

Welcome Speech at ICAC -12th Meeting of the Inter-Regional Cooperative Research Network on Cotton for the Mediterranean and Middle East Regions

Dr. Mohamed Negm, General Coordinator of the Network

Good Morning. We are delighted to welcome you all here in Sharm El Sheikh city of peace to participate in the 12th Meeting of the Inter-Regional Cooperative Research Network on Cotton for the Mediterranean and Middle East Regions in Sharm El-Sheikh, EGYPT Sponsored by ICAC.

We would like to thank you all for accepting our humble invitation and joining us here at this excellent property of Hilton Sharks Bay; and that many of you have travelled long distances from Europe, Africa and Asia countries which serves to remind us all the importance of the subject at hand, improvement in the cotton in our region and consequently, world cotton tremendously. We are equally honored by the eminent presence of Dr. Rafiq CHAUDHRY, the head of technical information Section International Cotton Advisory Committee, ICAC. Sir, we praise you for your honest support to for giving us the chance to host this meeting. A very Warm Welcome.

We are honored with the August presence of Honorable Dr. Ahmed Moustafa, Chief Guest and guest of honor, Chairman of Cotton, & Textile Industries Holding Company of Egypt, for his endless support. We welcome you sir.

We are also honored by the majestic presence of Dr. Mahmoud El-Bagoury, Chairman of Cotton Arbitration and testing General Organization "CATGO". Dr. Mahmoud, we are really overwhelmed by your patronage and endorsement of our Meeting. We whole heartedly welcome you to this Meeting.

We would also like to Welcome Prof. Keshava R. KRANTHI Director ICAR-Central Institute for Cotton Research, ICAC Researcher of the Year 2009. The vast knowledge of Dr. Kehava in the field of Biotechnology is unprecedented.

We are equally honored by the eminent presence of Dr. Ali HEBEISH, National Research Center, the past chairman of Academy of Scientific Research & Technology, Chairman of National Campaign of Textile Industries Improvement. Sir, we praise you for your science and honest support Egyptian cotton textile industry. A very Warm Welcome.

We are also honored by Prof. Dr. Oktay Gencer former General Coordinator of the network, very sorry for his absence.

We would also like to Welcome and honor our sponsorships as following:

- ✓ International Cotton Advisory Committee "ICAC"

- ✓ Cotton And Textile Industries Holding Company
- ✓ Cotton Arbitration & Testing General Organization, CATGO
- ✓ Alkhorayef Industries Co.
- ✓ Bajaj Steel Industries Limited, India
- ✓ Continental Eagle Corporation
- ✓ Vamvaki Ltd, Athens-Greece
- ✓ Egycot Company
- ✓ Cotton Egypt Association
- ✓ Uster CATEC Egypt
- ✓ El-Shafey Group - Egypt

The purpose of the Network Meeting is gathering researchers from all over the regions in the areas of cotton production and consumption in order to create a synergy for finding solutions to the related problems; to investigate and discuss accepted research papers for the Network Meeting to increase the efficiency and productivity of the work outcomes; and to determine the operations studies that will be done individually or by a group in the near future.

Ladies and Gentlemen, today's agenda consists of various technical aspects of cotton breeding & Technology with insights as to how the same is best suitable for our region conditions. Please prepare yourself to be excited and challenged by these presentations.

Before I move on to invite Dr. Rafiq for delivering this welcome speech, I would like to once again welcome you all. It is a great pleasure to see that the most important and prominent personnel of the cotton scientists in Europe, Africa and Asia are with us today in this Meeting. Thank you!