

**OPENING SPEECH BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF TANZANIA BUREAU OF STANDARDS MR CHARLES M EKELEGE TO THE FINAL SEMINAR OF THE CFC/ICAC/33 PROJECT UNDER THE COMMERCIAL STANDARDIZATION OF INSTRUMENT TESTING OF COTTON HELD AT NAURA SPRINGS HOTEL ARUSHA TANZANIA, 18 JANUARY, 2012.**

Mr. Chairman, Marco Mtunga, Director General, TCB;  
Ambassador Ali Mchumo – The Managing Director of  
Common Fund for Commodities (CFC).

European Commission Representative,

Dr. Terry Townsend Executive Director International Cotton  
Advisory Committee,

Africa Cotton Association Representative,

Invited guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen

It gives me great pleasure and honour to be invited to the closing seminar of the CFC/ICAC/33 Project under the Commercial Standardization of Instrument Testing of Cotton (CSITC) Project.

**Mr. Chairman,**

I would like first of all to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to all of you, and to those who have traveled long distances to be with us here today. For those of you who are here for the first time it is my hope that you will find your stay here exciting, and that you will enjoy your participation in this ceremony, as well as your stay in Arusha, and for that matter in Tanzania. It is my hope that you will have an opportunity to visit some of the interesting sites in Tanzania. For those who have been in Arusha before, I believe they already have exciting memories, and would enjoy staying in Arusha for yet another time. To you all I say KARIBU SANA.

**Mr. Chairman,**

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the organizers namely Project Executing Agency (PEA) in collaboration with Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) and Tanzania Cotton Board (TCB) who have worked tirelessly to ensure that this seminar become a reality.

**Mr. Chairman,**

I understand that the overall objective of the project is to assist the cotton producing countries, especially the developing countries and the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) to meet the emerging quality assessment demands of the global cotton market so as to strengthen or at least maintain their competitive position in the world market.

To achieve the above overall objective, two Regional Technical Centres were established one in East and Southern Africa located in Tanzania at TBS and the second one in West and Central Africa located in Mali at CERFITEX.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Taking into consideration that cotton is one of the world's largest traded commodities, and the fact that cotton is produced in many developing countries; this is indeed a very important initiative to Tanzania and to many other developing countries. In the last decade, we have witnessed emerging quality demands from international markets which are associated with agro-technological methods in the farms, changes in production methods in industry, and existence of

niche markets. These demands have put high pressures on the need for high quality cotton to cotton producers in developing countries.

The consequences, of not meeting these demands is the low prices paid to cotton exports, which do not cover even the costs of production, and thus rendering unsustainable production.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The establishment of the Regional Cotton Technical Centre in the Eastern /Southern Africa Region located in Tanzania at the Tanzania Bureau of Standards will not only assist in improving the cotton quality for exports to international markets, but will also assist the cotton growers by providing the appropriate information on cotton breeding and research activities that have been carried out to enhance the cotton quality.

It will also assist the ginning companies on the appropriate ginning process so as to optimize the ginning process. Traders/Merchants will obtain information on the quality of cotton from this Centre so as to satisfy their customers. Furthermore, cotton spinners from Textile Industries, will

collect Information from this Centre on the quality of cotton in order to assure that proper spinning processes are achieved to meet the required quality of yarn to be produced.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Despite of this Centre being earmarked to serve the East/Southern Africa Region, we in Tanzania, consider it to have come at the right time as an impetus towards the implementation of the “Kilimo Kwanza” Policy.

“Kilimo Kwanza” means giving top priority to agriculture if we need to progress in economic growth. We trust that, this Centre will positively contribute towards all these efforts.

**Mr. Chairman,**

During the execution of the Centre`s activities, TBS will continue to collaborate with the Tanzania Cotton Board (TCB) to ensure a successful implementation of the set objectives. TCB was identified as a partner to the RTC by considering its wide experience in the cotton classing and marketing to the international markets.

The RTC will perform its tasks covering Tanzania; Uganda; Kenya; Sudan; Ethiopia; Zambia; Malawi; Zimbabwe and Mozambique. The RTC has been designed to stabilize cotton trading by providing a commercially acceptable system for the instrument testing of cotton. We all know that manual classing is a common method for estimating the quality of cotton. Manual classing is the actual basis for trading in cotton although, unfortunately this method is considered not to be sufficiently objective and reliable in generating acceptable data.

We are proud that at the final seminar the RTC has already been launched and functional.

Furthermore the Centre has now trained qualified experts to offer trainings, re-checking of samples and round trials to the Regional Laboratories. I wish therefore to urge all key stakeholders to work closely with the RTC so as to ensure that the cotton product meets the required quality as per intended end uses.

**Mr. Chairman,**

At this juncture allow me to express my sincere appreciation to the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) and the European Union for their financial support to ensure that the CSITC Project succeeded in this endeavor.

**Mr. Chairman,** ladies and gentlemen, with these few remarks, I would like to declare that the closing seminar of the CFC/ICAC/33 Cotton Project under the Commercial Standardization of Instrument Testing of Cotton (CSITC) is officially opened.