



**28th Meeting of the Task Force on CSITC
Monday, March 19, 2018
Bremen, Germany
10:00 – 13:00**

The Task Force on Commercial Standardization of Instrument Testing of Cotton (CSITC) conducted its 28th meeting on Monday, March 19, 2018 in Bremen, Germany during the International Bremen Cotton Conference.

Members Present:

Andrew MacDonald (Chair of the Task Force on CSITC) ABRAPA - National Brazilian Cotton Association

(Brazil)

Axel Drieling - Faserinstitut Bremen

Darryl Earnest – USDA AMS Cotton and Tobacco Program

James Knowlton - USDA/AMS

Peter Wakefield - Wakefield Inspection Services

Iwona Frydrych – Technical University of Lodz

Jean-Paul Gourlot – Cirad Persyst, Ltc

Rene van der Sluijs – CSIRO Manufacturing

Observers:

Mona Qaud – Uster Technologies

Guntram Kugler – Textechno

Stephan Fliescher – Textechno

Steven Chen – Tah Tong Textile, Taiwan

Uzi Mor – Cottlab

Malgorzata Matusiak – Lodz University of Technology

Peyman Dehkordi – Uster Technologies

Gert Klindt – Cotton SA

Gervas Kaisi Mwanjabala – Tanzania Bureau of Standards

Getnet Belay Tesema – PhD Student, University of Bremen

Loukas Despotis – Konstantinos V. Markou

Thanasis Markos - Konstantinos V. Markou

Lyman Stone – USDA

Giancarlo Branca, Branca Idealair STA

Eugenio Branca, Branca Idealair STA

Hossein Ghorashi – HMG Consulting

Chris Delhom – USDA, ARS

Steve Grantham – USDA, AMS

Karsten Froese – BBB/ICA Bremen

Franziska Stehle – Faserinstitut Bremen

Hy Hwang – Cottonscope

Dean Ethridge – Texas Tech University

Carson Armijo – USD, ARS

Vikki Martin – Cotton Incorporated

Stuart Gordon – CSIRO

Daniela Messa – Mesdan

Gabrielle Savinelli – Mesdan

Secretariat:

Kai Hughes - ICAC

Yana Pomerants - ICAC

1. Approval of the Minutes 27th Meeting in Tashkent 2017

The Task Force approved the minutes from 27th Meeting in Tashkent, Uzbekistan in October 2017.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Agenda for the 28th Meeting of the Task Force on CSITC was adopted.

3. Update on latest Round Trial Results and Comparisons.

Mr Axel Drieling presented the status of the CSITC participation in the current year. Participation was steadily rising from 2007 to 2012 and has been at a generally constant participation level since 2012.

Mr Drieling then went over the Evaluation of Combined Properties up to Round Trial 1, 2018. The deviation between the laboratories has been steadily going down from 0.5 in 2007 to 0.35-0.40. The evaluation grade when comparing Round Trials in 2007 – 2011 and in 2017-2018 went down by 28%. The improved evaluation grade can also be seen in each property. The improved evaluation grade comparing 2007 – 2011 and in 2017-2018 for Micronaire went down by 26%, for strength by 29%, for length by 12%, for uniformity by 12%, for colour by 50%, and for colour+b by 29%, so there has been improvement in all properties, and the best results have been in micronaire, strength and colour. Mr Drieling then added that the evaluation of trash was also included in these round trials and that the evaluation of grade for trash is also improving.

Mr Drieling continued describing the testing guidelines that are provided for each laboratory. The SITC Guideline Version 2 in 2014 took data from 2007 to 2013 and SITC Guideline Version 3 in 2018 took data from 2017. Mr Drieling pointed to the inter-instrument variations (average of the inter-instrument SD for 112 US Upland cotton samples) in the 2014 version the inter-instrument variation for strength based on 30 tests per instrument was 0.99 g/tex, based on 6 tests per instrument was 1.08 g/tex, and based on single tests was 1.24 g/tex; in the 2018 version the inter-instrument variations for strength based on 30 tests per instrument has been 0.71 g/tex, based on 6 tests per instrument – 0.82 g/tex, and based on single tests, the variation has been 0.96 g/tex. The laboratories can now agree on the variations that are acceptable between the tests. Mr Drieling concluded that knowing these variations would help to find agreement between the selling and the buying party.

Mr Drieling continued with the presentation of the instruments that have been within commercial limits, which were fixed by the CSITC Task Force in previous meetings. Currently, the percentage of the instruments that are 95 percent within limits for each category is 88.7% in Micronaire, 64% for Strength, 76.8% for Length, 86.4% for Uniformity, 79.5% for Color Rd, and 44.3% in Color+b. During the last meeting in Tashkent, it was advised that the within-limit evaluation is an important tool for commercial practice. Mr Drieling stated that the results have been improving for some of the properties since his last report, but not significantly. Hence, more work must be done to make sure that the laboratories are closer to the commercial limits in all properties.

The CHAIR thanked Mr Drieling for his report. The CHAIR then addressed the participants and explained the objective of the CSITC to anyone who might be new to this meeting. He explained that at this point in time, cotton is traded based on a flexible system of description of cotton and the CSITC programme was set up in order to try to establish a commercial variation between instruments. The CHAIR concluded that in the beginning there was a considerable variation between instruments and it has been narrowed down significantly, which shows that the laboratories that are involved are benefiting from the CSITC programme.

A question was asked about how would blended cotton be evaluated. Mr Drieling explained that the tests are based on USDA provided cotton and that the cotton samples are homogenous.

Another question was asked regarding the improvement in the Colour Rd and Colour +b

evaluation grade and whether the use of newer HVI machines have contributed to that improvement. Mr Drieling explained that the reason partially could be because more laboratories are using HVI1000 and are fading away HVI900 and HVI Spectrum. Also, he explained that in the past some laboratories were making mistakes when measuring colour. Some laboratories were using Premier instruments with which they were supposed to use colour tiles that had to be calibrated to incandescent light and for some time those laboratories were using wrong calibration tiles. The laboratories have begun to use correct tiles and also are calibrating their tiles more frequently.

The CHAIR summarised the discussion by saying that the improvements in the results were also most likely due to the laboratories consistently getting incorrect results and therefore addressing the various reasons for why that might be so and correcting any inconsistencies.

At this point, the CHAIR asked to change the order of the agenda and discuss the update of the programme to increase participation of laboratories.

4. Update of programme to increase participation of laboratories, and Hossein Ghorashi's report.

Mr Gourashi expressed his ideas about increasing participation in the CSITC Round Trials. He said that he will be giving a presentation to spinners about the CSITC programme and he would talk to them about the benefits of participation and would discuss whether they are getting the full advantage of the round trials if they are currently participating.

The CHAIR summarised what Mr Gourashi proposed, saying that when the CSITC programme was started, the goal was to commercialise the use of the HVIs in order to benefit the textile industry. The idea was also that the price of cotton would be negotiated based on the HVI data. The CHAIR elaborated on Mr Ghorashi's approach that would address the objective of CSITC expansion from bottom up rather than top down. The textile industry must become aware what the HVI can do for them. If spinners would test their cotton they would base their purchases on the HVI measurements, so then every trader would also need to get an HVI machine.

The CHAIR asked Mr Ghorashi how much can the CSITC programme link the support of Uster and Premier in achieving this objective.

Mr Gourashi replied that he will meet with the CEO of Uster with whom he will share the most recent CSITC results. He would discuss with Uster if there is any revenue lost for anyone who is not participating in CSITC. Also, Mr Ghorashi suggested that Uster and Premier could provide a service to CSITC participants if there were problems with their Round Trial results. In short Uster and Premier and the Round Trials participants would all benefit from taking an active role in the CSITC programme.

The CHAIR expressed anticipation for the results of the discussion with Uster.

No other questions were raised, so the CHAIR moved on to the next item on the agenda.

5. Update on CSITC Comprehensive Guide on Interpretation of HVI Results.

Jean-Paul Gourlot reported that a guide is being created but that there were only two people who had been working on writing the guide which was not sufficient. He also said that the ITMF coordinators would participate and it was hoped that it would be completed in 2018 but it does require more contributors. The CHAIR expressed his opinion that the guide shouldn't long, it should be relatively simple and understandable. The CHAIR also elaborated on the challenges in creating a guide. The users of HVI machines should be aware that there is a reasonable average of bales that will not conform exactly to the HVI specifications. When composing the guide, the authors should concentrate on advising people how to interpret the average results from a number of samples. It was suggested that the guide should help the users to interpret the results of the HVI and in response to a question about what 'interpret' meant, Hossein Ghorashi replied that there were two aspects; how to get the best results from the machine and how to use the data.

The CHAIR concluded that the CSITC programme should be used for commercial purposes rather than only for academic research. The trader and the farmer should be able to use the HVI comfortably. Hiring a manual classer is more expensive than getting an HVI machine and most spinners cannot afford to have a manual classer.

Uzi Mor noted that spinners were rejecting shipments based on HVI results but the CHAIR highlighted that these spinners could not be trading under ICA Bylaws and Rules as rejection is not allowed under the Rules and parties have to go to arbitration to resolve any quality or contractual dispute.

6. Update on the Stickiness Measurement Programme.

Jean-Paul Gourlot gave an update on the programme. Axel Drieling explained that there are eleven different types of instruments involved in the Round Trial. The Round Trials allow to a) compare between several instruments of one type for, and b) compare the results between different instrument types / methods.

The CHAIR noted that the question isn't necessarily which is the best method but rather the objective is to find which method provides consistent results so that instrument can be recommended for commercial methods.

There was then further discussion as to which was the most common method and how to prepare the samples.

7. Reports from Technical Centres and Regions.

Mr Gervas Kaisi gave a presentation about the CSITC Project at Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS), which was a Regional Testing Center (RTC East & Southern Africa). The laboratory participated in CSITC Round Trials since 2009, and the countries that were served by the RTC were: Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Sudan. Since completion of the project in 2012, RTC East & Southern Africa has been operated by TBS which is run by the Government of Tanzania. The equipment that is used is HVI 1000M700 and The Ambient Air Management System

(AAMS). The centre participated in the Global Round Trials, in the ICA Bremen Round Trials, and in the USDA HVI Check programme.

Mr Kaisi presented the results of comparison of the trial scores between TBS and median score. The scores were at a nearly even level at 0.5 or below in round trials 1, 2, and 4. The deviation between TBS and the average and median score was significantly large in round trial 3. Mr Kaisi explained that during that trial the regular technician was on holiday and the technician that was operating the machine was not properly trained. In 2017 TBS tested 247 cotton lint samples and the clients of TBS were Olam Tanzania Ltd and Wakefield Inspection Services (WIS).

Some of the challenges that TBS faces is unstable relative humidity and moisture that is caused by an unstable power supply, high cost of operations compared to income generated by the laboratory, lack of intensive training for new employees, and lack of experienced technicians for the in-house maintenance and repair of the AAMS that was installed by Branca Idealair.

The CHAIR asked a question about what action does the CSITC team take when seeing a large deviation in results such as occurred in round trial 4 at TBS. Mr Drieling explained that there isn't any measure that he takes when such deviation occurs besides providing the results as the participants can see for themselves that they have a problem because result is so extreme. The results were normal in the following round trial, so the laboratory corrected the reasons for the deviation. When sending the results, Mr Drieling provides his contact information so that laboratories can contact him with questions, however, it rarely happens when he is contacted. When Mr Drieling visits laboratories he gives more detailed explanation on the procedures of testing and interpreting results.

The CHAIR asked Mr Drieling if he was going to present on the Brazilian Regional Test Center. Mr Drieling said that there will be a detailed presentation about the Brazilian HVI programme on Thursday. The Brazilian central laboratory, CBRA, is providing three types of services to other laboratories in Brazil;

1. Retesting samples that were tested at other Brazilian laboratories.
2. Providing check samples to other laboratories for verification of the daily performance in each laboratory on a 2-hourly basis.
3. Providing internal verification sample material that laboratories can use to ensure proper testing.

The CHAIR commented that the CSITC programme still has challenges ahead of it and he encouraged to take steps on advancing the programme and invited the Executive Director of the ICAC to talk about the ICAC Strategic Review.

8. Update on the ICAC Strategic Review.

The ICAC Executive Director, Mr Kai Hughes introduced himself describing his experience in the cotton sector. Since the year 2000 Mr Hughes had worked with the Liverpool Cotton Association and ICA Bremen before joining ICAC in September 2017. Mr Hughes went

over the vision that he presented to the ICAC when he was recruited. These are the points that Mr Hughes highlighted in his vision;

1. Better engagement with the private sector.
Mr Hughes commented that the ICAC will be looking at this objective during the strategic review process.
2. Better use of the data that the ICAC collects and better accessibility to that data, perhaps having an interactive cotton portal.
3. More engagement on individual level. The ICAC is launching its social media accounts such as twitter and facebook, and a new website is going to be developed.
Mr Hughes also informed the committee that the ICAC hired a new Director of Communications – Mike McCue. Mr McCue is familiar with cotton through his work with Cotton International, he had also worked on the Cotton Year Book.
4. Promoting the importance of cotton research. The ICAC is determined to grow its cotton research network.
5. Promote cotton innovation in order to increase demand for cotton. The ICAC is working with partners on the objective to have a cotton innovation conference every 2 years.
6. Being more involved in projects and promote various cotton related projects in the world.
7. Be the first source of critical information on cotton.

In order to achieve these objectives, the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR began a strategic review of the organisation. ICAC has not undergone a strategic review since 2010 and that review was not complete. There are several stages that the review consists of:

The first stage is information gathering and comparing 23 other commodity bodies and their operation with how ICAC is operating. Mr Hughes commented that ICAC ranks well compared to other organisations, but it can get more involved in some areas. The second stage is to produce a questionnaire that will go to everyone who ICAC interacts with to get an understanding of what is expected of ICAC. Mr Hughes encourages everyone to fill in the questionnaire. The fourth stage would be to conduct a series of workshops such as the SWOT analysis with the committees. All of these actions would culminate with the Standing Committee having a final workshop based on all the information that was gathered. The recommendation of the Standing Committee will be reviewed during the meeting of the Steering Committee in Abidjan Cote d'Ivoire during the ICAC Plenary Meeting.

The CHAIR expressed enthusiasm about the outlook of the new ICAC. The CHAIR then asked if there were any administrative matters to be discussed.

Administrative matters

a. Next meeting in Cote d'Ivoire

The next meeting of the Task Force on CSITC has been scheduled for 2nd December, 2018 and it will take place in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire.

Mr Drieling asked Mr Wakefield if CSITC participants would be invited to the WIS laboratory in

Abidjan and Mr Wakefield assured him that they will be invited. Mr Drieling also assured the committee that the CSITC interpretation guideline is going to be shown during the next CSITC meeting and it will also be distributed. It was also noted that Lawrence Hunter produced a document in 2006 in ITMF on how to interpret HVI results.

9. Any other business.

There being no other business the CHAIR ended the meeting.