

STRUCTURE OF THE SEEP PANEL

Background

The ICAC formed an Expert Panel on the Social, Environmental and Economic Performance (SEEP) following discussions during the Plenary Meeting held in Brazil in 2006. The decision to create an Expert Panel on SEEP grew out of information provided during the 65th Plenary Meeting in Brazil that agricultural production, including cotton production, can lead to degradation of soil and water, exposure of workers to harmful chemicals, and other negative impacts.

Terms of Reference

The ICAC Standing Committee approved the following terms of reference for the Expert Panel on SEEP:

- Provide the ICAC with objective, science-based information on the negative and positive social, environmental and economic aspects of global cotton production
- Gather information from around the world on costs of agricultural labor and the factors that affect those costs to assess their impacts on the social performance of cotton; and
- Make recommendations for further action as appropriate to improve the social, environmental and economic performance of the cotton industry.

Decisions made during the 1st SEEP Meeting

1. Environmental issues should cover:

- Pesticide use (noting that pesticide is to be defined broadly so as to include insecticides, herbicides, growth regulators and defoliants)
- Water use and management
- Soil management
- Production efficiency and energy usage
- Green house emissions
- Biodiversity

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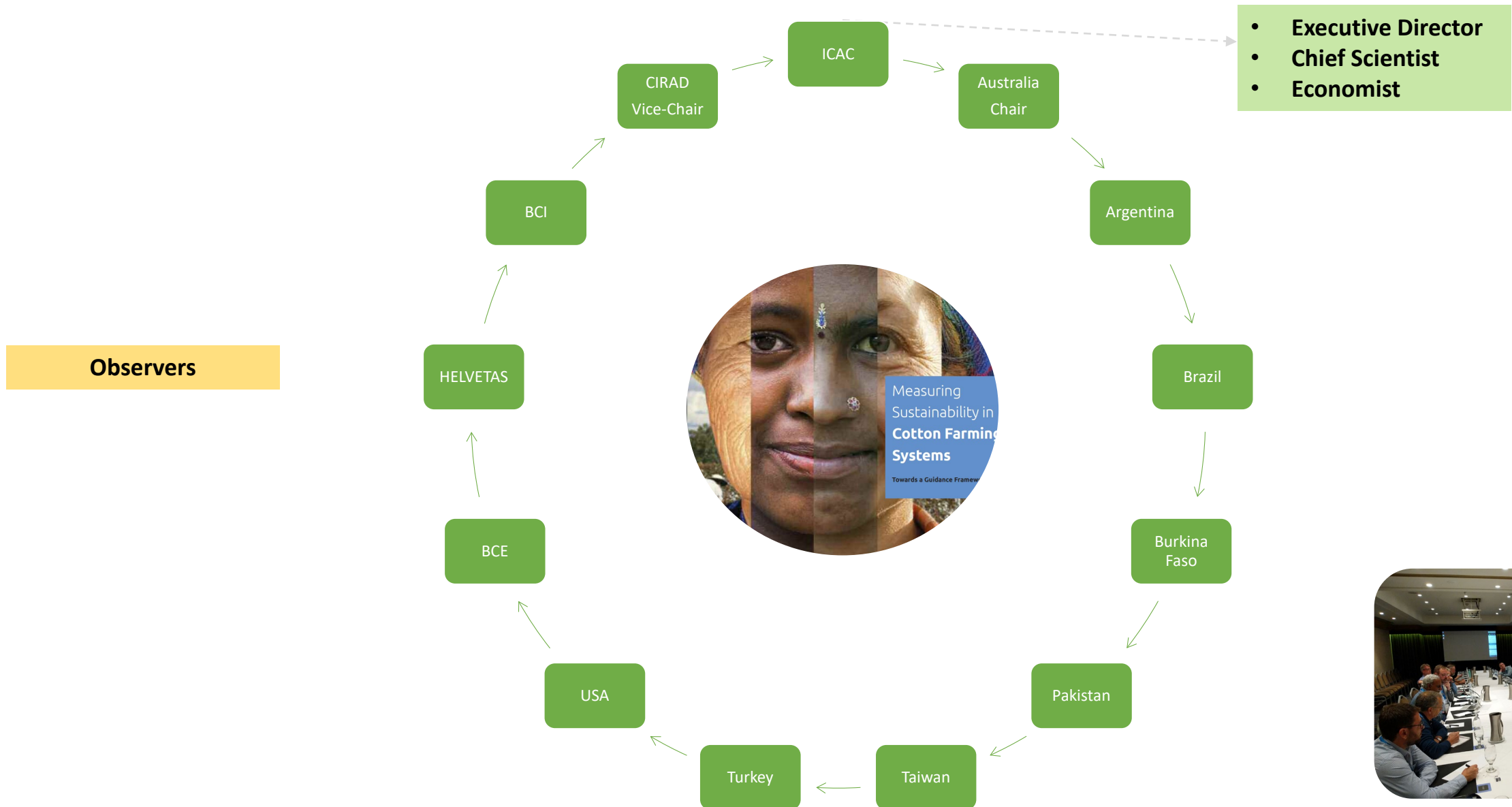
Decisions made during the 1st SEEP Meeting

2. it was suggested that the SEEP could adopt a *narrative approach* that identifies experiences that contribute to a positive outcome
3. The *role of SEEP is not to respond to specific criticisms* leveled at cotton production; rather it is to provide information to ICAC/Governments

Recruitment of Members

- The ICAC Secretariat *asked Member Governments* to nominate persons/experts from their countries with an interest and subject matter knowledge of the social, environmental and economic performance of cotton to serve on the Panel. Nominations were sent to the Secretariat via Coordinating Agencies or Standing Committee Delegates.
- The ICAC Secretariat *also contacted experts and interacted with interested organizations* to identify persons to serve on the Expert Panel on SEEP.
- It was agreed that the Panel will operate most effectively if it consists of between 7 and 12 people
- The panel membership has included government officials, representatives of the private sector, cotton producers, research organizations and cotton industry associations.
- All costs associated with participation in the work of the SEEP panel have been the responsibility of the members, as the ICAC does not provide funding for travel to meetings.

List of Current Members of the SEEP Panel



What is the best way to ensure the SEEP Panel has the resources required to undertake the identified priorities?

