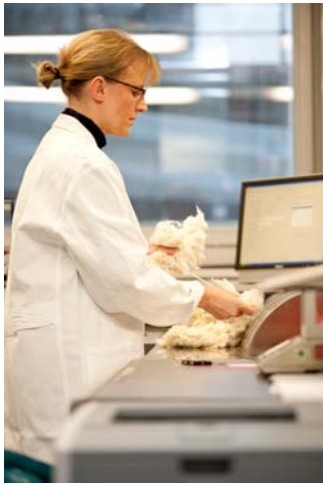
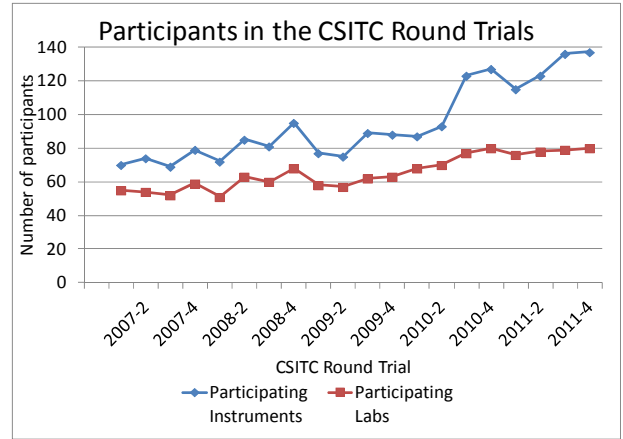


# The global CSITC Round Trials

## Introduction

One of the most important missions of the ICAC Task Force on Commercial Standardization of Instrument Testing of Cotton (CSITC) is to check the reliability of cotton testing laboratories and the test results provided by the laboratories. Since 2007, specific CSITC Round Trials allow the laboratories to demonstrate their capability to meet recommended standards. Additionally, CSITC Round Trials help them to achieve more accurate results.

The Round Trial system was developed in co-operation between the Faserinstitut Bremen e.V. (FIBRE) and the USDA-AMS. It is headed by the International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC), and it is conducted regularly in co-operation between the USDA-AMS (→ sample dispatch) and FIBRE (→ evaluation).



## Implementation

The defined aims of the CSITC Round Trial system are:

- to evaluate the test method with its result variations (within-lab, inter-lab) and influences
- to evaluate and rate the participating laboratories/instruments based on the accuracy of their results
- to help the laboratories in achieving more accurate results by providing detailed analyses and by giving advice for improving testing reliability.

For these aims, the Round Trials are conducted quarterly with 5 cotton samples per round trial, each sample to be tested 30 times with each participating instrument. The round trials are implemented in a web based system, allowing the labs to upload the data, to download the evaluation reports and to get additional information. General evaluations and information are open to public [csitc.org].

## Outlook

There is little doubt that instrument testing is the future of cotton quality assessment. With this unique CSITC Round Trial system, laboratories can prove the reliability of their instrument test results objectively. The future development will more and more demand this proof of reliability as the basis for using the laboratories' test results for trading.

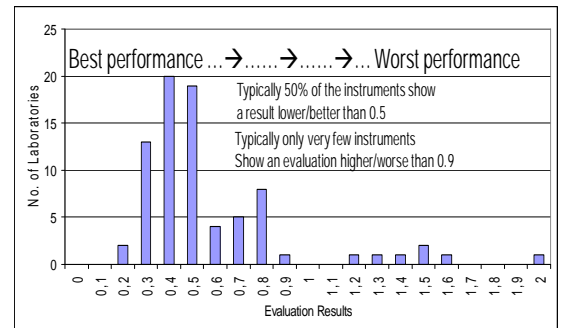
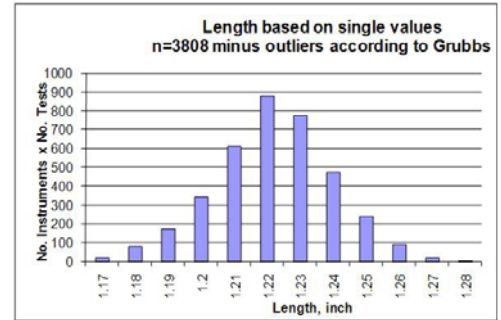
The International Cotton Association is planning a voluntary ICA laboratory certification, which is significantly based on the CSITC Round Trial results.

## Funding

Up to 2011, the Round Trials were conducted as part of the project CFC/ICAC/33, funded by the Common Fund for Commodities and the European Commission. From 2012 on, participation fees will cover the Round Trial costs.

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International Cotton  
 Advisory Committee

