



## Town Hall Baraza on

### ***Enhancing agro-industrial value chains for productive and decent work for youth and women in Uganda: A Case of Cotton***

#### **Background and Rationale**

Cotton is earmarked in the National Development Plan (NDP III) as one of the nine priority commodities to be considered in fostering the country's Agro-industrialisation (AGI) agenda. The backward and forward linkages cotton presents can be leveraged through increased value addition along its value chain. For example linkages with the medical industry—the production of surgical and non-surgical masks and other Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is a great job creation opportunity. If well-developed, the cotton sub-sector, which currently employs an estimated 2.5 million people<sup>1</sup> directly and indirectly, can be a source of productive and decent employment for many youth and women, consequently mitigating unemployment and underemployment dilemmas.

Against this background, it is important to have evidence and open discussions with actors to identify opportunities, sources of productive and decent employment and the form of strategies that promote job creation along the cotton value chain. In this regard, the Economic Policy Research Centre (EPRC) under the project "*Creating productive and decent work for youth and women in Uganda through agro-Industrialisation*" is organising a half-day town hall Baraza for actors in the cotton sector to engage and share ideas on how to productively engage and encourage youth and women to effectively participate and/or invest in the cotton value chain. This project is supported by the INCLUDE platform under its African Policy Dialogues.

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<sup>1</sup> EPRC. (2020). Industrial linkages and employment opportunities in the Cotton value chain. Factsheet No. 27

## **Specific Objectives**

They are to:

- i) Promote and create awareness on the use of the AGI approach as a means of creating productive and decent jobs along the cotton value chain;
- ii) Explore the type of enterprises that should be prioritised in the cotton value chain. Are they youth and women inclusive? How many jobs are they capable of creating? What skills are required? Are they available or not?
- iii) Exchange ideas on what specifically government and private sector should do to effectively operationalize the cotton value chain for AGI as a means for creating productive and decent work for youth and women; and
- iv) To create a knowledge platform where actors could share what works and does not work among cotton growing communities and technocrats.

## **Expected outputs**

- a) Created community of practice around cotton
- b) Town Hall Baraza brief (this will feed into the project paper)
- c) Video and workshop report

## **Targeted audience**

Participants will be from cotton growing communities and associations, Private Sector (cotton processing and textile factories and their associations such as Uganda Ginners and Cotton Exporters Association), and MDAs such as Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), Cotton Development Organisation (CDO) and Ministry of Local Government (Community Development departments). Due to COVID-19 situation in the country, the Baraza participants will be limited to 30 persons.

## **Venue and date**

The event will be physical. It will be held at **Mwana Highway Hotel (Plot 57-58, Tororo road, main Street Iganga, on Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021, starting at 10:00 am.**

## **COVID-19 SOPS**

In line with the guidelines from the Ministry of Health and the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), the event will be only by invitation and the number of attendees will be limited. All participants will be required to wear masks, sanitize and social distancing will be observed.