



INTERNATIONAL COTTON ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Standing Committee
Washington, DC

SC-M-401 Final
November 30, 1993

MINUTES

401st Meeting of the Standing Committee
Tuesday, November 16, 1993
Room F-1244, World Bank, 1818 H Street NW
Washington, DC

PRESENT:

- Mr. Ali Karume (in the Chair)
- Mr. Colin Adams, Australia
- Mr. Martin Mbeng, Cameroon
- Mr. Calvin Chang, China (Taiwan)
- Mr. Francois Riegert, France
- Mr. Karlheinz Liebsch, Germany
- Mr. Petros Kontos, Greece
- Mr. Anil K. Sharma, India
- Ms. Antonieta Romero, Mexico
- Mr. Ovidio C. Otazu, Paraguay
- Mr. Alfredo Valencia, Peru
- Mr. Johan Grobbelaar, South Africa
- Mr. Abdalla Khidir Bashir, Sudan
- Mr. Kenneth Howland, USA
- Ms. Lana Bennett, USA
- Mr. Ed Marcott, USA
- Mr. Edwin Mubataripi, Zimbabwe
- Dr. Lawrence H. Shaw, Executive Director
- Mr. Federico Arriola, Administrative Officer
- Mr. Carlos Valderrama, Economist
- Dr. Rafiq Chaudhry, TIS
- Ms. Rosa-Marina Soper, Secretariat

The CHAIRMAN in calling the meeting to order extended his thanks to delegates to the Standing Committee for having proposed him as Chairman for the coming year. He assured delegates that they would be able to work together, indicating his support to them and asking for their support to continue to carry out the work of the ICAC.

The CHAIRMAN recognized persons attending a meeting of the Standing Committee for the first time: Ms. Antonieta Romero of Mexico; Mr. François Riegert of France; and Mr. Ovidio Otazu of Paraguay.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The CHAIRMAN noted that a proposed Agenda had been prepared for the meeting, and asked delegates for their views regarding the adoption of the Agenda.

The delegate of the USA asked that an item of other business be added to the Agenda, in order for the

USA to present a special study request to the Technical Information Section of the Secretariat.

The delegate of GREECE took the opportunity, as it was the first meeting under Mr. Karume's chairmanship to congratulate the Chairman on his election and to wish him the best of success with his new task.

The delegate of PERU also congratulated the Chairman on his appointment and asked to make a statement under other business which would take 15 minutes.

The CHAIRMAN asked delegates for their comments on the proposed addition of an item on other business to the Agenda by the USA and Peru separately, and there was no objection expressed. The Agenda was adopted as so amended.

2. Consideration of Sponsorship of Projects for Common Fund Financing

Before opening the floor to delegates, the CHAIRMAN asked the Executive Director to provide delegates with the current situation regarding action on the sponsoring of projects presented to the ICAC in 1993. The Executive Director summarized Attachment I, which had been mailed with the notice of the meeting on October 21, and an addition to Attachment I, which had been faxed to delegates on November 9. He added that the Secretariat had received the additional rankings of three countries, Cameroon, Germany and South Africa, and that the current average rankings of the six projects remaining for consideration, based on nine countries' rankings, was as follows:

1. Integrated Approach to Cotton Stickiness (Average Ranking = 2.62)
2. Genome Characterization of Geminiviruses of Cotton (2.75)
3. Comprehensive Cotton Textile Technical Guide (2.87)
4. Water Management in Arid Regions (3.00)
5. Prospects of Mediterranean Cotton (4.75)
6. Computer-aided Crop Management (4.81)

The CHAIRMAN expressed his view that it would not be wise for the ICAC to submit all the projects it received to the Common Fund, as this action would abrogate the ICAC's responsibility to select projects He asked for the views of delegates.

The delegate of the USA supported the Chairman's statement, noting that the Executive Director had indicated at the 400th Meeting that there would be a finite amount of money available for cotton projects. He proposed that the four projects with the highest priority be forwarded to the Common Fund.

The delegate of GREECE referred to the project Prospects of Mediterranean Cotton and reiterated the comments of the Executive Director that the Government of Greece was providing 50% of the funds for the project, with the remainder being requested from the Common Fund. He noted that the project would also be of benefit to other countries in the Mediterranean region, namely Spain, Syria, Turkey, Egypt and Israel. He considered the project, which was to address the production of cotton in the new environment of changing world trade, increasing costs of production and rising environmental concerns, as consistent with the selection criteria and a fair geographical distribution. The delegate referred to the comments of the delegate of Spain at the 400th Meeting of the Standing Committee that projects should not be judged only based on the amount of money required but should also consider the value of the benefits provided.

The delegate of GREECE then presented his government's ranking of the six projects: Mediterranean Cotton, 1; Textile Guide, 2; Stickiness, 3; Water Management, 4; Genome Characterization, 5; and Computer-aided Crop Management, 6.

The delegate of PERU said the Committee should not overlook the fact that member governments have

been stimulated to present projects. He referred to his comments at the 400th Meeting regarding the project on Water Management, that the World Bank was involved in many projects on irrigation, and urged investigation of the relationship of this project to the World Bank's work to avoid any duplication of effort.

The CHAIRMAN sympathized with the need to avoid duplication but expressed concern that the investigation of the work of other institutions would probably prevent the Committee from getting on with its main task of deciding which projects to refer to the Common Fund.

The delegate of the USA noted that a process for the consideration of projects had been adopted and followed. He said his concern about the Mediterranean project was that the Committee might be overreaching the funds available for cotton, due to its \$2.5 million request.

The delegate of FRANCE spoke to the issue of the amount of funds being requested both as a representative of France and as a former Alternate Executive Director of the Executive Board of the Common Fund. He noted that there was not a ceiling as such for a commodity, but rather the Common Fund was looking for projects which were being cofinanced by other organizations and which were targeted toward developing countries, especially, if possible, toward the least developed countries. He added that the cofinancing requirement was both to maximize the benefit of the Common Fund's resources and to invest in projects which other organizations had considered meriting of their financial support.

While he was not in favor of drawing a line between the projects which the ICAC would sponsor and those which it would not, the delegate of FRANCE expressed concerns about the Mediterranean project, as it provided benefits to developed countries. He noted that the Common Fund had visited this issue in a project on olive oil, where it was decided that a project must be of primary benefit to developing countries but could have spill-over benefits for developed countries. He said he was prepared to support the project but said it was necessary to be aware of the Common Fund's already elaborated policies on such projects. He presented France's priority ranking as follows: Stickiness, 1; Genome Characterization, 2; Textile Guide, 3; Water Management, 4; Mediterranean Cotton, 5; and Computer-aided Crop Management, 6.

Following up the remarks by the French representative, the delegate of GREECE assured delegates that the Mediterranean project would benefit several developing countries and expressed his support to the proposal by Peru for avoiding duplication of efforts with other organizations, namely the World Bank.

The delegate of CHINA (TAIWAN) presented his government's ranking of projects as follows: Stickiness, 1; Textile Guide, 2; Computer-aided Crop Management, 3; Mediterranean Cotton, 4; Genome Characterization, 5; and Water Management, 6.

The delegate of SOUTH AFRICA ascertained that his government's rankings had been received by the Secretariat and were included. The delegate of GERMANY noted that the project presented by the Faserinstitut Bremen still had high priority for his government but had been temporarily withdrawn. The delegate of AUSTRALIA provided a new ranking for two projects, Water Management, 4, and Genome Characterization, 3, and inquired about the availability of the intellectual property rights of the Genome Characterization project. He also expressed the concern that, where centralized testing is envisaged as part of a project, such testing should be undertaken as close as possible to breeders.

The Executive Director noted that the Common Fund had required in other projects that the results of projects be freely available to the member countries of the Common Fund and the sponsoring commodity organization. He also referred to the comments which he had made at the 400th Meeting that there might be roughly \$4 million available to cotton a year and stressed the fact that the Common Fund did not endorse this calculation, which was commonly made by the Commodity Bodies. He asked the delegate of France to comment on the amount of money available for cotton, based on his experience as a member of the Common Fund's Executive Board.

The delegate of FRANCE said that there was no limit of funds for a commodity in place at the Common Fund currently. Perhaps after several years, if most of the funds had gone to one or two commodities, the distribution of funds among commodities would have to be addressed.

The CHAIRMAN concluded that the Committee should not be too worried about the amounts of money being requested and asked delegates for their views regarding whether all projects should be sponsored or only some.

The delegate of the USA said his government supported the process of assigning priorities to projects and said that any limit to the number of projects presented would have to be based on some quantitative requirement.

The delegate of SOUTH AFRICA said that it probably didn't matter whether the ICAC sponsored five or six projects, however it would matter if the Committee had received 20 projects and forwarded them all to the Common Fund. The delegate of AUSTRALIA asked the total amount of funds involved if all projects were sponsored. It was noted that the six projects in total involved a request for \$10 million.

The CHAIRMAN asked the Executive Director to present the new combined rankings, including those presented by delegates at this meeting. He reported that the projects were now ranked as follows:

1. Integrated Approach to Cotton Stickiness (Average Ranking = 2.36)
2. Comprehensive Cotton Textile Technical Guide (2.73)
3. Genome Characterization of Geminiviruses of Cotton (3.00)
4. Water Management in Arid Regions (3.55)
5. Prospects of Mediterranean Cotton (4.36)
6. Computer-aided Crop Management (4.86)

The delegates of FRANCE, PERU, CAMEROON, GREECE and the USA supported the sponsoring of all six projects. After giving delegates the opportunity to make any other comments, the CHAIRMAN concluded that it was the decision of the Standing Committee that the ICAC should sponsor all six projects and forward them together with the average priority ranking to the Common Fund.

3. Presentation of Priority Areas for Common Fund Projects in 1994

The CHAIRMAN asked the Executive Director to present information on this item of the Agenda. The Executive Director summarized Attachment II, referring to the procedures adopted at the 393rd Meeting for the consideration of projects for Common Fund financing and the process followed in 1993.

The USA presented the following statement of its priorities for projects in 1994:

"U.S. Recommendation for Priority Project Areas for Common Fund Financing in 1994
Prepared for the Special Standing Committee Meeting of November 16, 1993

"Last year in presenting recommendations for priority project areas for Common Fund financing, the U.S. delegation made the following statement:

'The well-being of the cotton industry and returns to cotton producers are inextricably tied to the market for fibers worldwide. It benefits cotton producers to be responsive to the continuing and changing demands of their customers, and to take initiatives in the present which can positively affect demand in the future. It is also our view that in the context of international organizations, funding recommendations should, to the maximum extent possible, reflect global interests.'

"These observations still hold true.

"During the 52nd Plenary Meeting held in New Delhi last month, papers were presented and statements were made by delegates concerning the idea of expanding cotton consumption worldwide, how this objective might be achieved, and how it might be financed. The conclusions of the Advisory Committee in this regard were summarized in the Statement of the 52nd Plenary Meeting as follows:

'The members of the Committee confirmed the importance of market development work for cotton. The Secretariat was instructed to develop a project proposal for Common Fund financing for an expert group to recommend a practical way of implementing future programs.'

"Through this directive, the Advisory Committee has in effect established a top priority for Common Fund financing. The United States supports this priority and submits the following recommendations for additional priority areas of study:

- Establishment of a data base to determine the incidence of residues of pesticides and other chemicals in raw fiber, as well as in yarns and fabrics after finishing; to make comparisons with manmade fibers; and to devise methods for mitigating any undesirable residues identified.
- Establishment of a data base to assess the environmental impacts, in terms of liquid and solid waste, of both cotton and synthetic fiber production as they relate to the product, the atmosphere, the land, and general health. This data base would profile the chemical, water and energy inputs to fibers production.
- Application research to develop new products for cotton."

The Executive Director noted that the Secretariat had received an indication of priority interest from South Africa in the identification of the technical requirements for viable small cotton farming in Southern Africa.

The delegate of AUSTRALIA noted that the priorities submitted at the special meeting in January 1993 still held. He said his government would like to concentrate on general areas of priority as follows:

Transfer of technology

Pest management and the development of an Integrated Pest Management strategy

Breeding and yield constraints

Genetics

Fiber Technology

Water Management

The delegate noted that projects might be presented which would address several or all of these areas.

The delegate of GREECE said it was self-evident that the projects already presented by governments represented their priority interests and such was the case regarding the priorities of the Greek government. He also noted that the first and second areas of priority of the USA involving chemical residues and environmental impacts were also the priorities addressed in the Greek project.

The CHAIRMAN said that he was glad to see the commonality of the Greek project and the priorities of the USA. He said it was important that the output of projects should be of benefit to a number of countries.

In response to an inquiry from the delegate of SOUTH AFRICA, the Executive Director noted that the priority areas of interest presented at this meeting would be circulated to all member countries for ranking in a 30 day period. In view of the limited number of areas of interest presented at the meeting, the Executive

Director suggested that a few more days be made available for member countries to forward their areas of interest to the Secretariat. The delegate of the USA stressed the need to follow the timetable prescribed by the Committee's procedures for the consideration of projects. The Executive Director referred to the limited number of countries which presented rankings of areas of interest in 1993 and urged delegates both to submit rankings and to follow the timetable so that the combined rankings represented the views of all members of the ICAC.

The CHAIRMAN concluded the discussion by noting that the areas of priority interest presented would in a few days be circulated to all member countries for their rankings and he urged delegates to present their rankings of the areas to the Secretariat in a timely manner. He said that the combined areas of interest would be presented to the Standing Committee following this process.

4. Other Business

The delegate of the USA noted the growing interest around the world in organically-produced cotton. He made the following request:

"Special Study Request for the ICAC Secretariat's Technical Information Section

"Development of a compendium of the most significant research on organically grown cotton with information on methodology and comparative data on yields, cost of production, inputs and constraints which lead to conclusions regarding feasibility in a spectrum of environmental settings."

The delegate said that hopefully the USA was not calling for a monumental study.

The CHAIRMAN proposed that the request be circulated to all the member countries and an opportunity provided for them to make comments on the request at the next meeting.

The delegate of PERU made a detailed statement referring to the period from 1984 to July 1988, a period in which he noted that only he among current delegates had served on the Standing Committee, in which he characterized the Executive Director's behavior in 1992/93 up to and including the 1993 Plenary Meeting as arrogant, megalomaniac and insulting. He referred to a number of documents including the Proceedings of the 43rd and 46th Plenary Meetings; a communication from the Executive Director dated September 16, 1993; the deliberations of the Search Committee for a new Executive Director in 1985-86; a letter and other documents from an employee who was dismissed for unsatisfactory conduct; the American Express credit card statement of the Executive Director in the fourth quarter of 1987; Working Papers III, IV and VIA of the 52nd Plenary Meeting; and a letter regarding the settlement of arrears from the Executive Director to the delegate of Peru dated October 6, 1993. The delegate called for a working group to be formed to investigate his charges and for a new Plenary Meeting to be called under Article III, Section 2 of the Rules and Regulations.

The CHAIRMAN expressed his surprise that such a serious matter would be presented under "Other Business." While he had not attended the 52nd Plenary Meeting, he noted that the Plenary Meeting was the highest authority of the ICAC and that the decisions of the Plenary Meeting were final. He asked the Executive Director to comment.

The Executive Director said the best response which he could make to the matters raised by the delegate of Peru was to summarize the decisions of the Steering Committee at the 52nd Plenary Meeting for the benefit of delegates to the Standing Committee [Copies of the proceedings of the meetings of the Steering Committee, which are in publication, were distributed to delegates at the Standing Committee Meeting.] He reported that the Steering Committee, which was the highest authority of the ICAC, took decisions in four areas: First, with regard to the Calculation of the Scale of Assessments, 22 countries at the Plenary

Meeting opposed any change in the Rules regarding the calculation of assessments and only one country supported a change. It was therefore decided to keep the calculation of assessments as currently called for under the Rules. Second, with regard to the Work Program and Budget of the Committee, 17 countries spoke to reject the "Decisions" taken by the Standing Committee in an executive session at the 400th Meeting on September 23. One country spoke in favor of these decisions. Two countries expressed concern about the lack of communication between the Standing Committee and the capitals of member countries. As a result, the Advisory Committee expressed its confidence in the staff and work of the Secretariat and rejected the "Decisions" taken on September 23. With regard to the issue of financial oversight, it was agreed that there should be a broad issue of authority from the Standing Committee to the Executive Director. It was further decided that all Agenda papers be circulated directly to representatives in capitals as well as to delegates to the Standing Committee and that representatives in capitals be able to communicate their views on Agenda items directly to the Chairman of the Standing Committee and the Secretariat as well as to delegates to the Standing Committee. Third, the Steering Committee accepted the recommendation of the Standing Committee that Mr. Karume be elected Chairman of the Standing Committee; Mr. Yawata, First Vice Chairman; and Mr. Adams, Second Vice Chairman. And fourth, delegates to the Plenary Meeting expressed their full confidence in the direction of the Executive Director and offered him a new five year contract beginning January 1, 1994. Simultaneously with the new contract, a salary comparability study was to be begun by an agency mutually agreeable to the Standing Committee and the Executive Director, language later modified to be an agency selected by the Standing Committee in consultation with the Executive Director in order to ensure an objective study, to be completed in six months time.

The Chairman, speaking as the delegate of TANZANIA, said that, as a member of the Standing Committee, he sought to do the bidding of the Tanzania Cotton Marketing Board, although there were times that communication was not possible. He said he had full confidence in the decisions of the 52nd Plenary Meeting, in which a strong delegation from Tanzania, headed by an official two or three times his senior in the Tanzanian civil service, had participated.

The CHAIRMAN then said that a concern had been raised by a delegate and the Standing Committee should address it. He asked delegates for their views regarding the resolution of the problem.

The delegate of the USA said the comments of the delegate of Peru were very serious. He said the Standing Committee should wait to receive the full paper from the delegate and for the paper to be circulated to representatives in capitals. In addition, he said, the Executive Director should be given the opportunity to study the paper from Peru and make his considered response.

The delegate of the USA added that he felt it was unfortunate that the Chairman of the Standing Committee was not able to attend the Plenary Meeting. He said there was a lot of misinformation and a lack of understanding of the Standing Committee's actions at the Plenary Meeting, due to poor communication between the Standing Committee and authorities in capitals prior to the Plenary Meeting. He said the issues underlying the Standing Committee's "Decisions" remain, commenting that there needed to be a defined pay system for the Secretariat staff and that he was aware of no other international organizations that did not have such a system. Furthermore, there had to be in place a method for auditing the fiscal operations of the Secretariat responsive to the needs of the Standing Committee and a better understanding of the budget by the Committee through greater transparency and to assure effective use of appropriated funds of member governments. He made the point that the Standing Committee has an important job to do over the next six months.

The CHAIRMAN asked for other comments. There were none. The CHAIRMAN then proposed to include the matter of the delegate of Peru's request in the agenda for a future meeting of the Standing Committee, once the paper from the delegate of Peru and the Executive Director's comment on it had been circulated

to capitals and the views of member countries were available.

[The full statement of the delegate of Peru, together with the response of the Executive Director, will be distributed separately.]

The delegate of SOUTH AFRICA said there needed to be sufficient time before the next meeting to get proper feedback from capitals, noting that two or three weeks was not sufficient.

The CHAIRMAN proposed that the next meeting be scheduled shortly before the end-of-year holidays, perhaps in the second week of December, once delegates had the comments of their authorities in capitals both to the paper from the delegate of Peru and the Executive Director's response.

The delegate of PERU thanked the Chairman for considering his request and the delegate of the USA for his very opportune statement. He said he was very glad that the decisions of the Standing Committee will be discussed again.

There being no further business, the CHAIRMAN adjourned the meeting at 12 noon.



INTERNATIONAL COTTON ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Standing Committee
Washington, DC

Attachment I to SC-N-401
October 21, 1993

Consideration of Sponsorship of Projects for Common Fund Financing

Delegates are referred to SC-M-400 where a preliminary list of project rankings was provided based on those governments submitting rankings at the 400th Meeting of the Standing Committee. Subsequent to the 400th Meeting, the Liverpool Cotton Association, Faserinstitut Bremen and the Gdynia Cotton Association have decided to withdraw their project proposals until such time as they are able to consult with breeders at the 1994 Bremen International Cotton Conference and submit a new, possibly combined, proposal.

Delegates are invited to submit additional rankings to the Secretariat by Thursday, November 11, 1993.

It was agreed that the Standing Committee would take a decision on which projects it would sponsor and their priority rankings at the 401st Meeting.



INTERNATIONAL COTTON ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Standing Committee
Washington, DC

Addition to Attachment I to SC-N-401
November 9, 1993

Revised Summary of Common Fund Project Proposal

Project: Prospects of Mediterranean Cotton in a Market Oriented World

1. Brief Summary of Project

Project proposes to conduct an extensive study of cotton production in countries around the Mediterranean Sea in light of changes occurring in world trade, increased environmental concern and rising costs of production. The project will have four components: Economics of production; market-trade-government intervention; human factors; and environmental protection.

2. Institute Proposing Project

Hellenic Cotton Board and Aristotelian University of Thessaloniki

3. Location of Work

Athens and Thessaloniki, Greece
Other Mediterranean countries

4. Problem Addressed and Priority at ICAC

Sustainability of cotton production in the Mediterranean region. Problem is related to the following priority areas: Protection of natural resources (establish data base on residues of pesticides and other chemicals and devise methods for mitigating undesirable residues) (13); Protection of natural resources (establishment of a data base on cotton and synthetic fiber production as they relate to the product, the atmosphere, the land and general health) (16); and cotton production economics (gather information on costs of production and gross margins of cotton producers to aid in farm policy decisions) (31). Project is also concerned with domestic and international markets of cotton (market structure, anticipated changes due to market globalization and EEC/GATT policy changes).

5. Relationship of Project to Common Fund Priorities

To the extent that the project considers the situation in Egypt, Morocco, Syria and Turkey, it will be of benefit to developing countries facing structural changes in their markets. Project would also appear to produce benefits to particular developing regions in two developed countries. Work will help to protect the environment.

6. Countries to Benefit from Project

Greece and other Mediterranean cotton producing countries (Spain, Turkey, Syria, Israel, Egypt, Morocco)

7. Cost of Project

US\$4,991,250 for three years

8. Cofinancing and Counterpart Funding

Approximately 50% or US\$2,496,000



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Attachment II to SC-N-401
October 21, 1993

Presentation of Priority Areas for Common Fund Projects in 1994

Delegates are invited to submit their areas of priority interest at the 401st Meeting.

In the first meeting devoted to submission of priority areas some governments submitted specific areas which would apply to a project benefitting only one country, such as "Irrigation in Senegal Savanna." Others submitted broad areas, such as "Pest Control." In the second meeting it would be best if governments could reach a happy medium, being more specific than "Pest Control" but less specific than "Irrigation in Senegal Savanna." An example might be "Pest Control: Development of Biological Controls." If governments have the same priorities as last year, they should resubmit the list.

If delegates are not going to be present, they are asked to submit their list of priority areas to the Secretariat by the meeting date.

Following the 401st Meeting the Secretariat will submit a combined list of priority areas to delegates, who will have thirty days to rank order the areas. Following the compilation of these country rank orders, the Secretariat will actively solicit projects in the three areas with the highest priority.

U.S. Recommendation for Priority Project Areas for Common Fund Financing in 1994
Prepared for the Special Standing Committee Meeting of November 16, 1993

Last year in presenting recommendations for priority project areas for Common Fund financing, the U.S. delegation made the following statement:

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"The members of the Committee confirmed the importance of market development work for cotton. The Secretariat was instructed to develop a project proposal for Common Fund financing for an expert group to recommend a practical way of implementing future programs."

Through this directive, the Advisory Committee has in effect established a top priority for Common Fund financing. The United States supports this priority and submits the following recommendations for additional priority areas of study:

- Establishment of a data base to determine the incidence of residues of pesticides and other chemicals in raw fiber, as well as in yarns and fabrics after finishing; to make comparisons with manmade fibers; and to devise methods for mitigating any undesirable residues identified.
- Establishment of a data base to assess the environmental impacts, in terms of liquid and solid waste, of both cotton and synthetic fiber production as they relate to the product, the atmosphere, the land, and general health. This data base would profile the chemical, water and energy inputs to fibers production.
- Application research to develop new products for cotton.

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production, inputs and constraints which lead to conclusions regarding feasibility in a spectrum of environmental settings.