

# Gujarat gives African countries lessons on how to pick cotton

Sangeeta Rane @SangeetaCRane

The Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDI), Gandhinagar recently concluded a capacity-building programme called "Entrepreneurship Development Programme for Textile Sector".

The programme was conducted with six African countries that concluded on Friday at EDI campus. The 12-faculty team provided them training in soft skills, entrepreneurship and finance to give them a brief, holistic view of entrepreneurship specifically targeted towards cotton textiles.

The five-day programme was specifically designed for the six Francophone (French speaking) African countries Uganda, Malawi, Nigeria, Chad, Burkina Faso and Benin. The countries were represented by senior government officials as part of the India's Central Government's Cotton Technical Assistance Programme (CTAP) for Afri-

ca. The delegates in turn will disseminate the knowledge to their population and facilitate development of cotton industries in their own countries. The delegation was funded by the Ministry of External Affairs.

SB Sareen, the faculty of EDI who was also in charge of the programme said, "These countries have a significant cotton crop. However, the potential for cotton remained largely untapped. Gujarat becomes an ideal model for them to study since Gujarat is the leading cotton grower in India."

Ibrahim Muazu Isa of Nigeria said, "I have learnt a lot in this programme. It has strengthened by understanding and knowledge about cotton based textile industries which I will use to train my subordinates. We will create a knowledge chain from this programme which will influence a significant population in my country."

