



association cotonnière africaine
african cotton association

**MINUTES - MEETING OF A.C.A'S BUREAU, EXTENDED TO
MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE AT THE LUBBOCK CONFERENCE**

Lubbock, 23 September, 2010

I- Introduction

Alongside the 69th Plenary Session of the International Advisory Cotton Committee (IACC), Members of A.C.A's Bureau met on Wednesday, 22 September, 2010, at « HORIZON BALL ROOM A », on the 2nd Floor of OVERTON HOTEL, LUBBOCK. The meeting was extended to Members of the Association in attendance at that important international gathering, including key African cotton segment actors.

In attendance, were:

1- Members of the Bureau:

1. Ahmed Bachir DIOP, Managing Director of SODEFITEX, Senegal: A.C.A Chairman;
2. Mohamed IYA, Managing Director of SODECOTON, Cameroon: 1st Vice Chairman;
3. Ali Mohamed ABDIN, Managing Director of Sudan Cotton Company, Sudan: 2nd Vice Chairman;
4. Kokou DJAGNI, Managing Director of NSCT, Togo: Rapporteur.

2- A.C.A Members in attendance:

1. Augustin ZAGRE, of Burkina Faso, Representing Mr. Celestin TIENDREBEOGO, Managing Director of SOFITEX, Member of A.C.A. Management Committee;
2. Jolly SABUNE, Managing Director of Cotton Development Organization », UGANDA, Member of the Management Committee;
3. Marco MTUNGA, Acting Managing Director of Tanzanian Cotton Board, Tanzania, Representing Dr. Joe KABISSA, 4th A.C.A Vice Chairman;

3- A.C.A's Key Members:

1. Ali COMPAORE, Managing Director of SOCOMA, Burkina FASO;
2. Karim TRAORE, President of UNPCB and AICB, Burkina Faso;
3. Joseph NKOLE, Cotton Association of Zambia, Zambia;
4. Léopold MANIRAKIZA, Managing Director of COGERCO, BURUNDI.

4- Other Participants:

1. Mahamat KARAGAMA, of SODECOTON (Cameroon)
2. DESANTI Jean Gérard, of NSCT (Togo);
3. MWEETWA Christopher, of Cotton Association of Zambia, (Zambia)
4. Lassana KARGOUGOU, of SOFITEX (Burkina Faso).

5. Adéyèmi Achamou FAHALA, A.C.A. Permanent Secretary, Rapporteur of the meeting.

5- Invited but absent:

Mr. Boubacar BA, Commercial Director of CMDT (Mali), invited to represent Mr. Tiéna COULIBALI, 3rd A.C.A Vice Chairman, was unable to attend.

II- AGENDA

The meeting focused attention on the following points:

1. Report on activities conducted since the last A.C.A. Congress in Yaoundé;
2. Progress reports on arrangements about the Strategic Planning Meetings scheduled for Douala and Dar Es Salam, as well as Filling of Questionnaires.
3. Situation report on discussions with COS Cotton, in connection with support being sought for to cover the organisation of A.C.A's Technical Commissions.

III- PROCEEDINGS

First and foremost, the A.C.A Chairman requested for a round-the-table self presentation of participants.

Addressing the first topic of the agenda, the Chairman listed all the actions so far conducted in 2010.

He underlined the following issues, amongst others:

1. The A.C.A Strategic Plan Drafting Process, which started in February, 2010, through a launching and programming seminar, went ahead towards the adoption of the relevant implementation plan by the General Assembly of 12 March, 2010 in Yaoundé (Cameroon); the organisation of West Africa Regional Workshop held in Bamako (Mali), from 5 to 6 June, 2010 where participants were called upon to devote adequate time and efforts on the Central Africa Regional Workshop scheduled to hold in Douala (Cameroon), from 19 to 20 October, 2010 and the combined Regional Workshops for Eastern/Southern Africa and Northern Africa scheduled to hold in Dar Es Salam (Tanzania), from 28 to 29 October, 2010. Participants were particularly encouraged to complete the relevant questionnaires issued to them in order to provide their own contribution to the successful implementation of the process.
2. Progress so far recorded on the A.C.A – AProCA Agreement that was signed in August 2009 in Dakar (Senegal); several consultation meetings have taken place in 2010, including the one held in Bamako in June 2010, alongside the West Africa Strategic Plan Drafting Process Regional Workshop. The joint consultation drive embarked on by the two bodies resulted in a common stand on the disapproval of

the use of « Cotton Made In Africa » label by an NGO to identify cotton produced by a handful of African cotton companies it promotes. The A.C.A Chairman informed the participants that two protest letters had already been addressed to the NGO's leaders with no response so far. Participants unanimously supported the joint A.C.A/AProCA stand point on this issue and suggested that the A.C.A Chairman should impress upon the organizers of the 69th IACC Plenary Session about a possible declaration, on that occasion, to make a public and worldwide denunciation of this practice which may damage the African cotton image. See Annex N°1 for the A.C.A Declaration submitted to IACC.

3. The set-up of the five Technical Commissions (Agronomy, Classification-Metrology, Ginning, Transport and Marketing), two of which have already been officially installed and are actively working out joint and integrating projects for the benefit of A.C.A's Member Companies as a whole, namely: the Classification-Metrology Technical Commission, officially installed in Cotonou (Benin), during the 2nd Edition of African cotton « Quality Days », and the Agronomy Commission which held its first meeting on 13 April, 2010 in Ouagadougou, under the chairmanship of the A.C.A Chairman. Moreover, he informed participants about the arrangements being made to install the remaining three Commissions. In this regard, he stated that a representation was made to the European Union to obtain the necessary funding via Cos Cotton to hold the installation meetings of the Transport and Ginning Commissions, as well as the project drafting meeting of the Agronomy Commission. A similar action is in progress with ITC to obtain financial assistance for the installation meeting of the Marketing Commission.

Following these outlines, there were constructive discussions and comments. Subsequently, the Chairman asked the Permanent Secretary to enlighten participants on the other two topics on the agenda.

While speaking, the Permanent Secretary stated that:

With regard to the Central Africa Regional Workshop, in connection with the Strategic Plan Drafting Process, preparations are steadily in progress. All the necessary logistic arrangements are being concluded, while invited participants are progressively confirming their attendance. Some of them have completed the relevant questionnaires.

Discussions with Cos Cotton, regarding the required assistance to support the holding of the installation workshops of the A.C.A. Technical Commissions, are also in progress. The ToRs (Terms of Reference) conveyed to Cos Cotton are being amended, but the implementation of this project may have to be postponed to early 2011, following suggestion by Cos Cotton.