

# Instrument Based Cotton Marketing in Zimbabwe

Arusha, Tanzania

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# What is Instrument Testing?

- (From a Cotton Marketing perspective)
  - It is the measurement of the cotton fibre properties for cotton classing purposes.
    - Properties commonly measured are:
      - length,
      - uniformity,
      - Short fibre index
      - Micronaire
      - Strength
      - Colour and trash

# Why use Instrument Testing?

- Accurate and consistent fibre characteristics
- Cotton quality delivered according to contractual specifications
- Monitoring performance of varieties
- Noting of annual variation of fibre characteristics resulting from climatic conditions, crop mgmt, fertiliser/ chemical application

# The African Story

- Why is Instrument Testing not prevalent?
  - Availability of HVI machines
  - Correct set up of testing equipment and professional manning of laboratories
  - Confidence in African HVI results in order for African producers to benefit from the use of HVI
- **SOLUTION**
  - African labs participation in CSITC Round Trials and in regional Round Trials that will be conducted by the Regional Testing Centre in Dar es Salaam.

# Way Forward

- To increase Instrument Testing in Africa requires the need to be able to demonstrate the benefits to producers/ginners/merchants

**HOW CAN THIS BE DONE ?**