

History and objectives of the CFC / ICAC / 11 project

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Good morning, Ladies and gentlemen,

I will briefly explain to you the history of this project, how we came up to the current situation of this project, how Sudan came in, when the project started and how the project objectives were revised to the current objectives. At the ICAC, I was responsible for this project from the very beginning and I am proud to say that this was one of the most smooth running project we had so far. The collaborators were open and frank to each other and there was a very good cooperation and collaboration among the collaborators.

In November 1993 the Standing Committee of the ICAC approved the project for three years and the title of this project was slightly different from the current title; the project was called “Sticky cotton: possible controlled matters from plant to yarn”. And, Cameroon and CIRAD were involved in this project. The project had four objectives:

- to eliminate causes of stickiness in the field,
- to forecast stickiness by assessing the insect damage in the field,
- to separate sticky cotton from non sticky cotton,
- to develop matters to treat sticky cotton so that it could be spun smoothly.

The project was submitted to the Common Fund for Commodities and in January 1994 the Consultative Committee of the CFC considered this project and made three decisions on the project:

- The Consultative Committee of the CFC accepted that the objective 1 and objective 2 were already covered in the other project. The project was in Israel, Egypt, Ethiopia and Zimbabwe. The title of that project was “Integrated pest management of cotton” and it was assumed that the first two objectives “control of stickiness in the field” and “assessment of stickiness based on the pest damage” were covered in the Israeli project. And, this is one of the reasons that we have invited Dr. Gadi Forer from Israel to present results of that project.
- The Consultative Committee accepted that objectives 3 and 4 could be considered for approval.
- The Consultative Committee also decided that there is a need to add a component on dissemination in the project.

In July 1995, a revised project was submitted to the CFC with a number of objectives reduced to two instead of four. The title of the project was accordingly revised: "The improvement of the marketability of cotton produced in zones affected by stickiness". I must say that there was no component on dissemination, however the Consultative Committee recommended those two objectives should be approved and dissemination component should be added. And still Cameroon and CIRAD were planned to work on this project.

In December 1995, all of a sudden Cameroon decided not to participate in this project. The reason was that the cotton company was being privatized and the Company could not commit for a long term to work on this project. So we started looking for possible collaborators. In March 1996, I arranged a meeting between the Sudan Cotton Company and the CIRAD-CA representatives in Bremen and we decided that the representatives of CIRAD will go to Sudan and visit the facilities and meet the future collaborators and see if they can work together. Mr. Eric Hequet who was at that time Head of the Cotton Program went to Sudan and submitted a report to the ICAC that concluded they were willing to work in the project with the Sudan Cotton Co. So this is the time that we handed over the project to Sudan Cotton Co. to revise accordingly and also add the component of dissemination of information. So the current project has three main objectives:

- testing and evaluation of method for establishing the degree of stickiness,
- development of a threshold which enable economical processing of sticky cotton,
- evaluation of financial viability that is economical to evaluate cotton commercially and then disseminate this information to cotton producing countries and consuming countries.