



INTERNATIONAL COTTON ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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From the Secretariat

For Release June 5, 2007

NEW ECONOMIST ARRIVES

Dr. Alejandro S. Plastina has been hired to serve as an economist for the Secretariat. Dr. Plastina arrived at the Secretariat on June 1 to take up his duties. He is the sixth to serve in the position of economist in the history of the Secretariat dating from 1947. His predecessors are: Mr. T.S. Robertson, July 1947 to January 1951; Mr. J.C. Santley, June 1951 to March 1963; Mr. Elton Thigpen, September 1963 to May 1973; Dr. H.S. Singh, September 1965 to August 1987, and Mr. Carlos Valderrama, June 1988 to April 2007.

Dr. Plastina has the combination of training in economics and econometrics, interest in agriculture, sensitivity to the issues confronting developing countries and temperament to work effectively in the ICAC Secretariat.

He is a citizen of Argentina. He holds a B.A. in Economics and a M.S. in Health Economics and Management from the Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Argentina. He holds a M.S. in Statistics and a Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from the University of Nebraska.

Dr. Plastina has experience estimating the impacts of public policies on agriculture. His research includes estimating the rates of return on public expenditures in research and extension. He has studied the market and welfare effects of the adoption of biotechnology in small open economies. He has also studied the market and welfare effects of country-of-origin labeling and the social and welfare impacts of fair trade marketing in the coffee industry. These are topics of direct relevance to the work of the Secretariat in estimating demand for cotton. Dr. Plastina also has experience as a teacher, and he has given presentations at numerous seminars and workshops.

Dr. Plastina can be reached at: Alejandro@icac.org. His direct phone number is 202-292-1689.

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The International Cotton Advisory Committee is an association of 43 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*, \$170 per year via email, \$200 per year in hard copy. A monthly outlook is available by email for \$265 per year. Access to the latest weekly estimates of world cotton supply and use by the Secretariat is available on the Internet for \$420 per year. Access Secretariat reports at www.icac.org.