



INTERNATIONAL COTTON ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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From the Secretariat

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Industry Standardization: the Key to Trade Growth

64th Plenary Meeting Begins in Four Weeks

The Inaugural Session of the 64th Plenary Meeting of the International Cotton Advisory Committee since 1939 will be held in four weeks on September 26, 2005. The agenda, working papers, and reports of the Chair of the Standing Committee, the Chair of the Working Group on Government Measures, and the Executive Director have been mailed to Heads of Delegations and Coordinating Agencies. Additional Secretariat reports on the outlook for cotton supply and use, costs of production and government measures will be mailed prior to the plenary meeting.

The theme of the 64th Plenary Meeting is Industry Standardization: the Key to Trade Growth. The major topics on the agenda include:

1. Trading Cotton on an Instrument Based Classing System
2. Demand Enhancement
3. Economic Outlook/Cotton Supply and Use
4. The Need for Standardized Trading Rules
5. Technical Seminar: Rapid Instrument Testing
6. African Cotton and the International Community
7. The Impacts of Cotton on Health and the Environment
8. The Benefits of Standardized Bale Sizes and Packaging
9. Good Trading Practices in the Yarn Trade

The agenda, including registration information, hotel reservation forms and information about the social program, are available on www.ICAC.org.

Because of concerns about the capacity of facilities for the meeting, a limit to registration of 500 persons has been set for this year. Attendance at the 63rd Plenary Meeting last year in India was higher, and participants are urged to register and make hotel reservations in a timely fashion.

(Press releases are available via e-mail. To register for this free service, go to the ICAC web page at <http://www.icac.org/netforms/icac/lists/subscriptionform.html>)

The International Cotton Advisory Committee is an association of 41 governments of countries with an interest in cotton. 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*, \$160 per year via email, \$190 per year in hard copy. A monthly outlook is available by email for \$250 per year and by fax for \$350. Access to the latest weekly estimates of world cotton supply and use by the Secretariat is available on the Internet for \$400 per year. Access Secretariat reports at www.icac.org.