INTERNATIONAL COTTON ADVISORY COMMITTEE
1629 K Street NW, Suite 702, Washington, DC 20006 USA
Telephone: (202) 463-6660 • Fax: (202) 463-6950 •
E-mail: secretariat@icac.org • Internet: http://www.icac.org

23rd CSITC Meeting, 6 December 2015
Mumbai, India

Report

The 23rd meeting of the Task Force on Commercial Standardization of Instrument Testing of Cotton (CSITC) was held on 6 December 2015 in Mumbai, India, during the 74th Plenary Meeting of the International Cotton Advisory Committee.

Members present:
Andrew Macdonald, AMCON Consulting representing ABRAPA, Brazil, Chair of the Task Force
Axel Drieling, Faserinstitut Bremen e.V., Germany
Jean-Paul Gourlot, Director, CIRAD PERSYST LTC, France
Mohammed Negm, Cotton Research Institute, Egypt
João Luiz Ribas Pessa, Director, Abrapa, Brazil
Suzan Sanad, Cotton Research Institute, Egypt
Peter Wakefield, President, Wakefield Inspection Services, Inc.

Members Absent or Sending Regrets:
Mariana Carfagnini, Argentina
Fatih Dogan, Turkey
Darryl Earnest, Deputy Administrator, Cotton Program, USDA/AMS, USA
Urania Kechagia, NAGREF, Cotton and Industrial Plants Institute, Greece
James Knowlton, Chief, Standardization & Engineering Branch, USDA AMS, USA
Patricia Marino, Argentina
B.K. Mishra, Chairman cum Managing Director, Cotton Corporation of India, India
Gregory Parle, Chair of the Australian Cotton Classers Association, Australia
P.D. Patodia, India
Jolly Sabune, Managing Director, Cotton Development Organization, Uganda
René van der Sluijs, Australia
Hakim H. Umarkhojayev, General Director, SIFAT, Uzbekistan
Bruno Widmer, Switzerland

Observers:
Bakhtyar Buykhanov, Uzbekistan
Simon Corish, Australia
Rishit Dholakia, India
Gamal Goraish, Embassy of Sudan in Washington D.C., Sudan
Rinat Gulyaev, Uzpakhtsanoat, Uzbekistan
Michael Murray, Cotton Australia
Dharminder Pathak, India
Antonios Siarkos, Greece
Allan Williams, CRDC, Australia
Yoshun Yamaoka, Japan

José Sette served as Secretariat.

Report of the 23rd Meeting

1. Approval of the Agenda and Tribute to Zbigniew Roskwitalski

The Chairman welcomed all the members present and thanked them for participating. He also welcomed the Observers and reminded them that membership was open to all, and those interested should apply to the ICAC Secretariat. He then called on all those present to remember the participation of our late friend "Ziggy" and the great contribution that he had made to the CSITC Task Force ever since its inception. The Chair offered the CSITC's condolences to his family. The Chairman inquired if there were any proposals for changes or concerns regarding the agenda, and seeing none found that it was approved.

2. Round Trial results

Mr Drieling presented the latest results of the Round Trials up to RT 2015-3, which continued to show improvements in nearly all aspects of the Trials. The number of participants was being maintained, despite some seasonal variability, while the evaluation of the Combined Properties continued to show the overall positive evolution that has been seen over the last few years. The inter-laboratory result variation of Strength decreased by more than 30%, that of Micronaire decreased by 20%, and Color results decreased significantly after an unfortunate increase during the first years of the RTs. Length continued constant. Taking an average of all properties, the CSITC Task Force had managed, through its Round Trial activities, to decrease the variation in results by approximately 25%.
The Chairman thanked Mr Drieling for the presentation and also for his hard work and dedication to the success of the Task Force.

3. Trash Measurements in Instrument Evaluation: Analysis of Results and Necessary Changes

Mr Drieling made an extensive presentation of his study on the Task Force's request to find ways of including HVI Trash Measurements in the Round Trials, since they were one of the most important commercial aspects of pricing in cotton trading. The most important concern referred to the reproducibility of HVI Trash results, which is negatively influencing the evaluation of the labs. If an evaluation of the labs is sought, tolerances have to be used that fit the technical requirements (limits are not constant, but depend on the trash level) as well as commercial practice and the evaluation of the other parameters currently being tested in the Round Trials. Using the current USDA limits, which are based on 4 measurements rather than 2, the evaluation results for trash are much worse than for all other properties, and a clear need therefore existed to reflect the different prerequisites.
The Task Force unanimously agreed that Trash evaluation results should be included in the Round Trials, but that the results should be shown separately and not included in the overall evaluation result for each instrument, so as not to "contaminate" the historic evaluation data, which is solely based on Micronaire, Strength, Length and Color. In a few years, once these results can be evaluated over time, a decision will be able to be reached as to whether Trash results should be fully included in the evaluation results.
Mr Drieling then presented various possibilities for calculating tolerance that might be commercially viable. Based on four measurements per sample, the reproducibility tolerances at USDA are:

- Particle Count Tolerance = Particle Count * 0.22 + 3.2
- Percent Area Tolerance = Percent Area * 0.235 + 0.031

The Task Force accepted his proposal of tolerances that are 50% wider than those of the USDA. The main reason for this difference is that, for CSITC purposes, only two measurements are recommended per sample.
The specification of additional relevance values for Trash is not currently necessary, since Trash results are not included in the overall evaluation.

4. Standard Temperature Variation in Labs: Modifications in ISO 139, ASTM 1776, and Implications for Standardization

The Task Force had requested a study on the effect of the temperature in the HVI labs, with a view to encouraging the use of HVI in hot climates, where the cost of air conditioning is extremely expensive. The

idea being to determine the possibility of increasing temperature while maintaining relative humidity, which would allow the samples to be presented for testing with the correct moisture content. Mr Drieling explained that this was possible in principle. The next steps would be to assure that, despite the aspired change of the nominal temperature:

- test results are reliable;
- test results are consistent in comparison to results at 21°C; and
- the variation in results is not increased.

A corresponding change could then be included in the ASTM Standard Method ASTM D 1776. Nevertheless, it must be noted that ISO 139 is already including different temperature levels since its 2012 revision.

5. Maturity Measurement in Round Trials

There was no further news on this subject as the pioneers on this subject were not present at the meeting. It is hoped that the subject can be discussed at length during the next CSITC meeting.

6. Update on Stickiness Measurement (J.-P. Gourlot)

Mr Gourlot provided an update to the Task Force on the initiation of a Stickiness project being undertaken by the ITMF Committee on Cotton Testing Methods (ICCTM), whose objective is to harmonize stickiness testing and stickiness testing results.

7. Increasing the Use of HVI Testing and Round Trial participation

The Chair again made his request for help in encouraging more instruments to take part in the Round Trials. He felt that the preparation of a "Comprehensive Guide on Interpretation of HVI Results" would be an important step to consolidate the use of HVI data for commercial use, by helping both buyers and sellers to understand better the use of HVI data, and to apply the corresponding tolerances. Clearly, it was necessary to bear in mind all the slight variables that exist when growing and producing cotton, which is a vegetable product. Mr Drieling advised the Task Force that the project, driven mainly by Jean-Paul Gourlot and him, was still on track, but he believed that it would not be ready in time for the Bremen conference.

8. Reports from Regional Technical Centers

Mr Pessa, representing the cotton growing industry in Brazil, explained that the central lab of ABRAPA should be ready to act as the Brazilian central laboratory from the next crop onwards. In the future, all Brazilian cotton will be classed by labs that have been examined and tested by the central lab of ABRAPA. Each HVI line will be required to send 2% of the samples tested to the central lab, based on bale numbers selected at random by the APRAPA computer system. The trade will be encouraged to sell Brazilian cotton on the basis of HVI results, similar to the USDA system.

9. Administrative matters

Next Meeting: March 16, 2016 (Bremen Cotton Conference Week) at 9.00 a.m. in the Building of the Bremen Cotton Exchange.

Election: Mr. Andrew Macdonald was re-elected to serve as Chairman of the CSITC. The Task Force decided there was no requirement to fill the position so ably held by Mr. Roskwitalski

10. Other business

Seeing as there was no other business, the Chair thanked the hospitality of the Organizing Committee of the 74th Plenary and adjourned the meeting.