

## INTERNATIONAL COTTON ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Washington D.C.

November 24, 1986

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REPORT OF THE HEAD OF THE TECHNICAL INFORMATION SECTION ON THE  
REGIONAL MEETING FOR LATIN AMERICA HELD IN P.R. SAENZ PENA,  
CHACO, ARGENTINA FROM NOVEMBER 3 TO 5, 1986.

The Regional Meeting for Latin America followed the Plenary Meeting and a Post Conference Tour. It was attended by delegates from Argentina, Brasil, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay with observers from the FAO, IRCT, the Liverpool Cotton Research Corporation, the National Cotton Council, the ITMF and the Laboratorium de Meulemeester, Belgium. The ICAC was represented by Dr. Shaw and Dr. Gillham. Ing. Agr. Aldo Ricciardi of Argentina was nominated chairman with Dr. Popilio Cavalieri of Brasil and Ing Jaime Gonzalez of Dominican Republic as Vice Chairmen and Patricia Marino of Argentina as Rapporteur. This committee and interpreter Luiz Carlos Lopes deserve the highest praise for the manner in which they conducted the meeting. A copy of the summaries of the meeting sessions is attached.

After each delegation had presented an account of its research programs and cotton production problems, the meeting was divided into groups to conduct detailed discussions on the major areas of common interest. The results of these discussions were presented to the final plenary session where there was unanimous agreement to establish an inexpensive, informal network for the exchange of information with the objective of finding joint solutions to problems of common interest. Ing. Agr. Aldo Ricciardi was appointed chairman and each country of the region was asked to provide the name of a delegate to a coordinating committee.

The ICAC was asked to assist in:

- i) seeking sources of funding to support this regional initiative;
- ii) organizing a second Regional Meeting in not more than three years.

This outstandingly successful meeting rounds out a year of major achievement by the TIS and widening recognition of its role as a cotton specialist information analysis centre in the world scientific community.



SUMMARY OF THE FIRST WORKING MEETING  
HELD MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1986  
IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE HOTEL GUALOK  
P.R. SAENZ PENA, CHACO PROVINCE.

The first working session was officially opened by the Undersecretary for Agriculture of Chaco province, Mr. Miguel Angel Vicente, agricultural engineer. He welcomed the participating delegations on behalf of the Government of the Chaco and noted the political, economic and social importance of the meeting, which he said was in the interest of the province.

Dr. Fred Gillham, Chief of the Technical Information Section of the International Cotton Advisory Committee, then stated the principal puposes of the meeting and its importance for the establishment of an institutional system that would permit greater communication among several teams of specialists engaging in the study of and research in cotton growing, and for finding subjects and problems of common interest in the region.

The officers of the meeting were then elected. Aldo A. Ricciardi, Agr. Eng., was elected Chairman on the motion of Dr. Fred Gillham in recognition of the work done by Argentina, and by INTA in particular, in organizing it, the motion was accepted by acclamation.

The Chairman asked the delegates for nominations for two Vice Chairmen and an Official Rapporteur. Drs. Popilio Cavaleri and Jaime Gonzalez were elected Vice Chairmen, and Patricia Marino, Eng., Rapporteur.

The list of participating countries was then read out: Argentina, Brazil, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay.

The presentation of statements on production problems and current research by the participating countries followed. These are to be annexed to the Final Document.

At 7 o'clock in the evening the Chairman closed this first session and called the delegates for November 4 at 8 o'clock a.m. in order to continue the presentations of the remaining participating countries.

SUMMARY OF THE SECOND WORKING MEETING, HELD  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1986

The hearing of the presentations on the cotton problems of the participating countries was completed during the first session.

Dr. Carlos Pineda, the representative of FAO, then took the floor to describe FAO's activities and purposes in connection with cotton.

All presentations having been made, the Chair summarized the problems raised by the different countries, grouping them under the following headings:

1. Genetic Improvement
2. Plant Protection
3. Crop Management
4. Harvest Management
5. Fiber Quality
6. Seed Quality
7. Organization of Research
8. Technology for Small Growers

Among these subjects the assembly chose the following as being of major importance:

1. Genetic Improvement
2. Plant Protection
- 5-6. Fiber and Seed Quality
8. Technology for Small Growers

Following the choice of these subjects, on a motion by Dr. Fred Gillham it was decided that it would be of interest for the foreign observers, Mr. Theo Herbert (representing the ITMF) and Dr. Justin Gutknecht (representing the IRCT) set forth some salient points on fiber quality, its evaluation and importance in industrial processing.

The delegates of the participating countries then formed themselves into working groups to consider each of the chosen subjects separately. These discussions culminated in specific recommendations on each subject. These are appended.

These recommendations were submitted to the assembly for discussion and were all approved with a number of additional suggestions made by the delegates.

At 8 o'clock in the evening the Chair closed the meeting after calling the delegates for 8 o'clock in the morning of November 5 to open the closing session of this meeting.

#### SUMMARY OF THE THIRD WORKING MEETING, HELD WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1986.

The meeting approved the reports of the first two sessions and unanimously decided to establish a coordinating committee under the chairmanship of Ing. Agr. Aldo Ricciardi to pursue the establishment of a network to carry out the recommended initiatives of the four working groups. Each country in the region is asked to provide the name of a representative on this committee before the end of the year.

The ICAC was asked to assist in seeking sources of funding for this committee and in organising a second regional meeting in not more than three years.

## WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS

The working group on GENETIC IMPROVEMENT submitted to the General Assembly which approved, the following considerations and recommendations in response to the need to increase genetic variability and technological knowledge for use in the breeding programs of the Latin American countries.

1. The preparation for distribution of a regional catalogue of the genetic material available in each country and its salient characteristics. This information will be coordinated by Dr. Jean Claude Follin, IRCT Technical Adviser in Paraguay.
2. The suggestion for consideration at a forthcoming meeting of the possibility of implementing a network of regional trials for the comparison of varieties.
3. That utmost importance be attached to exchanges of plant improvement specialists on short term assignments for the purpose of documentation and support in specific problems.
4. That EMBRAPA be asked to coordinate the receipt and subsequent publication of reports on projects for the genetic improvement of cotton.
5. A suggestion that the Latin American Meeting be held every three years.

The working group on PLANT PROTECTION submitted to the General Assembly which approved, the following considerations and recommendations in order to expedite the exchange of information and material on both botanical and zoological matters.

- 1) That an Information Committee be constituted in the ICAC for Latin America.
  - To centralize the reports and publications of the national and international bodies in one place.
  - To designate national representatives in interested countries to whom information would be sent for centralized handling and local dissemination.
  - a. Information in bulletins and brief reports on the advance of new pests in each country and the introduction of any new pest, pathogen or weed.
  - b. Harmonization of quarantine systems to permit exchanges of beneficial insects and entopathogens of greatest interest.
  - c. Status reports on cases of resistance to pesticides, with continual reporting of new cases and products attacked.
  - d. Establishment of records of pest and disease-resistant varieties of leading beneficial organisms.
  - e. Determination of technical catalogues of the products used against the leading pests and the dosages in which administered.
2. To place this dissemination on a formal basis it is suggested that:
  - A biennial guide to interested members be prepared.

- a summary be prepared for presentation in each biennial Latin American meeting of ICAC.

The working group on FIBER AND SEED QUALITY submitted to the General Assembly which approved, the following considerations and recommendations:

In regard to fiber quality:

- Recognition of the importance of redefining the concept of fiber quality to include contamination problems.
- The establishment of quality standards for use in the laboratories existing in the region.
- The performance, of trials for other countries in the region by countries with infrastructure already in place.
- The training of the technical and auxiliary staff for existing laboratories and those to be established
- Organisation of frequent meetings between teams of technologists and local/growers, ginners and industrial processors.
- Encourage basic studies on the nature of the cotton fiber (the nature of cellulose).
- Direction of research on the problem of short fibers, beginning with an evaluation of all the available material in Latin America, starting with the commercial varieties.
- Pursue studies on ginning in relation to the generation of short fibers.
- Intensification in the fiber laboratories of the region of specific studies on the significance of the connection between Micronaire and maturity and intrinsic fineness.
- The evaluation of strength by the 1/8" Gauge Stelometer.
- Promotion of spinning trials to evaluate fiber performance.
- Reevaluation of fiber marketing standards to take account not only of grade but also of the parameters of fiber quality and its uniformity in the bale.

In regard to seed quality:

- Training of personnel to begin evaluating basic qualities of seed prior to its distribution to growers.
- Establishment of routines for seed multiplication based on the introduction and generation of new varieties.
- Promotion of the adoption of interspecific standards for evaluation of the viability of seed.

The working group on TECHNOLOGY FOR SMALL FARMERS submitted to the General Assembly which approved, the following aspects, considerations and recommendations:

Who is the small grower?

Parameters:

- Very low education level.
- No capital
- Greatly dependent on others:

Owners  
Suppliers of services  
Traders in the commodity

- Employs labor of own family as well as hired hands, and needs to hire his own labor out in order to supplement the family income.
- Depends on primitive means of production, especially on animal traction and manual labor.
- Very low level of organization; persistently individualistic.

Diagnosis of problems

- The technology used by small growers is mostly rudimentary and, owing to the difficulty of access to high technology, there is some misapplication of what they are able to obtain.
- The main problem is social in nature, for this application of technology depends, in the end, on the level of education.
- The individualism of the growers and the small area of their holdings make technological improvement difficult owing to the arduousness of the work to be done and the large number of extension agents required to do it.

Considerations

- Technology is one more component of the problem.
- Progress in the formation of cooperatives and other associative arrangements among campesinos.
- Intensification of research, technology transfer and extension geared to the problems of small growers and adapted to each country, region and area.

Recommendation

That channels be established among the different countries for exchanges on the problems of the small grower and his social setting, toward the finding of solutions that will raise his standard of living.