



From the Secretariat

For Release October 7, 2012

Attendance Explodes at ICAC's Biotechnology Roundtable

If there are any doubts about how much interest there is in biotechnological advances in cotton, they were put to rest on the opening day of ICAC's 71st Plenary Conference. Held on Sunday, Oct. 7, in Interlaken, Switzerland, approximately 100 people were in the audience during the meeting of the Roundtable on Biotechnology in Cotton. When the roundtable was held during last year's ICAC Meeting in Buenos Aires, the number of attendees barely reached double digits.

The increase in attendance was no accident, according to Rafiq Chaudry, head of ICAC's Technical Information Section. "We encouraged attendance and input from everyone who has an interest in biotechnology's role in cotton," Chaudry said. "The use of biotechnology will have an impact on the entire industry, not just the panel members."

Much of the interest is coming from developing nations, whose industries are desperate for the improvements that biotechnology can provide in terms of yield, as well as pest and weed control. But things are rarely that easy, according to the chair of the Roundtable, Dr. Keith Menchey.

"It's not as simple as picking up a cotton plant from one region and planting it in a different one, he says. "Cotton varieties are very sensitive to specific environmental conditions. Added to that, there are many challenges that plague only specific regions, such as the boll weevil in the Western Hemisphere and leaf-curl virus in Pakistan."

For more information, as well as to view the full agenda of speakers and chairpersons, please visit www.ICAC.org.

Press releases are available via e-mail. Register online for this free service at:
<https://secure.icac.org/register.php?newsletter=1>

The Secretariat of the Committee publishes information related to world cotton production, supply, demand and prices, and provides technical information on cotton production technology. Detailed statistics are found bimonthly in *COTTON: Review of the World Situation*, \$190 per year via email, \$230 per year in hard copy. A monthly outlook is available by email for \$300 per year. Access to the latest weekly estimates of world cotton supply and use by the Secretariat is available on the Internet for \$460 per year. Access Secretariat reports at <http://icac.org>.