



INTERNATIONAL COTTON ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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From the Secretariat

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RESULTS FROM FIRST CSITC ROUND TRIAL AVAILABLE

70 instruments representing 55 participating labs from 6 continents participated in the first Round Trial conducted under the auspices of the Task Force on Commercial Standardization of Instrument Testing of Cotton (CSITC) during January 2007. Five cotton samples of known values were mailed to each participating laboratory from USDA in December. Each laboratory tested each sample six times each day for five days. Each sample was tested for the six CSITC parameters of length, length uniformity index, micronaire, strength, Rd (reflectance) and +b (yellowness). Four of the samples represented upland saw ginned cotton; the fifth sample represented ELS saw ginned cotton. (In the next Round Trial, Indian roller ginned cotton will be used for the fifth sample.)

Laboratories sent their results to the Bremen Fibre Institute for evaluation, and laboratories were given an overall ranking, as well as rankings for performance on each of the six tests. Rankings were based on the results of each lab in coming closest to the mean values for all laboratories participating in the Round Trial on all six measurements. All results are anonymous, but detailed information on Round Trial performance is sent individually to each laboratory.

Summary Tables Available on the Web

Summary tables from the first regular CSITC Round Trial are available on the web site: www.ICAC.org. The summary includes:

- Inter-laboratory averages and variability and in-laboratory variability for each of the 6 properties and each of the five cotton samples.

- Graphs showing the distributions for every property and each cotton.

- A summary list of the combined properties evaluations.

- A summary list of the evaluations for each property.

Benefits of Participation

Participants in CSITC Round Trials benefit by having detailed feedback that can be utilized to demonstrate measurement performance to customers and to address measurement related problems. Results will confirm the participant's ability to provide reproducible test measurements that are based on the established international standard. In addition, participation is a recommended practice for fulfilling quality management requirements in laboratories (e.g. ISO 17025).

Round Trial Cost & Sign-Up

Participation in the CSITC Round Trial is subsidized by USDA and the Bremen Fibre Institute, but a nominal fee of US\$75 per quarter, US\$300 per year for four trials, is charged to cover expenses associated with sample distribution.

To participate in future CSITC Round Trials, contact:

International Cotton Advisory Committee – CSITC

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(Press releases are available via e-mail. For further information, contact publications@icac.org)