



INTERNATIONAL COTTON ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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21st CSITC Meeting 19 March 2014 Bremen, Germany

Report

The 21st meeting of the Task Force on Commercial Standardization of Instrument Testing of Cotton (CSITC) was held on 19 March 2014 in Bremen, Germany during the 32nd International Cotton Conference.

Members present:

Andrew Macdonald, AMCON Consulting representing ABRAPA, Brazil, Chair of the Task Force
João Luiz Ribas Pessa, Director, Abrapa, Brazil
Jean-Paul Gourlot, Director, CIRAD PERSYST LTC, France
Axel Drieling, Faserinstitut Bremen e.V., Germany
Darryl Earnest, Deputy Administrator, Cotton Program, USDA/AMS, USA
James Knowlton, Chief, Standardization & Engineering Branch, USDA AMS, USA
Manfred Schiefer, President, M. Schiefer Trading Company, USA
Peter Wakefield, President, Wakefield Inspection Services, Inc.

Members Absent or Sending Regrets:

Gregory Parle, Chair of the Australian Cotton Classers Association, Australia
Ibrahim Malloum, Chad
B.K. Mishra, Chairman cum Managing Director, Cotton Corporation of India, India
Romano Bonadei, Fondazione Industrie Cotone e Lino, Italy
Zbigniew Roskwitalski, Gdynia Cotton Association, Poland
Bruno Widmer, Global Business Manager, Fibres, Agricultural, SGS, Switzerland
Jolly Sabune, Managing Director, Cotton Development Organization, Uganda
Hakim H. Umarhojayev, General Director, SIFAT, Uzbekistan
M.N. Vijayshankar, Chairman, ITMF International Committee on Cotton Testing Methods

Observers:

Allan Williams, Cotton Research and Development Corporation, Australia
René van der Sluijs, CSIRO, Australia
Stuart Gordon, CSIRO, Australia
Rodinei Frangiotti, Abrapa, Brazil
Elke Hortmeyer, Bremer Baumwollborse, Germany
Guntram Kugler, Textedino, Germany
Karsten Froese, Bremen Baumwollborse, Germany
Klaus-Peter Lottmann, Rieter Machine Works, Germany
Loukas Despotis, Markon, Greece
Małgorzata Matusiak, Gdynia Cotton Association, Poland
Jamie Fisher, SGS, Switzerland
Patrick Ilukat, Cotton Development Organization, Uganda
Arthur Aldcroft, Aldcroft Cotton, UK
Anja Schleth, Uster, USA
Chris Delhom, USDA-ARS, USA
Eric Hequet, Fiber and Biopolymer Research Institute, USA
Hossein Ghorashi, Uster, USA
James Rodgers, USDA-ARS, USA
Michael Watson, Cotton Incorporated, USA
Vikki Martin, Cotton Incorporated, USA

A.H. Latif, ARC, Sudan
 Mona Qaud, Uster, Switzerland
 Robert Jiang, ICA

José Sette served as Secretariat

Next Meeting: Date to be determined, November 2-7, 2014, Thessaloniki, Greece

Report of the 21st Meeting

1. Round Trial results

A. Drieling reported that the results from RT 2014-1 would be available in the next few days. Although this is the Round Trial that usually has the lowest number of labs, due to seasonal factors, participation in the RTs continues to climb, although at a slower rate than in earlier years. He reported that the Combined Properties Evaluation continues to show significant improvement, such that 95% of instruments are within limits. This figure includes variation between single tests, which is commercially important. As in previous trials, more laboratories fall outside the limits for strength and Rd than for the other four parameters. The CHAIR congratulated Axel and the program for the continuing improvement over time, which gives users of HVI results confidence in their consistency across laboratories and machines.

2. Current Challenges in Instrument Testing

a. Report on cotton trash measurements

J. Knowlton presented a report on cotton trash measurements within CSITC round trials. A review of three years of data showed little change over time, both in terms of standard deviation and coefficient of variation. A comparison among four different instruments showed that the HVI 1000 performed consistently better than the rest. Unlike other older instruments, HVI 1000 results are more stable. At the next meeting of the Task Force, J. Knowlton, H. Ghorashi and R. van der Sluijs will present additional data on comparisons of the trash measurements on the HVI 1000 instrument and other measuring devices.

b. The color of CSITC Round Test Samples

J. Knowlton presented a report on the color of samples used in CSITC Round Trials. These samples were provided by the USDA and measurements showed that their color often fell outside the color range of the cotton traded on the commercial market. The main reason for this discrepancy was the procedures adopted by the USDA to ensure bale uniformity. Calibration/evaluation stocks were at least 1.5 years old, which contributes to yellowing of samples. The USDA was in the process of changing the system, so as to use newer bales, whose colors would better reflect the cotton effectively traded on the market. Task Force members welcomed this change. In closing, Knowlton noted that the USDA was also disposed to look at foreign bales for the purpose of developing samples.

c. Visual color comparison with HVI

The CHAIR and J. L. Pessa presented a report on the correlation between visual and HVI grading with respect to color. Tests were conducted at Unicotton in Brazil on 200 samples, 100 of which had been classified by HVI as 31-3 and 100 as 41-4. Samples were opened layer by layer and graded six times each, for a total of 1,200 tests. Overall, results showed a high correlation between HVI and visual tests with respect to color grade and less consistency with respect to trash measurement. Members debated the implications of these findings in commercial settings and the representativeness of samples. Work on trash therefore continues to be a problem and the latest developments in USDA will be watched with interest. The matter will be kept on the agenda for future discussion.

d. Strength and Rd measurements: can correlation between labs be improved with alteration of tolerances?

The CHAIR noted the existence of consistent variation between strength and Rd measurements in the RTs, however the Task Force was reluctant to alter the current tolerance. H. Ghorashi emphasized the need for labs to check the color tiles and the glass windows for cleanliness. A. Drieling observed that new instruments showed less variation between these two measures. The CHAIR recommended that

cleanliness should be emphasized to the participants in future Round Trials. Tolerances for measurement of strength should not be widened, since these are based on the current commercial tolerances

e. Temperature variation in labs

Members of the Task Force discussed the difficulties reported by some countries in attaining the stipulated temperature range in their labs because outside temperatures were very high. The opinion was that this could be corrected by calibration in most cases. However, in principle, members recommended that the tolerances for temperature should not be widened, until further studies had been undertaken since these could affect principally the strength. The ICCTM (Testing Committee) was requested to conduct experiments in different laboratory conditions and report back.

f. Calibration samples: request from India

The Task Force discussed a renewed request from India for the recognition of samples from the Central Institute for Research on Cotton Technology (CIRCOT) for calibration purposes. Members noted that such samples would first need to meet standards established by ASTM International in order to qualify.

g. Stickiness in cotton

J-P. Gourlot presented a report on issues related to stickiness in cotton, in which he noted the difficulties for harmonization caused by the lack of access to samples and the lack of an official recognized test for stickiness. He will continue work on this project and keep the Task Force informed. The CHAIR congratulated him on this outstanding work, and emphasized the importance of determining a quick, consistent and accurate method that would be acceptable throughout the world.

3. The Australian experience with CSITC Round Trials

R. van der Sluijs presented an overview of cotton classing in Australia, which is conducted by 14 qualified cotton classers on 24 HVI instruments. Participation in the second and third CSITC Round Trials is compulsory, such that Australia is the only country that collects the results of its instruments for analysis as a country. Performance has generally been good in comparison with Cotton Classers Association of Australia check tests, with the exception of +b results. Current specimens were in the spotted and tinged range. Results should improve if freshly ginned bales were used for elaboration of comparison samples. Australia therefore welcomed the news regarding changes in the USDA procedures for selection of samples.

4. Standardized international bale identification system

Task Force members noted that many countries already had mandatory systems for the identification of bales and would be reluctant to change them to conform to a harmonized international standard. The addition of a national code and a season code at the beginning of the identification number would be useful as a first step. Although recommendable, this matter was ultimately outside the scope of the work of the Task Force and should be discussed elsewhere.

5. Reports from Regional Technical Centers

- a. RTC-South America (Brazil) ABRAPA reported that the choice of the location and site of the central laboratory had been concluded and that work was in progress. It was anticipated that this laboratory would be ready for the next season.

6. Next Meeting of the CSITC: November 2-7, 2014 in Thessaloniki, Greece

The Task Force confirmed that the next meeting will be held on a date to be determined during the ICAC Plenary meeting, scheduled for November 2-7, in Thessaloniki, Greece.

7. Other business

Seeing as there was no other business, the Chair thanked the hospitality of the Bremen Cotton Exchange and adjourned the meeting.

End 21st Meeting