



INTERNATIONAL COTTON ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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Report of the Private Sector Advisory Panel

By
John Mitchell
Chair

Fourteen representatives of the private sector, one observer from the Government of Turkey and the executive director participated in the PSAP meeting on Saturday, October 21, 2007, including producers, merchants and textile mill representatives from Australia, Brazil, China (Taiwan), Egypt, India, Turkey, the United States and Zimbabwe.¹

The panel discussed the International Forum for Cotton Promotion, excess moisture in cotton bales, reviewed the progress of the ICAC Strategic Plan and selected a vice-chair.

The PSAP recognized the importance of the work of the International Forum for Cotton Promotion (IFCP) and encouraged continued support by the ICAC. The PSAP reviewed the history, progress and budget of the IFCP and discussed options that might increase the impact of IFCP efforts. Private sector interests were encouraged to consider the benefits of developing promotion programs and learn about the resources available from the IFCP. Delegates to the 66th Plenary Meeting were encouraged to attend the Breakout Session on Demand Enhancement, Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. moderated by the Executive Director of the IFCP, Jeff Silberman.

The PSAP informed ICAC members that excess moisture in cotton bales was a growing problem from several origins, and that if not curtailed, the reputation of an entire country could be harmed. The PSAP recommended that the Secretariat facilitate cooperation with the International Textile Manufacturers Federation (ITMF) to gather information and address the issues of bale moisture measurements, standards and education.

The ICAC Executive Director reported on progress toward implementation of the Strategic Plan for the ICAC as approved by the Standing Committee in January 2006. The Strategic Plan addressed six goals for the ICAC:

1. Sustainable production through implementation of best management practices.
2. Demand enhancement by encouraging consumption at the retail level
3. Worldwide adoption of a standardized instrument testing system
4. Reductions of distortions caused by government measures
5. Promotion of contract sanctity
6. Increased ICAC membership.

Specific strategies for each goal were reviewed with significant progress noted. The PSAP reaffirmed that the goals of the Strategic Plan remained relevant and that strategies were appropriate. The PSAP encouraged the Secretariat to renew efforts to report on the adoption of BMP programs in countries and regions, and it was noted that the WCRC-4 had been completed. The PSAP recommended that efforts to

¹ Nayan Mirani, Suresh Kotak, Frank Hsu, Fatih Dogan, Joao Luis Pesa, Richard Haire, John Mitchell, Andy Weil, Allen Terhaar, Sebahattin Gazanfer, Melda Akapta Eieman, Ayman Nasser, O.P. Argawal, David Collins, Happymore Mapara, Terry Townsend.

facilitate the adoption of a model contract for trade in cotton yarn were probably not practical, but it suggested that continued study of good trade practices in the cotton yarn industry in cooperation with ITMF might be useful.

By consensus, Dr Sebahattin Gazanfer was selected to serve as Vice-Chair of the PSAP for one year, with the expectation that he will then assume the Chair.

The PSAP congratulated the Secretariat and the Executive Director on the work of this past year. Under their leadership, the ICAC is a globally respected advocate for the cotton industry and a dependable source for factual, unbiased information.

The PSAP determined that a mid-year meeting would be held in March or April of 2008.

The Private Sector Advisory Panel commended member governments of the ICAC for promoting communication and cooperation throughout the world of cotton, and members of the PSAP expressed their gratitude to government delegates for their consideration of recommendations from the private sector.