

COMMODITIES AT A GLANCE

« Special issue on Cotton in Africa »



UNITED NATIONS

N°2 - July 2011

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

COMMODITIES AT A GLANCE

« Special issue on Cotton in Africa »

N°2 - July 2011



UNITED NATIONS

Note

INTRODUCTION

This issue of **Commodities at a Glance** has been prepared by the Special Unit on Commodities (SUC) of UNCTAD. This quarterly publication aims to collect, present and disseminate accurate and relevant statistical information linked to international primary commodity markets in a clear, concise and friendly format.

Given the recent record rises in cotton prices and wider commodity price volatility, this edition of **Commodities at a glance** (n°2), will focus on the world cotton industry, with a special emphasis on African cotton producing countries. The cotton sector in Africa is critical to the provision of sustainable rural livelihoods and the economic development of these countries. This issue of **Commodities at a glance** with its focus on the African cotton sector has been prepared for the Pan-African Cotton Meeting in June 2011, in Cotonou (Benin).

For further information about this publication, please contact the Special Unit on Commodities (SUC), UNCTAD, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Genève 10, Switzerland, telephone +41 22 917 5676 e-mail: commodities@unctad.org.

STATISTICAL DATA SOURCES

All Statistical data sources for this publication have been indicated under each specific graph.

Some discrepancies may appear in this document, especially between production and trade statistics due to the way information is reported by countries.

The share of Africa in cotton lint exports both in 1985/86-1989/90 and 2006/07-2010/11 is higher than the share of Africa in cotton lint production. This situation is due to the fact that cotton is mainly grown as an export crop in Africa for international markets, while it is largely processed and domestically used in other regions.

COPYRIGHT

Material in this publication may be freely quoted or reprinted, but full acknowledgement is requested (UNCTAD, Special Unit on Commodities, **Commodities at a Glance**). A copy of the publication containing the quotation or reprint should be sent to the UNCTAD secretariat at: Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland or by e-mail to: commodities@unctad.org.

FREE SUBSCRIPTION

The current publication is intended to be published on a quarterly basis. If you are interested in receiving its updated versions by e-mail on a regular basis, please send an e-mail to: commodities@unctad.org and we would be pleased to send it to you as soon as issued.

UNCTAD/SUC/2011/2

Contents

Note	2
MAKING NEWS THIS QUARTER	5
Facts and figures: International Cotton Market	7
Fig 1. World cotton production and international cotton prices (1985/86 - 2010/11)	8
Fig 2. (i) Share of cotton trade in global trade of all primary commodities (excl. Fuels), and (ii) ratio of the cotton price index vis-à-vis the price index of all primary commodities (excl. fuels), 1995 - 2009	8
Fig 3. Crude petroleum and fertilizer prices (January 1985 - March 2011)	9
Fig 4. Euro / US dollar exchange rate (January 2000 - March 2011)	9
Facts and figures: Cotton Lint Production	11
Fig 5. Average annual cotton lint production by region (1985/86 - 1989/90 and 2006/07 - 2010/11)	12
Fig 6. World and African cotton lint production (1985/86 - 2010/11)	13
Fig 7.a. African cotton lint production, as a Share of world production (1985/86 - 1989/90)	13
Fig 7.b. African cotton lint production, as a Share of world production (2006/07 - 2010/11)	13
Fig 8. Average annual cotton lint production by Africa's top five producers (1985/86 - 1989/90)	14
Fig 9. Average annual cotton lint production by Africa's top five producers (2006/07 - 2010/11)	14
Facts and figures: Cotton Lint Yields	15
Fig 10. Cotton lint yields by region (1985/86 - 1989/90 and 2006/07 - 2010/11)	16
Fig 11. World and African cotton lint production yields (1985/86 - 2010/11)	16
Fig 12.a. Average cotton yields of African cotton producing countries vs. dependence on cotton exports (1995 - 1999)	17
Fig 12.b. Average cotton yields of African cotton producing countries vs. dependence on cotton exports (2005 - 2009)	17
Table 1. Ratio of average cotton yields of selected African countries to the World's average (1985/86 - 1989/90)	18
Table 2. Ratio of average cotton yields of selected African countries to the World's average (2006/07 - 2010/11)	18
Facts and figures: Cotton Lint Marketing and Trade	19
Fig 13. Average annual cotton lint exports by region (1985/86 - 1989/90 and 2006/07 - 2010/11)	20
Fig 14. Average annual cotton lint imports by region (1985/86 - 1989/90 and 2006/07 - 2010/11)	20
Fig 15. World and African cotton lint exports (1985/86 - 2010/11)	21
Fig 16.a. Africa cotton lint exports, as a share of world exports (1985/86 - 1989/90)	21
Fig 16.b. Africa cotton lint exports, as a share of world exports (2006/07 - 2010/11)	21
Fig 17. Average annual cotton lint exports by Africa's top five exporters (1985/86 - 1989/90)	22
Fig 18. Five main cotton lint exporting countries and the lowest export quantities in Africa (2006/07 - 2010/11)	22
Facts and figures: Value addition, cotton yarns	23
Fig 19. Average annual cotton yarn production by region (1985 - 1989 and 2007 - 2011)	24
Fig 20. World and African cotton yarn production (1985 - 2011)	25
Fig 21.a. African cotton yarn production, as a share of world production (1985 - 1989)	25
Fig 21.b. African cotton yarn production, as a share of world production (2007 - 2011)	25
Fig 22. Average annual cotton yarn production by Africa's top 5 producers (1985 - 1989)	26
Fig 23. Average annual cotton yarn production by Africa's top 5 producers (2007 - 2011)	26
Facts and figures: Value addition, cotton fabrics	27
Fig 24. Average annual cotton fabric production by region (1985 - 1989 and 2007 - 2011)	28
Fig 25. World and African cotton fabric production (1985 - 2011)	29
Fig 26.a. African cotton fabric production, as a share of world production (1985 - 1989)	29
Fig 26.b. African cotton fabric production, as a share of world production (2007 - 2011)	29
Fig 27. Average annual cotton fabric production by Africa's top 5 producers (1985 - 1989)	30
Fig 28. Average annual cotton fabric production by Africa's top 5 producers (2007 - 2011)	30

A photograph of a rural landscape with a man in a blue shirt standing next to a bullock cart. The cart is heavily loaded with large, white, fluffy bales of cotton wool. The background shows a hillside with sparse green trees under a clear blue sky. The ground is reddish-brown soil.

MAKING NEWS THIS QUARTER...

