



INTERNATIONAL COTTON ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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22nd CSITC Meeting 2 November 2014 Thessaloniki, Greece

Report

The 22nd meeting of the Task Force on Commercial Standardization of Instrument Testing of Cotton (CSITC) was held on 2 November 2014 in Thessaloniki, Greece during the 73rd Plenary Meeting of the International Cotton Advisory Committee.

Members present:

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

Members Absent or Sending Regrets:

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

Observers:

Rafiq Chaudry, ICAC
Bruce Finney, Cotton Research and Development Corporation, Australia
Rinat Gulyaev, Uzpakhtsanoat, Uzbekistan
Elke Hortmeyer, Bremer Baumwollbörse, Germany
Mitsustige Koide, Japan Spinners Association, Japan
Ajay Kumar, Embassy of India
Everina Lukonge, Agricultural Research and Training Ukiriguru, Tanzania
Shoraigul Mamadaliyeva, SIFAT, Uzbekistan
Hiromu Mase, Japan Cotton Traders Association, Japan
Michael Murray, Cotton Australia
Dominic Mwakangale, Tanzania Bureau of Standards, Tanzania
Gervas Mwanjabala, Tanzania Bureau of Standards, Tanzania
Mohammed Negm, Cotton Research institute, Egypt
Bill Norman, National Cotton Council, USA
Lorena Ruiz, ICAC
Juan Carlos Salerno, Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Agropecuaria, Argentina
Suzan Sanud, Cotton Research Institute, Egypt
Richard Williamson, Generation 10, UK
Urania Kechagia, NAGREF, Cotton and Industrial Plants Institute, Greece

José Sette served as Secretariat.

Next Meeting: Date to be determined, first half 2015.

Report of the 22nd Meeting

1. Round Trial results (A. Drieling)

A. Drieling reported that the latest round trial results were in line with previous quarters. The number of participating labs and instruments was stable; meanwhile the Combined Properties Evaluation had improved since the beginning of the initiative but also showed signs of stability in the last two years. With respect to measurement of individual properties, measurement of strength had shown continuous improvement, and measurement of color had worsened in the first years, but was now improving. Micronaire had improved due to CSITC Task Force activities in 2011, but is now constant (except for the latest RT). Although the variation of cotton testing results was in average of all properties reduced by 10% based on the CSITC activities, the measurement of mainly strength and color still left room for improvement. Strength was the most difficult property to measure, since this was subject to factors such as humidity and variation within samples.

With regard to comparisons between the Round Trial results and USDA established values for the same bales, Drieling reported that results were very stable and that no systematic deviations from the USDA values could be detected.

The report also analyzed differences among instrument types. In general, variation among instruments was low and no significant bias existed over the range examined. Exceptions were length uniformity and color RD, where the older model instruments showed less repeatable performance. The presentation can be downloaded at www.csitc.org.

The ensuing discussion centered on ways in which to attract more laboratories to participate in the Round Trials. Almost all countries involved in cotton were already participating, so geographical coverage was good. However, some sectors needed to be better represented, in particular consumers of cotton, i.e. mills. Task Force members recommended that the ICAC contact the International Textile Manufacturers Federation in order to seek ways in which to encourage the participation of mills in the Round Trials. In this regard Mr Drieling offered to prepare informational material to show spinners how to best make use of HVI results and requested assistance from other members of the Task Force in achieving this goal.

The CHAIR congratulated Mr Drieling and the program for their strong performance, 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)

J. Knowlton presented a report on cotton trash measurements within CSITC round trials, including a comparison of the performance of different machines. Trash was the next property that should be included in the Round Trials. A comparison of the results achieved in the last three years had shown 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. Knowlton noted that the time had come to incorporate trash measurements into the Round Trials for evaluating laboratories, however a floating tolerance would be necessary to take into account the change of repeatability over the range of results. He also noted that cotton trash standards had been included in Universal Cotton standards at the June 2013 Universal Cotton Standards Conference. These would serve as the official reference standard for the cotton trash measurements of percent area and particle count.

H. Ghorashi and R. van der Sluijs, who had been scheduled to present additional data on comparisons of the trash measurements on the HVI 1000 instrument and other measuring devices, were unable to be present and would report at a future meeting.

The CHAIR noted that this was a new area of work for the Task Force and that trash was vital to trading.

A. Drieling agreed that the data would need to be further analyzed in order to decide on ways in which to eventually include this information on the database and present results.

b. The color of CSITC Round Test Samples (J. Knowlton)

No developments had occurred since the last meeting

c. Visual color comparison with HVI (R. van der Sluijs)

In the absence of R. van der Sluijs, who had been scheduled to present information on the Australian experience in visual color comparison, discussion of this subject was postponed until the next meeting.

- d. Strength and Rd measurements: can correlation between labs be improved with alteration of tolerances? (A. Drieling)

It was agreed that that this was not advisable in order to avoid upsetting the historical database.

- e. Temperature variation in labs (A. Drieling)

This investigation was being conducted by the ICCTM of the ITMF and collaboration would be sought from other laboratories.

- f. Stickiness in cotton (J.-P. Gourlot)

The CHAIR stressed the importance of establishing a plausible and accurate method that would be acceptable throughout the world, since stickiness was an important determinant of cotton quality and once again called upon major instrument manufacturers to research this subject and introduce a high volume instrument, with the objective of achieving a global standard for rapid analysis.

3. The Australian experience with CSITC Round Trials (R. van der Sluijs)

In the absence of R. van der Sluijs, discussion of this topic was postponed for a future meeting.

4. Proposals for encouraging trading based on HVI standards, taking advantage of the new World Cotton Contract being based on HVI classing

Discussion on this point noted that the introduction of the World Cotton Contract had been delayed and was currently scheduled for the first half of 2015. However, since the quality of the physical cotton underlying the futures contract would be classified by HVI testing, this would be an opportunity to further disseminate instrument testing.

5. Reports from Regional Technical Centers

- a. RTC-East Africa (Dar es Salaam)

G. Kaisi, of the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS), presented a report on the current status and challenges facing the Regional Technical Center for East/Southern Africa. The Center was operational and had participated in the 2014-1 and 2014-3 Round Trials. It had also performed analysis of samples for a variety of stakeholders. Until now, the Tanzania Bureau of Standards had supported the Center by paying maintenance and operational costs. However, other maintenance and purchase of necessary spare parts was impeded by the lack of an official statement of ownership of the Center. Dr Chaudry, of the ICAC Secretariat, said that he would hold a meeting with the representatives of the TBS and the Project Executing Agency to resolve this issue.

- b. RTC-Central Asia (Tashkent)

R. Gulyaev, of the Uzbek Center SIFAT, presented a report on the Regional Technical Center for Central Asia. SIFAT function is to coordinate laboratories and perform central laboratory inspection and supervision. It collects information from 13 regional laboratories, as well as from some other sources. The central laboratory participated in three Round Trials during 2014 and five regional laboratories are also participating in Round Trials. Results have shown no significant deviation from the average and the Center has received a certificate from the Coordinating Board. Testing equipment is being retooled and, in some cases, upgraded by purchase of more modern machinery.

- c. RTC-South America (Brazil)

J. L. Pessa reported that central laboratory is scheduled to enter into operation in the next season and would strive to operate like other RTCs, especially including re-tests on a subset of samples tested in affiliated laboratories.

6. Administrative matters

- a. Next meeting: the Committee would hold an interim meeting, either in Washington or Memphis or by conference call at a date to be determined during the first half of 2015.
- b. The CSITC recommended to the Standing Committee the inclusion of the following in the Task Force: Fatih Dogan, Everina Lukonge, Mohammed Negm, Mona Qaud, Juan Carlos Salerno, Suzan Sanud and René van der Sluijs. The Chair thanked Ibrahim Malloum, Chad, M. N. Vijayshankar, past Chairman, International Committee on Cotton testing

Methods, and Manfred Schiefer, President, M. Schiefer Trading Company, USA, for their services to the Task Force and understood that their other commitments precluded their continued membership of the CSITC.

- c. Election of officers. Chair and Rapporteur: Andrew Macdonald and Zbigniew Roskwitalski were re-elected to serve as Chairman and Rapporteur of the CSITC respectively.

7. Other business

Seeing as there was no other business, the Chair thanked the hospitality of the CERTH Research center and adjourned the meeting.

End 22nd Meeting