



From the Secretariat

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16th CSITC ROUND TRIAL COMPLETED

The 16th Round Trial under the auspices of the Task Force on Commercial Standardization of Instrument Testing of Cotton (CSITC RT 2010-4) was conducted from October to December 2010.

The number of active participants in the CSITC Round Trials increased to a new record of 80 testing facilities with 127 instruments worldwide.

For CSITC RT 2010-4, the typical inter-laboratory variation achieved by instrument testing, given as standard deviations, were:

Property	Standard Deviation based on Single Tests	Standard Deviation based on 30 Tests/Sample
Micronaire	0.075 mic	0.061 mic
Strength	1.25 g/tex	1.11 g/tex
Length	0.018 inches	0.014 inches
Length Unif.	0.88 units	0.64 units
Color Rd	1.46 units	1.40 units
Color +b	0.53 units	0.50 units

Due to the USDA-AMS donation of new micronaire calibration material to all participating laboratories, it was possible to significantly decrease the inter-laboratory variation for Micronaire for all tested cottons.

Unfortunately the inter-laboratory variation in color results (Reflectance Rd and yellowness +b) increased slightly with the increased number of participating instruments.

Laboratories are given an overall ranking based on their combined performance over all six properties, as well as rankings for performance on each of the six parameters. Detailed diagnostic results are provided to each participating laboratory to assist instrument operators in improving performance.

Results for each test center are confidential. Rankings are based on the results of each lab in coming closest to the mean (average) values for all laboratories participating in the Round Trial on all six parameters.

The range of scores for the combined properties among the 127 instruments in RT 2010-4 was 0.29 to 4.47 (a score of zero would be perfect), and the median overall evaluation of the combined properties was 0.60.

All public results can be viewed at csitc.org → CSITC Round Trials → Round Trial Results.

Registration for the 2011 Round Trials has already reached 98 testing facilities. New participants can enroll by going on line to csitc.org, filling out the participation form and emailing it to drieling@faserinstitut.de with copy to CSITCsecretariat@icac.org.

The ICAC Task Force on Commercial Standardization of Instrument Testing of Cotton (CSITC) conducts quarterly round trials to help establish international standardization of cotton classification based on the Universal Calibration Cotton Standards in order to promote efficiency in cotton production and marketing. All cotton testing centers around the world are encouraged to participate to ensure that their cotton testing results using high volume instruments are on the same level of accuracy and precision as other testing centers. Participation in the CSITC round trials is being sponsored through a project worth \$7.9 million involving the

Common Fund for Commodities and the European Community, as well as the International Cotton Advisory Committee, the United States Department of Agriculture and the Fiber Institute of Bremen, Germany.

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The Secretariat of the Committee publishes information related to world cotton production, supply, demand and prices, and provides technical information on cotton production technology. Detailed statistics are found bimonthly in *COTTON: Review of the World Situation*, \$185 per year via email, \$225 per year in hard copy. A monthly outlook is available by email for \$295 per year. Access to the latest weekly estimates of world cotton supply and use by the Secretariat is available on the Internet for \$460 per year. Access Secretariat reports at <www.icac.org>.