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# Agricultural Productivity Enhancement Program

## Developing the Organic Cotton Industry in Uganda

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### THE CHALLENGE

Characterized as one of the world's "forgotten crises" by the United Nations Under-Secretary-General of Humanitarian Affairs Jan Egeland, the conflict in Northern Uganda resulted in the deaths of approximately 12,000 people and the displacement of over 2 million others. As life slowly returns to normal, these displaced people are seeking to revitalize their jobs and communities with stable sources of income. The virgin countryside of northern Uganda is a particularly fertile area for farming organic cotton, but production of this type of cotton is currently at 2% countrywide. In order to meet production expectations of 12%, farmers need help with basic startup such as plowing and marketing the cotton they produce.



### RESULTS

- Approximately 12,000 farmers in Lira, Kitgum, Gulu, and Pader districts will receive specialized organic cotton farming training.
- Liberalization of East African markets is allowing farmers to own their land rather than being rented or owned by multinationals. This fosters trust between local farmers and the companies who buy their products.
- Two main ginneries in the Lira district have been certified organic by European and American regulators. In 2006-2007, production of certified Organic Uganda roller-ginned cotton is expected to reach 6,600 bales, a success despite adverse weather conditions.

### THE APPROACH

USAID/Uganda and Dunavant Uganda Ltd. formed a Global Development Alliance to expand agricultural productivity and provide more stable livelihoods for displaced farmers in the conflict-affected Northern Uganda. This three-year program provides training to farmers that will help them enhance cotton and food crop productivity. Dunavant and USAID have donated tractors and machinery that will clear two acres free of charge for any family's first season of growing. In that first season, one acre is used to grow cotton and the other is used for food crops for the family to use and sell. In addition to plowing services, the alliance trains farmers how to market their cotton and they receive access to a guaranteed market at an agreed-upon price for their cotton. A major component of this program is to develop strong producer organization for group marketing and advocacy.

### PARTNERS

Dunavant

