



# Product standards for baskets (kyondo) and handmade sisal carpets from fibre crops

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### **Product standards for baskets (kyondo) and handmade sisal carpets from fibre crops**

Cotton and sisal are the important natural fibres grown in Kenya with long value chains. The cotton and sisal supply chain can be divided into four major sectors and a number of sub-sectors. The principal sectors are smallholder and plantation farmers, processing factories, textile and spinners, and garment and apparel manufacturers.

There is also cottage weaving sector comprising of women scattered all over the country mainly using manual Handlooms to weave. The flagship products weaved are baskets (kyondo), sisal fibre mats, kikoy and neck-scarves. Some of the products have already attained standardization by Kenya Bureau of Standards. There are challenges in securing profitable markets, coordinating source, quality and quantity of raw materials, securing affordable financing and capacity building on designs and brands.

In conclusion, the standardization of the above subjects will contribute significantly to the economic development of the country through increased incomes and market access.