as a speciality frying oil highly priced for toasted or nutty aroma which it imparts to snack foods. It is widely used in formulation of solid fat products because it forms small crystallites that provide these products with a smooth consistency, fluid plasticity and a prefered mouth feel.

4.18.3 For greater market access and visibility, advertising through multimedia is recommended.

4.18.4 Records shall be maintained on cotton seed cake and oil produced and sold.

Annex A (Normative)

LIST OF APPLICABLE KENYA STANDARDS (KEBS)

Note that this list is not exhaustive and only includes some of the most commonly used standards

- A1 KS 638 Absorbent Cotton Gauze-Specification
- A2 KS 508 Absorbent cotton wool for medical use Specification (Third Edition
- A3 KS 1258 Code of practice for grading of spun yarns Part 1: Cotton yarns.
- A4 KS EAS 228 Cotton bedsheets Specification.
- A5 KS 2245 Cotton ear buds Specification
- A6 KS EAS 224 Cotton khanga Specification.
- A7 KS EAS 155 Cotton yarns Specification Part 1: Grading by appearance
- A8 KS EAS 298 Edible cottonseed oil Specification.
- A9 KS 2556 Impregnated cotton Swabs-Specification.
- A10 KS EAS 227 Knitted cotton fabric Specification
- A11 KS 1305 Mosquito netting Specification Part 1: Round mesh cotton netting
- A12 KS 1393-1 Specification for bales Part 1: Dimensions and density of cotton bales.
- A13 KS 639-1 Specification for bandages Part 1: Cotton gauze bandages.
- A14 KS 367 Specification for cotton canvas (Third Edition)
- A15 KS 506 Specification for cotton dish cloths (First Revision).
- A16 KS 116 Specification for cotton drills.
- A17 KS 543 Specification for cotton embroidery threads Part 1: Cotton embroidery threads (Second Edition).
- A18 KS EAS 224 Specification of Cotton Khanga
- A19 KS 528 Specification for flat cotton wicks
- A20 KS 540 Specification for pillow cases.
- A21 KS 479 Specification for sewing threads Part 1: Cotton sewing threads
- A22 KS 1113-1 Specification for spun yarns Part 1: Cotton yarns.
- A23 KS 607-8 Specification for standard fabrics Part 8: Cotton.
- A24 KS 542-1 Specification for the national flag of Kenya Part 1: Cotton, man-made fibres and blends.
- A25 KS 1257-1 Specification for umbrella fabrics Part 1: Cotton fabrics.
- A26 KS 586-1 Specification for webbings Part 1: Cotton webbing.
- A27 KS 117-3 Woven blankets Specification Part 3: Cotton leno cellular blankets.
- A28 KS 364 Woven cellulosic fibre apparel fabrics Specification
- A29 KS 541-1 Woven fabrics for uniforms Specification Part 1: Cotton, man-made fibres and blends

Annex B (Informative)

LIST OF RECORDS

- B1 A risk assessment report on suitability of production site (Clause 4.1.2).
- B2 Site assessment report (Clause 4.1.3 and 4.2.5).
- B3 Planting records (Clause 4.3)
- B4 Weed, pest and disease control records (Clause 4.4 and 4.5)
- B5 Harvesting record. (Clause 4.6)
- B6 Store monitoring schedule record (Clause 4.7)
- B7 Seedcotton marketing and transportation record. (Clause 4.8 and 4.9)
- B8 Ginning and sampling records. (Clause 4.10, 4.11 and 4.13).
- B9 Instrument calibration and lint classing Records. (Clause 4.12)
- B10 Equipment status, energy and lint consumption and yarn production reports (Clause 4.14).
- B11 Energy consumption, type and quantity of products and dyes (Clause 4.15)
- B12 Sales, inspection and testing records (Clause 4.16)
- B13 Quantities processed, stocks and equipment records (Clause 4.17 and 4.18)



Figure 1. Flowchart on the Main Steps in Cotton Value Chain

Bibliography

- [1] Cotton Facts
- [2] Lint sample collection protocol

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