



From the Secretariat

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Cotton Incorporated Documents Industry Gains at ICAC

Those who attack the cotton industry for its perceived impact on the environment will need to have their facts straight, thanks to a major research project undertaken by Cotton Incorporated: a life-cycle assessment (LCA) for cotton.

That LCA was a major focus of the First Open Session of ICAC's 71st Plenary Meeting, which took place on Oct. 8 in Interlaken, Switzerland. Delivered Berrye Worsham, CEO of Cotton Incorporated, the presentation outlined how the LCA was developed, as well as some of its top findings.

Worsham emphasized that Cotton Incorporated's leadership went through the exhaustive, two-year LCA process to determine exactly what cotton's footprint was, not just what could be used to combat misconceptions about the fiber's environmental impact. The results show that cotton has made great strides over the last 30 years, including reductions in:

Land usage: 30%

Soil loss: 68%

Water usage: 75%

Energy usage: 36%

Greenhouse gases: 30%

Cotton Incorporated has both the means and intention of doing another LCA in the short-term future -- within the next few years -- to continue to monitor and document the improvements being made, Worsham said.

"Cotton is doing well, but we know we can do better," he said. "The key is continual progress. This LCA was all about measurement and improvement, and you can't make measurable progress if you don't know where you started."

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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*, \$190 per year via email, \$230 per year in hard copy. A monthly outlook is available by email for \$300 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 <http://icac.org>.