

MINUTES OF THE 9TH MEETING OF THE SOUTHERN AND EASTERN AFRICAN COTTON FORUM (SEACF)

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania 7 April 2008

1. WELCOME

Dr Graham Thompson (SEACF chairman) and Dr Joe Kabissa of the Tanzanian Cotton Board welcomed all delegates to the 9th SEACF meeting. This is the second time round that this meeting is hosted by Tanzania – previously it was in 2001 in Arusha. Dr Kabissa mentioned that SEACF was established in 1994 during the 1st WCRC in Brisbane and noted that the Forum is flourishing and commended the contribution of and inspiration of Dr Rafiq Chaudry of ICAC. Dr Kabissa thanked the SEACF secretariat, currently based in South Africa for their devotion to the forum and efforts to ensure that the forum remains successful. Dr Kabissa also welcomed the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Co-operations, Mr Peniel Lyimo, for his attendance and the opening of the 9th meeting of SEACF.

2. OPENING

The Permanent Secretary (PS) of the Tanzanian Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Cooperatives, Mr Peniel Lyimo, welcomed Dr Thompson, Dr Rafiq Chaudry, Dr Kabissa (2008 SEACF host) and all delegates to Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The PS expressed his appreciation towards the SEACF secretariat for organizing this meeting. The PS invited the delegates to explore in Dar es Salaam and surroundings in their free time, because a lot of development has taken place since the 2001 meeting. Mr Lyimo reconfirmed the purpose of the Forum: the promotion of cotton production through the alleviation of production constraints through research, training and addressing market related issues. The Ministry welcomes the initiative of exploring these

initiatives and possibilities to increase cotton production by small-scale farmers. He emphasized that we as researches should put all options on the table in terms of solutions, but should also look at constraints. Production by small-holders can significantly be improved through technologies. Productivity in sub-Saharan Africa is still very low and we have a long way to go to improve this and in terms of competitiveness. Cotton production in Tanzania has been fluctuating since the commodity markets were liberated and it is necessary to look at the affordability on the input supply side of cotton production. Tanzania has the goal to significantly increase its cotton production by 2010 and is now focussing more on total value chain to increase production and productivity. It is recognized that an increase in production has to go hand in hand with more stable markets. Marketing is extremely important and goes hand in hand with processing.

The Permanent Secretary declared forum officially open and wished delegates fruitful deliberations.

3. OPENING ADDRESS

Dr Rafiq Chaudry from the ICAC gave a presentation on the – World cotton production trends. See attachment C.

4. CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS

Dr Graham Thompson mentioned that it is two years since the last SEACF meeting that was hosted by South Africa. The major activity of secretariat was the organization of this meeting and workshop. The secretariat also tried to establish the database of scientists in the region, but with limited success.

5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Dr Thompson thanked Dr Kabissa and his organizing committee as well as SEACF secretariat for all their efforts in organizing this meeting and workshop. The following sponsors were acknowledged:

- ICAC
- Organic exchange and
- Cargill
- Tanzanian Cotton Board

6. APOLOGIES AND PRESENTATION

The presence list is attached as Attachment A to these minutes.

The following apologies were received:

- Lastus Serunjogi (Uganda)
- Ms Jolly Sabune (Uganda)
- Mr Ridwan Mohammed (Ethiopia)
- Mr Nyamande Mapope (Zimbabwe)
- Dr Deon Joubert (South Africa)
- Mr Hein Schroder (South Africa)
- Mr Phil Monday (Organic Exchange – South Africa)

7. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

None.

8. MINUTES OF THE 7TH MEETING HELD ON 13 MAY 2004

The minutes were circulated prior to the meeting and the following corrections are noted:

8.3 – Ms Lubwama instead of Dr Lubwama

Apologies: Happymore Mapara

Attendance list: Mr Mrosso and not Dr. Mrosso

TCB (Tanzanian cotton board) and not TCLB.

Mr Danie Olivier suggested that the minutes be accepted and it was seconded by Ms Lubwama.

9. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

See attachment B.

10. INVITED PAPERS

10.1.SADC Cotton Diseases Project

Ms Jody Terblanche presented a paper on the SADC diseases project and the progress with the project. The paper on the presentation is available in Attachment D of these minutes.

10.2.Cotton cultivars for Africa

Mr Danie Oliver of Monsanto in South Africa presented on the topic and emphasized that all cotton producing countries in Africa are involved with breeding and that Monsanto would like to cooperate with these institutions. Complete presentation is available in Attachment E of these minutes.

11. Country reports

Country reports were presented by Ethiopia, Namibia, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Reports are available in Attachment F of these minutes and each delegate received an electronic copy of these during the meeting.

12. New matters

12.1.Election of chairman and secretariat

It was unanimously decided that Dr Thompson will continue as chairman of SEACF

12.2.Election of secretary

It was unanimously decided that it should remain in South Africa and Annette Swanepoel will continue with this function.

12.3. Election of country representatives

- The following country representatives have been elected:
 - Ethiopia – Mr Ridwan
 - Malawi – Dr Banda
 - Namibia - Mr Alweendo/Ms Basalia Shipepa
 - Sudan – Professor Babiker
 - South African – Annette Swanepoel
 - Tanzania – Mr Marco Mtunga
 - Uganda – Ms Lubwama
 - Zambia – Mr Chita
 - Zimbabwe – Mr Rob Jarvis
- The Secretariat will contact the countries not present.

13. General

It was discussed whether we should not better organize with other organizations also organizing events, e.g. upcoming organic workshop in Uganda.

14. Next meeting

Zambia and Uganda has been suggested. Both nominees will have to take the suggestion back to their respective management. Local organizing committee is responsible for venue, meals, excursion and obtaining local sponsorships. The local organizing committee will also responsible for logistical arrangements with regard to accommodation, airport transfers and other transport. It was put to vote and Zambia won the vote. Richard Ngoshe will take this to Mr Chita and should come back to the secretariat within one month.

It was also proposed that meetings be held near to Research Stations so that the group can visit field trials.

It was also suggested that in the future more critically examine the topical issues in cotton research.

15. Closing

The chairman closes the meeting and thanked all delegates for their attendance and participation in the meeting.

ATTACHMENT A. ATTENDANCE REGISTER FOR SEACF MEETING 7 APRIL 2008

Last name	First name	Title	Company & address	Telephone	Fax	Email	Alternative email
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Tovignon	Silvere	Dr	Organic Exchange			silvere@organicexchange.org	

ATTACHMENT B.

9. Matters arising from the previous minutes

Matter		Resolution/decision	Responsibility
9.1	Regional germplasm database and exchange programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The purpose is to bring researchers together, because there is not an international cotton research institute There is a definite need and it is essential to establish such a database, liaise with the member countries and to exchange germplasm.• It should form part of ICAC's initiative: 3-4 from northern hemisphere and 3-4 from southern hemisphere and pair them – winter cropping• Establish a task team together with breeders from SA and Zimbabwe,	SEACF secretariat ICAC

		Ethiopia and Sudan	
9.2	Funding for SEACF secretariat and meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funds for hosting the meetings remain problematic. • Dr Kabissa is supporting the initiative and suggest examine the issue extensively and Tanzania are willing to support. • Draft a proposal and circulate through country representatives • Decided USD 1000 for two year period – should be coupled as membership fee and if paid will can qualify for sponsorship 	The SEACF secretariat will write a letter to the relevant SEACF institutions explaining the challenges in administering SEACF.
9.3	SEACF newsletter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The newsletter is a valuable form of dissemination of technology amongst the scientists. • Publication of the newsletter remains the responsibility of the Secretariat • The newsletter should be published 	SEACF Secretariat Scientists Country representatives

		<p>at least two times a year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country representatives should coordinate this in their relevant countries • Newsletter should be distributed electronically via the SEACF list server (seacf@lists.icac.org) • Anybody who wishes to join the list should contact Rafiq Chaudry 	
- +9.4	Nematode survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed 	
9.5	Database for scientists in the region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will once again send forms to delegates and country representatives who will be responsible to circulate in their relevant countries 	Secretariat All