

SWOT ANALYSIS FOR THE COTTON PRODUCING STATES OF THE OIC

STRENGTH

- Long experiences on cotton growing in most member countries
- Presence of experience on processing and textile industry,
- Improved textile industry in some OIC member countries
- Eagerness of member countries in cooperating and share their experiences on cotton
- Jump in yield and growth in production in some OIC member countries
- Soils of cotton belt quite favourable for enhancing cotton productivity and production
- Active agricultural research, extension and education in meeting the challenges of cotton production
- Presence of rich genetic variation and genetic stocks

WEAKNESS

- Poor collaboration and coordination among OIC member countries especially on technology transfer and germplasm exchange
- Inadequate number of qualified researchers especially plant breeders
- Low level of adoption of recommended techniques by farmers
- Inadequate budget for conducting well-planned-research activities
- Area competition between food crops and cotton
- Problems regarding agriculture-industry integration and the efficiency of marketing activities
- Lack of mechanization in cotton production
- Strong biotic and abiotic pressures on cotton
- Narrow germplasm for high quality cotton
- Lack of high yielding and high quality varieties in some OIC member countries, especially in Africa
- Lack of standardization and problems in processing
- Contamination including stickiness on fibre production
- Fragmented land and small farmers
- Low yield in some OIC member countries compared to the world average
- Poor farmers, weak financing and state support mechanisms
- Lack of water and modern irrigation facilities

- Absence of certified seed production systems and low level of certified seed use in some OIC member countries
- Weak seed sector in most of the OIC member countries

OPPORTUNITIES

- Big potential in cotton production and ambitious position of OIC member countries in production of quality cotton,
- Presence of high potential in terms of production and marketing in OIC member countries
- Availability of improved production techniques and new varieties
- Well developed textile industry and increasing need for cotton in some OIC member countries present additional opportunities to enhance intro OIC cotton trade,
- Growing demand for organic textiles products and organic cotton,
- Potential of specialization on some specific areas, such as high quality lint and textile production etc.
- Fast development in science and technology
- Rise in demand for cotton in some textile producing countries out of OIC
- Increasing interest to cotton research from donor organizations
- Fast growing international seed sector

THREATS

- Global social and economic crisis and market instability,
- Fluctuations of prices in the international markets,
- Negatives effects of shifts and instabilities in economic policies,
- Agricultural policies of developed countries, especially on subsidizes
- Problems encountered in fulfilling commitments undertaken through agreements in international trade,
- Competition with artificial fibres
- Tough competition between cotton and alternatives crops and shift to other crops
- Environmental pollution and soil degradation (saltiness)
- Fast developing textile industry in some other countries other than OIC member states
- Fast growing and expanding strong international seed companies
- Growing demand for raw material for bio fuels
- Price increase in inputs used in agricultural production