



INTERNATIONAL COTTON ADVISORY COMMITTEE
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Report of a Meeting of the Expert Panel on Social, Environmental and Economic Performance (SEEP) of Cotton Production February 1, 2013 Teleconference

Members Present: Allan William (Chair), Francesca Mancini (Vice Chair), Michel Fok, Kater Hake, Elke Hortmeyer, Bill Norman, and Jens Soth.

Members Absent: Fatih Dogan, B.K. Mishra, Wilfried Yameogo, Denilson Galbero Guedes, and Yu Ta Dolphin were not able to participate.

Alejandro Plastina and Terry Townsend served as Secretariat.

Next Meeting:

A face-to-face meeting will be conducted in Rome in April to discuss which key performance indicators to include in the core set of indicators to be recommended in the final version of the report. Possible dates to be confirmed later by email are April 8 and 9.

Report of the Meeting

Agenda for February 2013:

1. Progress review on the Report on Measuring Sustainability on the Cotton Sector and discussion of the way forward.
2. Next SEEP meetings.
3. Distribution of the Social Impact Fact Sheet.
4. Distribution of the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Fact Sheet.
5. Update on Task Force on Identity Cottons

1. Report on Measuring Sustainability on the Cotton Sector:

- Attachment 1: Version 16 of the Report (in Track Changes mode)
- Attachment 2: Version 17 of the Report (with changes accepted)
- Attachment 3: Email by Francesca, dated January 24

After a formal introduction of Kater Hake to SEEP members by Allan, Francesca reviewed her email of January 24.

Francesca confirmed that three people committed their time at FAO to improve Chapter 4's treatment of soil fertility and salinization, land conversion, biodiversity, and climate change.

Comments to the second draft of the report can be sent to Francesca by February 15 2013. A third draft of the Report will be distributed among SEEP members by February 22, 2013.

It was agreed that Chapter 5 needs improvement, and that consultants (as opposed to representatives from the initiatives under review) will work on it for the third draft.

Jens reported that IFOAM published an organic farming indicator framework, along the lines of recommended best practices but not as a set of indicators. He concluded that this IFOAM report should not impact the report by SEEP.

Structure of the Report. It was agreed that, based on the amount of work devoted to the Report by SEEP members, only one document be published, with SEEP interpretative summary and the preface combined. Allan and Francesca will draft the preface/interpretative summary.

Sustainability Areas/Issues. It was agreed to expand the coverage of climate change, energy use, and biodiversity areas in the report and eventually include additional indicators in Appendix 3 for analysis.

Scoring method. It was agreed that during the next face-to-face meeting, different scoring methods will be tested. Francesca will put Appendix 3 of the second draft of the report into a spreadsheet and a sensitivity analysis will be run to test whether the scoring method is consistent to changes in specifications.

Additional chapter. Tools to prioritize indicators could be added at the end of the report. But to test the usefulness of the prioritization tools, ICAC member countries will be invited to fill out a final version of “Table 5. Summary of Sustainability Issues and Challenges”. The final version should include guidelines on prioritization of indicators, and the table should be color coded (green: no X; yellow: one X; red: two X’s). The commentary about Table 5 under the section “Summary” must be improved. A scoring tool for developing countries should be developed. Francesca will take the lead in writing this extra chapter.

The way forward with the report and the recommendations on how to proceed will also be discussed during the next meeting in Rome.

2. Next SEEP meeting:

A face-to-face meeting will be conducted in Rome in April 2013 to discuss which key performance indicators to include in the core set of indicators to be recommended in the final version of the report. Possible dates to be confirmed later by email are April 8 and 9.

3. Distribution of the Social Impact Fact Sheet (Elke).

Attachment 4: Social Impact Fact Sheet

4. Distribution of the Social Impact Fact Sheet (Jens).

Attachment 5: Greenhouse Gas Emissions Fact Sheet

5. Update on Task Force on Identity Cottons

Alejandro reported that the ICAC Standing Committee approved the terms of reference of the Task Force on Identity Cottons, and that the Chair and Vice-Chair of SEEP will join as members of the Task Force.

End of notes