



CIRAD Statement  
Centre for International Cooperation  
in Agricultural Research for Development  
International Observer at ICAC

CIRAD is a French public body for international cooperation in agricultural research for development. Its mandate is to support the development of agricultural production in tropical and subtropical areas, particularly cotton production. It is concerned with optimising the economic, social and environmental impacts of cotton production for the benefit of the populations involved.

CIRAD would like to focus on four of its activities contributing to the theme of this Plenary Meeting.

Firstly, CIRAD is carrying out studies with its partners in the South on the **agro-ecological transition of cotton production in sub-Saharan Africa**. Three pillars are behind these studies:

- **Sustainable improvement of soil fertility**, based on organic manure and cover crops
- **Better integration of agriculture and livestock**, based on fodder and oilcake and the production of compost and manure,
- The development of **mechanization and motorization of crops**, based on adapted equipment and technical routes.

These studies also include pest management, water management, breeding, and production development.

Secondly, CIRAD, on behalf of Cotton Expert House Africa, a German non-profit organization, and GIZ, the German cooperation agency, is assisting several national cottonseed production chains in Africa. The aim is to support these sectors in **improving the quality of seeds supplied to their farmers**. Pure varieties, with high yield potential and fibre quality, and high quality cottonseeds are indeed major factors in increasing cotton productivity and the value of the harvested product.

Thirdly, CIRAD, like other institutions around the world, contributes to the **collection, protection, preservation and sharing of cotton genetic resources**. It currently has a gene bank with more than 3,000 entries, available to its partners. In this context, CIRAD fully supports the international initiative launched by ICRA to promote the exchange of information on existing genetic material collections and a more comprehensive assessment of these germplasm.

Fourthly, CIRAD is pursuing its mission to **support researchers in the South**. It supervises several theses on topics such as genotype-environment interactions and the use of plant extracts as an alternative to synthetic insecticides. At the same time, CIRAD continues to provide training in the field and in its laboratories on the variety, agronomic and technological components of the sector.

Finally, CIRAD would like to stress the importance, particularly for developing countries, of **investing in research and adapting skills** to improve the sustainability of the cotton value chains, through results shared by all cotton stakeholders. CIRAD's mandate is to take part in it.

Thank you for your attention.