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Nota di contenuto	Contents; Foreword; Acknowledgments; Acronyms and Abbreviations; Executive Summary; 1. The Cotton Sector in West and Central Africa: A Success Story with Challenges Ahead; LIST OF TABLES; LIST OF FIGURES; LIST OF BOXES; 2. Increasing Yields; 3. Reducing Post-harvest Costs and Improving Quality; 4. Enhancing Sales Revenues; 5. Promoting Competitiveness Through Sector Reforms; Appendixes; Bibliography
Sommario/riassunto	Based on comprehensive empirical studies, the paper identifies key reforms and defines strategies to enhance the competitiveness of the cotton sector in West and Central Africa. Lessons learned from the 1990's suggest that transferring public property to private enterprises is not enough, by itself, to put the sector back on a sustainable path. The cotton sector in most West and Central African countries is critical in terms of its contribution to GDP and exports as well as poverty reduction. Until recently, the cotton sector was characterized by a vertically integrated monopolistic structure,