



**INTEGRATED REGIONAL COTTON PLANT
PROTECTION PROGRAMME -
PROGRAMME REGIONAL DE PROTECTION
INTEGREE DU COTONNIER EN AFRIQUE -**

(PR-PICA)

**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE THIRD REVIEW MEETING
ON THE INTEGRATED REGIONAL COTTON PLANT
PROTECTION PROGRAMME IN AFRICA (PR - PICA)**

Ouagadougou – BURKINA FASO

14 to 16 April, 2010

SUMMARY REPORT OF THE THIRD REVIEW MEETING ON THE INTEGRATED REGIONAL COTTON PLANT PROTECTION PROGRAMME IN AFRICA (PR-PICA)

The Conference Hall N° 1 of « Splendid Hotel » of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, served as the venue for the third review meeting on the Integrated Regional Cotton Plant Protection Programme in Africa (PR-PICA), which took place from 14 to 16 April, 2010. To hold this meeting, the Programme received the support of the International Cooperation Centre in Agronomic Research for development (CIRAD) and certain agro-pharmaceutical firms.

In attendance were representatives of cotton companies, research structures and Cotton Producers' Organisations of PR-PICA member countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Senegal and Togo). Also in attendance were: Country Coordinators of the Cotton Sector Capacity Building Programme in West and Central Africa (WACIP) from Benin and Burkina Faso, as well as representatives of CIRAD, West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA), Common Fund for Commodities (CFC), agro-pharmaceutical firms (BAYER CropScience, ARYSTA LifeScience, SAPHYTO, SCPA-SIVEX, SCAB, DTE-BF, ALM International, SENEFURA SAHEL, SAVANA France/PROPHYMA, MONSANTO) and the Regional Coordinator of Better Cotton Initiative. Similarly, the Chairman of the African Cotton Association (A.C.A.) and Managing Director of SODEFITEX, the President of the National Bureau of Regional Chambers of Agriculture of Burkina Faso, the President of the Management Council of the National Union of Cotton Producers of Burkina (UNPC-B) and the President of INTERCOTON of Côte d'Ivoire graced the gathering with their presence.

The opening ceremony, which was presided over by the Permanent Secretary of the Liberalised Cotton Segment Monitoring Unit in Burkina Faso (SP-FCLB), Mr. Wilfried YAMEOGO, representing the Honourable Minister of Commerce, Enterprise Promotion and Handcraft, was highlighted by four (04) addresses:

- The first was delivered by Mr. Dehou DAKUO, Deputy Director of Cotton Production Development of SOFITEX, representing the Country Coordination of Burkina Faso. On behalf of Cotton Producers, the Managing Director of SOFITEX and of the entire community of the cotton segment actors in Burkina Faso, he welcomed all the participants.

He then expressed thanks to all the participants, particularly to the Permanent Secretary of the Liberalised Cotton Segment Monitoring Unit of Burkina Faso and to the A.C.A. Chairman, for their sustained efforts in promoting the African cotton.

- The second address, delivered by Mr. ABA ACHI, Chairman of the PR-PICA Steering Committee, narrates the genesis of this sub-regional organisation,

originally known as Project for Regional Prevention and Management of Resistance of *Helicoverpa armigera* to pyrethrinoids in West Africa (PR-PRAO). The new name of PR-PICA relates to its new orientations, considering the new challenges facing the African cotton segments.

Speaking further, Mr. ABA ACHI presented PR-PICA, its areas of intervention and the community projects, the implementation of which requires the support of technical and financial partners, considering that several cotton companies are now confronted with a lot of constraints.

- The third address was delivered by Mr. Bachir DIOP, A.C.A. Chairman. First of all, he introduced the Association he leads. Then, he praised the actions being conducted by PR-PICA whose objectives correspond to those of the A.C.A. In this connection, the synergy of actions of these two organisations is necessary to promote the African cotton and make it competitive, he said.
- In his own speech, the Permanent Secretary of Liberalised Cotton Segment Monitoring Unit of Burkina Faso, Mr. Wilfried YAMEOGO, hailed the initiative that led to the creation of PR-PICA 12 years ago, with the purpose of sharing knowledge and achieving sub-regional integration. He underlined the importance of cotton farming which contributes to food security, improvement of livelihoods in rural areas and to poverty alleviation in developing countries.

Speaking further, Mr. Wilfried YAMEOGO emphasised the need to go on with reforms in each country, in order to meet the challenges of soil fertility and fight against predators. Therein lies the solution to the competitiveness of the African cotton segments, especially considering the advent of modern biotechnologies, he said. He expressed the wish that this third review meeting may serve to evaluate progress so far made and adapt operational strategies to the new challenges, while taking into account environment protection and biosecurity in a world that is ever competitive.

Following presentation and amendment of the agenda, the proceedings went on with deliberations on the following issues:

1°) Regional Strategies for the Integrated Actions against Predators and Resistance to Pesticide Related Risks.

Papers delivered by Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Togo, Senegal and CIRAD addressed the following topics:

- Surveillance of parasitic infestation in the field;
- Monitoring of *Helicoverpa armigera* adult population migratory movements;
- Evaluation of harvest loss and of efficiency of the extended protection programmes;
- Monitoring of predator insects' resistance to insecticides;
- Tests of alternative pyrethrinoid and endosulfan based products;

- Tools for Monitoring Insects' Movements, at the service of Cotton Farmer Integrated Protection in Africa.

From the presentations and ensuing exchanges, the following aspects could be noted:

- ❖ An important infestation by *Syagrus calcaratus* and *Dysdercus* in Benin, white flies and jasids in Mali, jasids and *Dysdercus* in Burkina Faso, *Diparopsis* in wet areas of Senegal and Togo;
- ❖ A fairly good efficiency of protection programmes that had been extended in most countries;
- ❖ New parasitic threats are taken into account, such as *Bemisia tabaci*, *Empoasca facialis*, *Dysdercus voelkeri* in Mali and Burkina Faso, endocarp caterpillar (*Pectinophora gossypiella* and *Cryptophlebia leucotreta*) in Benin, Côte d'Ivoire and Togo;
- ❖ Search for the types of mechanism that could be applied to fight against resistance to insecticides by *Pectinophora* and *Cryptophlebia*;
- ❖ Determination to remain prepared for intervention against *Bemisia* and *Empoasca* in Mali;
- ❖ Determination of means to fight against *Dysdercus*;
- ❖ Loss of efficiency of the 8 g/ha dose of acetamiprid over *Bemisia tabaci* (Burkina, Mali and Benin) and fresh resistance signal on the part of *Bemisia sp.* to acetamiprid in certain areas of Burkina Faso; hence the need to look for more suitable doses and alternatives to neonicotinoïds in fighting against these predators;
- ❖ Continuation of search for alternative products to endosulfan and triazophos, considering their high rate of toxicity.
- ❖ The need to hold meetings between researchers towards the harmonisation of protocols and presentation of results obtained during PR-PICA meetings.

2°) Spontaneous Protection towards a Performing and Sustainable Cotton Production in Africa

Papers delivered by Benin, Mali and Togo made it possible to have an actual situation picture of spontaneous treatments applied and the phased fight against specific threats (LEC).

In Benin, analyses were made on the basis of observations on predators' eggs.

In Mali, tests in farming areas revealed that the fall in the level of spontaneous actions initially extended has led to a significant increase in the number of treatment means per acre. Similarly, considering the rising attacks of white flies and jasids, it is quite urgent to determine the spontaneous actions to be taken against these predators.

With regard to the country as a whole, the problem of defining spontaneous research actions, in collaboration with the Research and Development Units of Cotton

companies, against pick-suckers such as *B. tabaci* white flies, *Empoasca* jasid, *Dysdercus voëlkeri* bugs, is a priority issue.

Besides, amongst the constraints to the adoption of spontaneous fight and phased fight against specific threats (LEC) is the funding of producers' training, as well as the management of insecticide stocks.

3°) Modern Bio-Technologies (Genetically modified Cotton Plants) and Bio-Security

The experience drawn from the exploitation of genetically modified cotton plants (CGM) in small scale family agricultural settlements was presented by Burkina Faso, the sub-region's pioneer in this area. Following the delivery of this paper and the subsequent exchanges, the following points came to the fore:

- Cotton farming is faced with many challenges, in particular with regard to the problem of increasing productivity in order protect the Producers' income;
- The need for and rationale behind the use of CGM to enhance the segment's competitiveness through the reduction of operational charges, increase in farming output and productivity;
- The need to introduce regulations on bio-security in member countries by taking into account the provisions of the Cartage Protocol on the: dissemination of CGM and trans-border movements;
- The determination of CGM management strategies: varied purity, refuge areas, soil fertility, technical itineraries that are suitable to CGM farming, respect for these itineraries by producers ;
- Adopting participative and interactive strategies with producers.

All the countries unanimously suggest that this experience should be capitalised and applied by the other countries.

4°) The Situation of Cotton Production in each PR-PICA member country

The cotton production situation in each member country was drawn up. The attached table shows statistics pertaining to the 2009/2010 seasonal campaign and prospects for the 2010/2011 season. Following papers presented by countries and related discussions, here are the resulting salient points:

- State subsidies needed to keep down prices of inputs, fertilizers in particular;
- General fall in cotton production across the member countries for various reasons (rain fall, non-profitability of cotton farming for the producer, etc.);
- Climate changes with late rains (except Togo which recorded rains in April), drought episodes during the seasonal campaign, sudden stoppage of rains in September, with resumption in October - November;
- Poor quality of cotton grain as a result of continued rains in October and November (Burkina, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali) ;

- Delay in paying producers for their cotton grain in 2008/09, following the economic crisis and the difficulties encountered in sourcing for seasonal campaign credit facilities, which is a de-motivating factor (the case of Burkina and Mali) ;
- De-motivation of cotton farmers due to non-profitability of the crop (high cost of inputs, non rewarding purchasing price of cotton, indebtedness of cotton farmers' cooperatives) ;
- De-motivation of producers, owing to the wrong application of the solidarity deposit which affects mostly good producers (the case of Benin, Burkina, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Senegal and Togo) ;
- Disruption of certain segments due to the privatisation drive and the activities of illegal actors (many ginners and supervisors in Côte d'Ivoire) ;
- Drafting of revival plans for cotton farming in most countries (Burkina, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Senegal and Togo).

5°) Presentation of other topics

Owing to the general decline in soil fertility and considering the challenging development of the CGMs, Burkina Faso launched a daring policy to improve soil fertility through the use of an inoculum known in trade as « Compost Plus ». Considering the obvious interest shown by the other PR-PICA member countries, the Steering Committee invited a representative of the promoter of this technology to present it. As a result, a paper on soil fertilisation programme, based on the application of « Compost Plus », was delivered by Mr. Ousmane OUEDRAOGO.

The project is based on a strategy of accelerated decomposition of the organic vegetal matter, by means of the « Compost Plus » activator. This product accelerates the process of composting harvest remnants, in particular the stalks of sorghum, millet, maize, cotton, etc., within two to three months (or even within a shorter period, depending on the type of vegetal substrate to be composted). The said inoculum has been tested with producers, Development and Research structures, with quite satisfactory results.

Compost can be produced from a hole, basin, within a built yard. However, a hole is the most advisable medium, for it helps in achieving a rapid and homogeneous decomposition of the vegetal matter.

In view of the good features thus outlined, many countries expressed the wish to have a working agreement with the promoter to manage soil fertility.

6°) Meeting of the Steering Committee

Alongside the proceedings of the PR-PICA 3rd Review Meeting, the Steering Committee met on Thursday, 15 April, 2010, from 05.30 to 07.45 PM. The following points were considered:

- Progress report on the search for funds to execute joint projects:

With regard to this particular issue, members of the Steering Committee had a meeting with the UEMOA Commission on 16 April, 2010. During this meeting, it was suggested that a Memorandum of Understanding be worked out towards partnership between UEMOA and PR-PICA, with a view to finance community projects.

- Statement of membership dues;
- Consideration of the 2010/2011 minimum action programme :

The PR-PICA Steering Committee recommended the renewal of the 2009/10 minimum action programme, including new parasite-related of member countries, the sowing dates problem and variety cycles. To ensure an integrated management of the cotton farming related problems, it is necessary to harness the skills of all the stakeholders (technicians of cotton companies, agricultural engineers, entomologists, selectors).

- PR-PICA 4th Review Meeting has been scheduled to take place in 2011 in Côte d'Ivoire.
- Researchers' Meeting:

Upon recommendation of the Steering Committee, researchers met on 16 April, 2010, to consider the major concerns and propose guidelines for the 2010/2011 seasonal campaign. By the end of the said meeting, the following recommendations were formulated:

- Following the presentation of results of the 3rd Review Meeting, it was observed that different methodologies are used. The spirit of regional cohesion that had always existed between researchers should be kept. Towards this end, researchers recommend to the PR-PICA Steering Committee the need to facilitate the holding of a researchers' meeting in order to work out, harmonise and validate memorandums of understanding prior to carrying out tests.
- Researchers also recommend that research activities linked to the 2010-2011 action programme be supported by cotton companies in the various countries concerned.
- Owing to the increasing threat, during the last few years, of *Bemisia tabaci white flies*, researchers deemed it necessary to monitor the evolution of the adult population thereof by means of capture methods through yellow glue-based snares. In this connection, researchers recommend that the Steering Committee provides 5 rolls of such snares to each country.
- Lastly, researchers recommend the holding of a mid-term meeting in August 2010, to follow up the activities of the minimum action programme.

7°) Meeting between Researchers, Cotton Companies and Agro-Pharmaceutical Firms

These working meetings were organised to enable exchanges between the different stakeholders and consider works so far done, along with the relevant research and development prospects.

The proceedings of the 3rd Review Meeting ended with participants hoping that cotton production will pick up again throughout the Sub-Region.

Made in Ouagadougou, on the 16th of April, 2010

The Participants

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