



IN CONTEXT

**Regional Technical Centre (RTC)
for East and Southern Africa**



Tanzania Bureau of Standards

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The RTC is co-funded by the European Union and the Common Fund for Commodities



ABOUT THE REGIONAL TECHNICAL CENTRE (RTC)

The Regional Technical Centre (RTC) for East/Southern Africa is funded on the basis of a CFC/ICAC/33 Cotton Project. The RTC is located at Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) and collaborates with Tanzania Cotton Board (TCB) to ensure that the cotton quality assessment demand for local and international market is achieved. The RTC will stay within the support of the project until November, 2011 after which it shall continue its work independently. Most of its services are offered free of charge until November, 2011.

The overall objective of the RTC is to assist the cotton producing countries in the region to meet the emerging quality assessment demands of the global cotton market so as to strengthen or at least maintain their competitive position in the world market. This is done through the provision of services in the area of instrumental classification of cotton.

The proposal originated from the conclusion and recommendations of the International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC) Task Force on Commercial Standardization of Instrument Testing of Cotton (CSITC) held in Bremen in March, 2004 and Mumbai in November, 2004. The Task Force was established as an Expert Panel by the International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC) in 2003 on the initiative of the International Cotton Association and changed to the Task Force in 2005.

The main parameters currently recommended by ICAC for testing cotton samples are:

- ▶▶▶ Micronaire
- ▶▶▶ Strength
- ▶▶▶ Length (UHML)
- ▶▶▶ Length Uniformity (UI)
- ▶▶▶ Colour Grade (Rd)
- ▶▶▶ Colour Grade (+b)



THE SERVICES OFFERED BY RTC

The main services of the RTC are;

- 1) Conduct trainings for laboratories and stakeholders in the region.
- 2) Conduct regional round trials.
- 3) Conduct re-tests on regional laboratory samples for instrument classed samples.
- 4) Expertise for the cotton testing laboratories
- 5) Collection and dissemination of technical information.
- 6) Facilitate the co-operation between the cotton testing laboratories.

This centre is for all cotton producing countries in the region of East and Southern Africa, therefore all cotton organizations are welcome to be served with the above mentioned services.



THE BENEFITS OF THE INSTRUMENT TESTING

Cotton producing countries, especially developing countries will be able to sell their cotton based on reliable and comparable test results, so that their cotton production can be directly compared to cottons from higher developed countries with existing cotton quality control systems. The benefit is given by several reasons:

- Avoiding price discounts due to unknown properties
- Higher achievable prices (due to recognized/proven premium quality bales)
- Less claims
- Possibility to secure a market of customers for a recognized quality of fibres and to improve the market share to new customers
- Higher selling volume compared to not instrumentally classed cotton – this advantage will become even more important in the following years based on the global increase of instrument testing.
- Help in direct selling to cotton importing countries (e.g. online trade)

For More information contact us through the following addresses:

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