



Report of a Meeting of the Task Force on Cotton Identity Programs **Monday, June 3, 2013** **Teleconference**

Members Present: Mark Messura (Chair), Adam Kay, Allan Williams, Denilson Galbero, and Allen Terhaar.

Members Absent: Elke Hortmeyer, Norberto Mahalambe, Francesca Mancini, Jens Soth, and Saire Turkoglu

Terry Townsend served as Secretariat.

Next Meeting: A conference call is scheduled for Thursday, August 8, 2013.

Report of the Meeting

Revised Agenda:

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Review work plan.
3. Review list of cotton identity programs to nominate one member each for the task force. Potential list of addressees:
 - a. Organic Cotton: Mr. Frank Eyhorn, Member of the World Board, International Foundation for Organic Agriculture (IFOAM); or Ms. LaRhea Pepper, Managing Director, Textile Exchange.
 - b. Fairtrade cotton: Mr. Damien Sanfilippo, Global Product Manager (Cotton), Fairtrade Labeling International (FLO)
 - c. Cotton Made in Africa (CMIA): Mr. Christoph Kaut, Managing Director, Aid by Trade Foundation.
 - d. BCI: Ms. Lise Melvin, ex-CEO, BCI.
 - e. ICA: Mr. Ahmed Elbosaty, President, ICA.
 - f. ITMF: Dr. Christian Schindler, Director General, ITMF.
4. Review draft of questionnaire for identity programs
5. Set date of next conference call

2. Review of Work Plan:

The Task Force reviewed the Proposed Work Program that had been distributed. Mark clarified that responses to the questionnaire will be summarized and findings distributed to members of the Task Force prior to the next conference call on August 8. In that way, members of the Task Force can review and even comment on the findings prior to the conference call.

The Proposed Work Plan was approved.

2. Review of the list of cotton identity programs:

It was acknowledged that the ICA and ITMF are not identity programs. Terry indicated that both organizations will be invited to name representatives to serve on the Task Force, and so they were listed in the agenda. Future lists will differentiate between the four identity programs and the ICA and ITMF.

Jens had reported by e-mail prior to the conference call that IFOAM has nominated Frank Eyhorn to represent IFOAM. However, the Textile Exchange also wishes to be represented on the Task Force. Jens noted that for all other crops, IFOAM is the acknowledged representative body for organic.

It was noted that Lise Melvin is leaving BCI at the end of June. Therefore, her successor will be invited to serve on the Task Force.

3. Review draft of questionnaire for identity programs

Mark thanked Alejandro for his work in preparing the draft questionnaire. Terry noted that since there are only four respondents, each questionnaire will be individualized and there will not be a need for question 1.

Questions 2 and 3: no changes.

Question 4 will be amended to read: How many cotton farmers, ginners and merchants participate in the initiative?

Question 5 will be amended: By whom and how are the standards set for production and other phases of the process, including transportation, storage, ginning and delivery?

Question 6 will be amended: How does the initiative provide farmer training and technical assistance, and how is this done?

Question 7 will be amended: Please identify the retailers, brands or other customers that are currently involved in the initiative.

Question 8 will be amended: Please indicate how lint preservation is enforced throughout the supply chain in your initiative.

Question 9 will be amended: Who is responsible for certification/verification at each stage of the process, and who bears the costs of certification/verification?

Question 10: no change.

New question 11: How is the initiative funded and how are the expenses allocated by major category of activities?

4. The next conference call will be on Thursday, August 8, 2013.

The call was adjourned at 8:40 AM Washington, DC time.