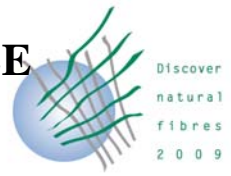




INTERNATIONAL COTTON ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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Aide Memoire

To: Delegates to the Standing Committee, Coordinating Agencies and Members of the PSAP and Members of SEEP

From: Executive Director

Subject: 2nd Meeting of SEEP in Bremen, Germany

Date: April 14, 2008

Five members of the Expert Panel on Social, Environmental and Economic Performance of Cotton Production (SEEP) met on the margins of the 29th International Cotton Conference Bremen on April 4, 2008. Members present included Francesca Mancini, Fatih Dogan, Bill Norman, Jens Soth, and Christopher Ward. Sebahattin Gazanfer and Neal Gillen attended as observers. Rafiq Chaudhry and Terry Townsend served as Secretariat.

Allan Williams serves as Chair of SEEP and Francesca Mancini as Vice Chair.

Pesticide Use: the Secretariat will investigate the availability of data on world pesticide consumption in cotton production by country and by product class from a private company in the UK named Croprosis. The Secretariat has based earlier reports on summary data from Croprosis, and the work of Croprosis is considered reliable. It was suggested that SEEP give consideration to a study to evaluate plant protection practices (not only chemical applications, but also BMP, IPM and others) adopted by the countries where Bt cotton has been grown for several years to evaluate the effectiveness of biotech varieties in reducing pesticide use and managing insect resistance development. The main aim of the study would be to support the formulation of policy recommendations based on field-tested experiences to sustain the pesticide use reduction attained by the introduction of Bt cotton. The SEEP members will continue gathering information, reports, and published papers on the subject for additional review. However, the review could be carried out by an external research organization (to be identified) that would complete a literature screen, extrapolate information and identify eventual data gaps. If the Chair and the other members of SEEP agree on the need to undertake such a study, draft terms of reference will be prepared prior to a conference call for discussion.

Child Labor: It was noted that allegations have been made that state-sponsored forced child labor under abusive conditions is occurring in some countries. The Secretariat reported that it is cooperating with the Secretariats of UNICEF and the ILO to develop a proposal for consideration by the Government of Uzbekistan. Under the proposal, the international organizations will conduct an objective survey of labor conditions in Uzbekistan during the 2008 cotton harvest. Members of SEEP noted that the role of SEEP is to gather published information and reports with specific relevance to the cotton sector. The Secretariat reported that SEEP would be consulted about the terms of reference for the proposed UNICEF/ILO/ICAC study. The ICAC will seek to form a working group of stakeholders in the labor study, and a member of SEEP may be appointed to serve on the working group. SEEP will be kept informed of developments.

File Sharing: Members of SEEP asked the Secretariat to ensure that a secure location is available on the web for file sharing and loading of data among SEEP members. The Secretariat has created such a location, and instructions for use will be sent. Members present

agreed to upload data and information gathered on their agreed subjects, e.g. pesticide use, water footprint, greenhouse gas emission, labor and other topics by May 1st. Members not present are also invited to share their progress made prior to the phone conference using the web location.

Next meeting: Members of SEEP will participate in a conference telephone call on Friday, May 9, 2008 at 2:00 PM Rome time. The Secretariat will distribute dialing instructions to each SEEP member in advance. During the call, SEEP members will be asked to provide updates of progress to-date in the gathering of data relevant to the work of SEEP.