









# The White Gold from Africa



# The Cotton Sector in Franc Zone West and Central Africa

Thousand MT lint	No. cotton companies	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
BENIN 	1	80	60	75	118	124	165
BURKINA FASO 	3	152	141	174	260	275	273
CÔTE D'IVOIRE 	6	81	59	103	152	173	194
MALI 	1	99	103	187	189	184	242
SENEGAL 	1	8	10	11	14	12	12
TOGO 	1	12	20	33	42	34	42
CAMEROON 	1	49	68	78	110	91	110
CHAD 	1	16	22	32	34	32	49
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>497</b>	<b>483</b>	<b>693</b>	<b>919</b>	<b>925</b>	<b>1,087</b>

*2013/2014 season:*

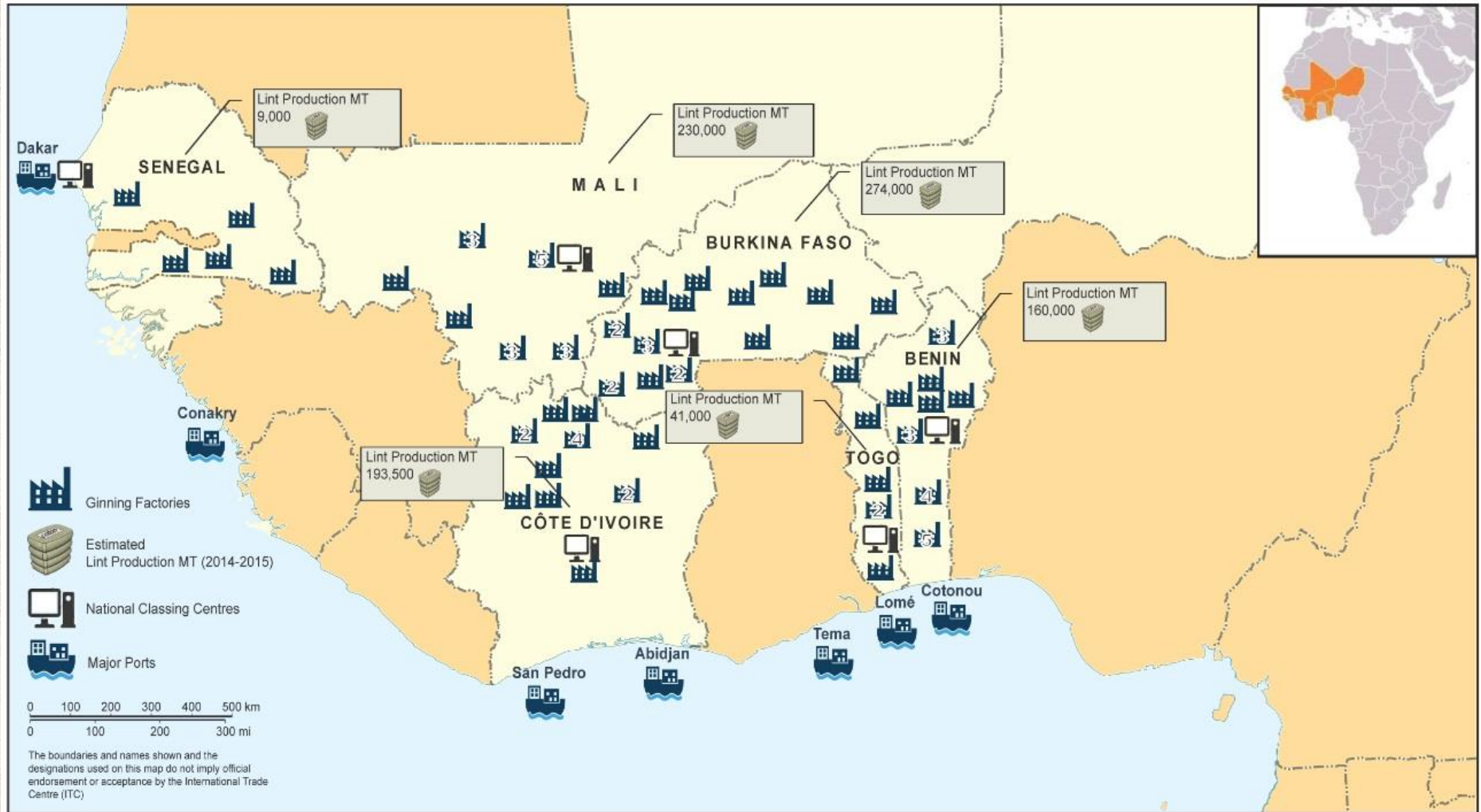
**Total production:**  
**2.2 million tons** seedcotton /  
**925,000 tons lint**  
 (4.25 million bales)  
 98% exported

**Market share:**  
 About **10 %** of  
 world exports

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# Map of Cotton Producing Countries in West Africa (UEMOA)



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# Map of Cotton Producing Countries in Central Africa (CEMAC)



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# African Cotton Lint Superior Characteristics

- **Grade: 80% Strict Middling and above.**
- **Staple length: 85% 1"1/8 and above;  
15% 1"3/32 and 1"1/16.**
- **Micronaire: G5 (3.5-4.9 ncl); average 3.7-4.3.**
- **Strength: minimum 28 gpt up to 30.**
- **Uniformity: 80% and above.**
- **No stickiness reported during the last 15 years.**
- **Few seed varieties (1 to 3 in each country) ensuring homogeneity and consistency of production.**
- **As seedcotton is handpicked, cotton lint from Africa:**
  - ✓ is less trashy;
  - ✓ has less neps;
  - ✓ has less short fibers;
  - ✓ has a better length uniformity;**than machine-picked origins.**
- **As such, African cottons are ideally suitable for spinning fine combed yarns.**



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# A Green Cotton for the Benefit of Economic and Social Development

- African cotton, entirely rainfed, has been cultivated for decades by small-scale family farms.
- Hand picking and smooth ginning preserve the intrinsic properties of the cotton lint.
- Low use of pesticides ensures a comparatively low pollution.
- Very low carbon footprint: protecting the environment & biodiversity.
- Main source of income for 15 million people.
- Engine of development, major contributor to the improvement of living conditions and poverty alleviation in rural areas (education, health).

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# Classification, Quality Control and Varietal Research

- Lint classification is centralized (one lab' per country) and undertaken by experienced technical experts according to national commercial types ensuring homogeneity of production.
- National commercial types are regularly updated.
- Most countries in West and Central Africa are provided with:
  - State of the art instruments for testing and improving lint characteristics
  - R&D services working in cooperation with international research institutions.
- In West Africa, the Research and Training Center for the Textile Industry (CERFITEX) provides its expertise to national classification laboratories.

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# Ginning and Shipping

- 96 ginneries.
- Total ginning capacity: 3,275,000 metric tons seedcotton per season.
- High ginning outturn: 41% to 43% (100% saw gins).
- Modern ginning equipment (U.S. made) and quality management systems (SODEFITEX certified ISO 9001 ; certification of CMDT underway).
- Shipping ports: Dakar, Abidjan, Lomé, Cotonou, Douala, San Pedro, Tema.

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# The Quality Approach: Towards Zero Contamination

- Traceability and quality control implemented at all stages from sowing to export.
- Harvesting bags made of cotton provided to cotton pickers to prevent contamination with polypropylene.
- Raising awareness of all cotton stakeholders in the region (training programs, community radio, etc).



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# Regional Cotton Institutions

Cotton sector stakeholders are represented and supported by regional institutions:

## The African Cotton Association (A.C.A):

- Promote and defend the interest of African cotton by improving its productivity, quality, competitiveness through increased added value.



## The African Cotton Producers Association (AproCa):

- Represents and defends the interests of African cotton farmers.
- Promotes cooperation and dissemination of information within the cotton sector.



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# The Way Forward

- Maintain the efforts undertaken to improve quality and performance throughout the value chain.
- Strengthen regional cooperation between cotton companies.
- Establish tight linkages with buyers in international markets.
- Build a reputation of indisputable quality for African cotton in the world market.



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