



27th Meeting of the Task Force on CSITC

Sunday, October 22, 2017

Tashkent, Uzbekistan

The Task Force on Commercial Standardization of Instrument Testing of Cotton (CSITC) conducted its 27th meeting on Sunday, October 22, 2017 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan during the 76th Plenary Meeting of ICAC.

Members Present:

Andrew MacDonald (CSITC Task Force Chair) ABRAPA - National Brazilian Cotton Association
(Brazil)

Axel Drieling - Faserinstitut Bremen

James Knowlton - USDA/AMS

Joao Luiz Pessa - ABRAPA

Peter Wakefield - Wakefield Inspection Services

Mohamed Negm – Cotton Research Institute, Egypt

Suzan Sanad – Cotton Research Institute, Egypt

Fatih Dogan – AKIB, Turkey

Observers:

Terry Townsend - Cotton Analytics

Akmal Akhmedov – JSC, Uzbekistan

James Johnson – USDA/FAS

Patrick Packnett – USDA/FAS

Lyman Stone – USDA/FAS

Shin Hiromoto – Japan Spinners Association

Kaku Hatanaka – Japan Cotton Traders Association

Takashi Izahra – Japan Spinners Association

Jean Pierre Guinko, Government of Burkina Faso

Secretariat:

Kai Hughes - ICAC

Yana Pomerants - ICAC

Lihan Wei – ICAC

Report of the 27th Meeting

1. Approval of the Minutes of 25th Meeting in Pakistan October 2016 and 26th Meeting in Memphis August 2017

The Task Force approved the minutes from 25th Meeting in Pakistan October 2016 and 26th Meeting in Memphis August 2017

2. Adoption of the Agenda.

Agenda for the 27th Meeting of the Task Force on CSITC was adopted.

3. Update latest Round Trial Results and Comparisons. (A. Drieling)

Axel Drieling of Faserinstitut Bremen presented the latest update on the Round Trial Results.

Mr Drieling reported that the number of participating labs has, after growing significantly from 2007 to 2011, been steady since 2012. He noted that the median Combined Properties Evaluation fell from 0.5 during the period from 2007 to 2011, to between 0.35 to 0.40 in 2016 and 2017. This is a very significant improvement in average laboratory performance, indicating that the round trials are fulfilling their purpose. Mr Drieling went over the evaluation for each property such as Micronaire, Strength, Length, Uniformity, Color Rd, and Color +b, all showing significant improvements (between 49% for Rd and 13% for Length Uniformity). Mr Drieling noted that in 2016 trash measurement was added with an individual evaluation score. Nevertheless, laboratories are in their overall evaluation score not being evaluated on trash because this would skew the given evaluation that is existing since 2007.

Looking at the Within-Limits-Evaluation, which is a separate second evaluation, the Chair expressed concern that Color+b measures within commercial limits only at 57.2%. Mr Drieling noted that the measurement was based on 154 instruments in 88 labs. The Task Force discussed the possibility of doing more tests per bale in order to remove variations. The Chair expressed the desire to explore the results more and to assess whether more tests on samples are required or which other steps could be taken.

4. Update on Stickiness Measurement Program, in conjunction with the ICCTM. Mr. Drieling reported that based on the ITMF ICCTM activities, the first stickiness Round Trial was conducted in 2017 with 27 labs participating with 35 instruments and using 11 methods. It is still being deliberated what instruments should be used to test stickiness and investigation about stickiness is ongoing. By analysing the data on stickiness, it is possible to see variations between test results and see who is not providing true results. The Chair emphasized the importance of stickiness measurement and mentioned that this topic should be intensely looked at during the Bremen Conference and meetings.

5. Follow up regarding monitoring level differences between test results by instrument type raised at the 26th Meeting. Generation 10, to be contacted as regards alterations to the data base to facilitate easier analysis in the future.

Mr Drieling reported that during the last CSITC Task Force Meeting it was suggested to have some changes in the database, and these were now finalized by Generation 10. The changes included an export function for results by instrument model, export function for result variation by instrument and ability to include lab answer for SFI calibration in export. Mr Drieling went over the result comparison between different instruments. Mr Drieling discussed repeatability of strength measurement between single tests and said that a couple of labs are reporting deviation of 0, which cannot be realistic, suggesting that these labs are not reporting the actual single data results of their instruments. He noted that he is able to identify which labs are doing it. The Chair suggested that a letter should be written to laboratories regarding the input of erroneous data.

6. ICA Bremen approval of test centres statistics.

Approval of ICA Bremen certified laboratories. The Chair outlined the process for evaluating and certifying cotton laboratories around the world and reported that 10 laboratories have been certified over the last 3 years with Cotton SA laboratory being the first and there are currently over 20 laboratories awaiting to be evaluated.

7. Increasing the Use of HVI Testing

a. Proposals for Expansion of Participation in Round Trials. Potential role of Mr H Ghorashi

The Task Force discussed the role of Hossein Ghorashi as the ambassador of CSITC Round Trials in order to expand lab participation. It was decided that:

1. It should be announced that Mr Ghorashi is available to be a representative of CSITC Round Trials.
2. Mr Ghorashi is to write to his contacts.
3. Mr Terry Townsend is to set up conference call with Mr Ghorashi to discuss his role.

b. Preparation of Comprehensive Guide on Interpretation of HVI Results

Comprehensive guide to the interpretation of HVI results will be presented during the CSITC Task Force meeting during the Bremen Conference in March.

8. Reports from Technical Centers and Regions

Mr. Drieling reported that he visited the newly erected central laboratory (CBRA) in Brasilia, Brazil where they developed new system for evaluating local laboratories, including two-hourly checks with samples of known values and daily re-tests.

9. Administrative matters

The Task Force approved the election of Andrew MacDonald as the Chair of CSITC Task Force and agreed to meet during the Bremen Cotton Conference in March 2018. The meeting will be on Monday, March 19, at 10:00h, followed by the ITMF Committee on Cotton Testing Methods on Monday at 14:00h.