

ZAMBIAN COTTON GINNERS

CODE OF CONDUCT

1. PURPOSE

To provide a framework for common understanding of the standards and behaviour expected from all ginnerers.

2. PROVISIONS IN THE COTTON ACT OF 2005

Any person or organization registered as a ginner with the Cotton Board of Zambia (CBZ) should comply with the below provisions of the Cotton Act of 2005 failure to which appropriate disciplinary action will be taken as provided for in the Act.

- 2.1. Register annually with the Cotton Board of Zambia (CBZ) (Section 20).
- 2.2. Only buy cotton from farmers pre-financed by itself (Section 22).
- 2.3. Register a Distinguishing Mark with CBZ and use it (Section 26 to 31).
- 2.4. Obtain the relevant Licence from the CBZ (Section 32 to 35).
- 2.5. Keep a register of information which CBZ can inspect (Section 36).

3. CODE

In support of the provisions of the Cotton Act and the CBZ, REGISTERED GINNERS commit to undertake the following in general terms:

3.1. Contracting cotton farmers.

The member will use the standardised contract recognised under c law to engage the cotton farmer when he supplies him with certified cotton seed.

3.2. Input supply to cotton farmers.

Once the contract has been finalised, the ginner will provide his contracted cotton farmers with a minimum standard input package comprising seed (packaged in well labelled quantities) and pesticide as approved by the CBZ. Additional support in terms of fertiliser, herbicides, sprayers and technical support will be at the discretion of the individual ginner.

CBZ will inspect the member records to verify the inputs (seed and pesticide) given out to farmers and this information will be used to arrive at the first estimation of hectares planted by each member.

3.3. Seed cotton buying from contracted cotton farmers.

At the onset of the harvest, each ginner commits to only buy cotton from its own contracted cotton farmers in woolpacks with his own distinguishing mark. Any cotton which is packed in another company's woolpacks shall be surrendered to that particular company without any compensation. The ginner shall not give out polypropylene packing materials to farmers for seed cotton

The ginner who engages or contracts any commercial farmers or agents should declare their names and levels of financing as well as expected production to the Cotton Board before the onset of the production season.

The ginner shall only use weighing scales that have been approved and assized by authorised agents (Zambia Metrology Agency)

No Ginner shall establish buying points in areas where they do not have contracted farmers and have not distributed inputs

If a member is found by the Cotton Board of Zambia or the District Committees set up in the various cotton buying areas, to have bought cotton that he did not pre-finance and/or buy cotton from farmers he did not contract, that cotton will be confiscated and returned to the rightful owner at no compensation to the pirate buyer.

3.4. Keep the following records and supply the information to CBZ:

3.4.1. With regards to contracted farmers:

- 3.4.1.1. Name, surname, initials and NRC number of contracted farmer.
- 3.4.1.2. Village and district of contracted farmer.
- 3.4.1.3. Cultivar, generation, certification standards of cotton planting seed supplied to the farmer.
- 3.4.1.4. Number of hectares contracted and expected yield (kg / ha).
- 3.4.1.5. Total kilograms of seed cotton bought from the contracted farmer.

3.4.2. With regards to the ginning company's annual activities:

- 3.4.2.1. Total tonne of seed cotton purchases per district.
- 3.4.2.2. Total tonne of seed cotton ginned.
- 3.4.2.3. Total tonne of lint exported.
- 3.4.2.4. Total tonne of fuzzy seed produced.
- 3.4.2.5. Obtain clearance on the application for export of lint from Cotton Board before Application approval by Agribusiness Department (A seal will be available at CBZ Head Office for endorsement).
- 3.4.2.6. Only acquire inputs from the accredited input suppliers which will be availed annually by the cotton licensing committee of the Cotton Board of Zambia after careful analysis of adherence to industry standards and quality assurance guidelines

4. ACTION AGAINST DEFAULTING COTTON GIINNERS

- 4.1. Any ginner found to be in breach of the code of conduct shall have his licence suspended from CBZ for further investigation and appropriate action.
- 4.2. Any falsification of seed cotton and lint bought and produced will attract an export ban on any erring Ginner. Should the Ginner be found guilty of the alleged offence by the CBZ, A charge in terms of the Cotton Act will be issued to secure the appropriate penalty, which may include one or more of the following :
 - 4.2.1. Have his licence revoked by the Cotton Board of Zambia (Section 22 and 48).
 - 4.2.2. Be penalized according to the Cotton Act (Section 24, 30 and 36).
 - 4.2.3. Be reported to as black listed to all developmental partners and NGO's to ensure he has no access to funds provided by these institutions.

5. DECLARATION

By signing the REGISTERED COTTON GINNERS/ COTTON BOARD code of conduct the Cotton Ginner unconditionally accepts and subjects itself and employees of its company to this code of conduct.

Company name:- _____

Authorized Representative name:- _____

Signature:- _____

Position:- _____

Date:- _____