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# **Smallholder Cotton Farmer: Feedback**

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# Smallholder Cotton Farming

- **Global**

60-70 % off all cotton produced world wide, land size of 1 to 5 hectares

- **Africa**

Majority off all cotton produced outside South Africa, land size less 1 to 5 hectares

- **South Africa**

- a) 8 to 9% of the national cotton production, land size less 1 to 10 hectares
- b) 2021-2022 national crop estimated at 70 000 lint bales, national retail usage is equivalent of 1,5 million lint bales
- c) 8 100 lint bales 2021-2022 produced by smallholder cotton farmers, aim for 20% in 2030
- d) Since 1990's, 1270 farmers trained by Cotton SA

# Why Cotton?

- Cotton produce a crop under extreme conditions, where no other field crops survive, with 380-520mm rain and plus 40 degree C
- No theft, not perishable
- Ideal for smallholders growers in rural areas, need minimum of 50 Ha / dryland and 10 Ha / irrigation
- Own contribution = land, fences, scouting, harvest and stay on the land
- Communal land is laying fallow
- Job creation 1,35 to 1,5 persons per ha
- Harvest up to 1 100 kg of seed cotton per ha, at R 11,00 per kg
- Cultivation by centralised mechanisation

## Current Smallholder Cotton Production in South Africa

Province	Smallholder Cotton Farmers	Hectares Dryland Current	Hectares Dryland (Potential)	Hectares Irrigation Current	Hectares Irrigation (Potential)	Delivered to Cotton Gin
Limpopo - Matlerekeng	8	160	> 300	0	> 110	Limpopo Valley Gin
			<b>200</b>		<b>10</b>	
Mpumalanga - Nokaneng	72	315	> 2 500	0	> 100	Limpopo Valley Gin
			<b>500</b>		<b>20</b>	
Mpumalanga - Nkomazi	361	870	> 9 000	0	> 500	Limpopo Valley Gin
			<b>3 000</b>		<b>50</b>	
KZN - Mkhuze	78	0	> 3 000	228	> 800	Ubongwa Gin
			<b>200</b>		<b>400</b>	
KZN - Makhathini	656	1 440	> 4 000	161	> 5 000	Ubongwa Gin
			<b>3 000</b>		<b>250</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1 175</b>	<b>2 785</b>	> 18 800	<b>389</b>	> 6 510	
			<b>6 900</b>		<b>730</b>	



## Participants

- Lebombo Agriculture Secondary Co-op
- 31 Primary Co-ops
- 10 000 ha rain fed potential
- 3 000 ha rain fed current
- 1 100 members

- DALRRD
- Cotton SA
- Agrienterprise
- WWF-SA



# Link Smallholder Cotton Farmers to the Value Chain

- 2 Cotton balers to bale seed cotton
- Delivery of compact bales to ginneries
- Saving transport / production costs
- Limpopo, 4 sites, 600 farmers
- Mpumalanga, 1 site, 1 100 farmers

DSI

TIA

Cotton SA







**Two smallholder cotton farmer projects awarded a BC compliance licence for 3 years in South Africa**

- **Nkomazi Cotton FPSU, Mpumalanga**
- **Makhathini Cotton FPSU, KZN**

**AN ILLUSTRATED TRAINING MANUAL FOR  
SMALL-SCALE COTTON GROWERS  
INCWADI EFAKELWE IMIFANEKISO YOKUQEQESHWA  
KWABATSHALA UKOTINI ONGEMNINGI**







**Smallholder Cotton  
Farmers need all the  
support, thank you!**

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