



association cotonnière africaine
african cotton association

Report on the
Participation of African Cotton Association (A.C.A) in the 69th
Plenary Session of the International Cotton Advisory Committee
(ICAC)

Lubbock, September, 2010

INTRODUCTION

The 69th Plenary Session of the ICAC took place in LUBBOCK, TEXAS, USA, from 20 to 25 September, 2010, based on the following theme: « **Cotton Industry Growth Through Global Unity**». In attendance were: 400 Participants, Representatives of 39 governments and 9 International Organisations. A.C.A took part in the Session as an International Organisation and was represented by the Chairman and Permanent Secretary.

I- Proceedings

Several papers were delivered while a good number of technical workshops were organised.

The theme of this Plenary Session centred on unity, which rightly summed up the need to cater, without discrimination, for the common interests of all the stakeholders in the multifaceted cotton field, namely the farmers, ginner, traders, textile mills and consumers. (For further information, please refer to the attached Plenary Session's Declaration).

Amongst the distinguished delegates were several members of the A.C.A. Management Committee who had the privilege to represent their Government, namely: Mr. Mohammed IYA, 1st Vice Chairman of A.C.A, who represented Cameroon, Mr. Abdin Mohammed ALI, 2nd Vice Chairman of A.C.A, representing the Government of Sudan, Mr. Kokou K. DJAGNI, Rapporteur of A.C.A and Togo's representative, Mrs. Jolly SABUNE, representing Uganda, Mr. Marco MTUNGA, Acting Managing Director of Tanzanian Cotton Board, replacing Dr. Joe KABISSA, 4th Vice Chairman of A.C.A, representing the Tanzanian Government and Mr. Augustin ZAGRE, Purchase Manager of SOFITEX, who led the Burkina Faso delegation.

On the occasion of this Session, the ICAC admitted a new member, Mozambique.

Full of optimism, the ICAC's Secretary General «**stated that cotton production is expected to grow by 16% during 2010/11, following the substantial increase in cotton price during the last seasonal campaign. Similarly, the industrial consumption of cotton has resumed the upward trend after having fallen to the lowest level due to the world recession, while cotton related trading worldwide is steadily growing thanks to the increase in demands.** »

He forecasted that the average price of cotton, during the current seasonal campaign, will be the highest since 1994/95 seasonal campaign. But, he said, as a warning signal, that, according to preliminary forecasts on the 2011/12 seasonal campaign, stocks are likely to build up again, with the possible fall in price.

He announced that the 70th ICAC Plenary Session will take place in Argentina in September 2011..

For information purpose, the following are the Member Governments of ICAC: **South Africa, Germany, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, China (Taiwan), Colombia, South Korea, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Spain, United States of America, Finland, France, Greece, India, Iran, Israel, Italia, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Mali,**

Mozambique, Nigeria, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, Netherlands, Poland, Russia, Sudan, Switzerland, Syria, Tanzania, Chad, Togo, Turkey, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Towards the end of the event, a technical tour was organised for the participants in order to discover the cotton development and production capacities in the State of Texas in particular and in the United States in general.

II- A.C.A's Address

Within the framework of the ICAC Session, Members of the A.C.A's Bureau who were present in LUBBOCK held a meeting, which was extended to other A.C.A's Members who came to attend the Session. Other key operators in the African cotton sector, members of A.C.A, were also invited to the meeting. In conclusion, it was resolved at the meeting that the A.C.A Chairman make a declaration at the ICAC Plenary Session, with the purpose of, amongst others, denouncing the use of « **Cotton Made In Africa** » label by an NGO which is trying to promote the cotton brand produced under its umbrella, whereas the label does not actually cover all the cotton brands being produced in Africa as a whole.

III- Bilateral meetings organised by A.C.A

Alongside the ICAC's Session, the Association leadership held bilateral meetings with International Organisations in order to strengthen existing cooperation and partnership relations.

In this vein, the A.C.A-ITC meeting was devoted to reviewing actions conducted and those being jointly prepared for during 2010, on the one hand, and to examine actions to be planned for against 2011. To be more specific, ITC supported A.C.A, throughout the year, to hold the following events:

1. Second Edition of the African cotton « Quality Days », in Cotonou, Benin, January 2010, by financing the participation of a powerful Asian delegation;
2. Launching and programming workshop for the A.C.A Strategic Plan Drafting Process in February, 2010, Dakar, Senegal ;
3. Organisation of the West African Regional Workshop in Bamako, Mali, from 5 to 6 June, 2010;

During the said meeting in LUBBOCK, ITC accepted, in principle, to keep supporting A.C.A in connection with the:

1. Organisation of the Central African Regional Workshop scheduled to take place in Douala, Cameroon, from 19 to 20 October, 2010;
2. Organisation of the combined Eastern/Southern Africa and Northern Africa Regional Workshops slated to take place in Dar Es Salam, Tanzania, from 28 to 29 October, 2010;

3. Organisation of the A.C.A Strategic Plan Validation Workshop planned for 1st and 2nd December, 2010 in Dakar, Senegal;
4. Organisation of the Marketing Commission Installation Workshop scheduled for 3 and 4 December, 2010;
5. Organisation, in 2011, of several activities, prominent amongst which are: an experience sharing and trade promotion mission in China, for the benefit of Members of A.C.A.'s Management Committee.

Furthermore, a joint A.C.A-ICAC meeting made it possible to reset on course cooperation drive between the two institutions in respect of issues such as the creation of A.C.A Web Site, which will be located within the ICAC Web Site, and the set-up of discussions forums where the Association's technical commissions could exchange on technical issues, pending the finalisation of the A.C.A Web Site restructuring now in progress.