Proceedings

of the meeting held
in Mauritius
on October 12, 2008

Participants
Ashaboglu, Ertekin Turkish Textile Research Center Turkey
Bonadei, Romano Filartex S.P.A. Italy
Macdonald, Andrew G. TAVEX Corporation Brazil
Gajaria, M.P. (Representing Mr Patodia) GTN Textiles Ltd. India
Simeoni, Walter Frame Textile Group South Africa
Vijayshankar, M.N. Recron (Reliance Group) Malaysia

Guests
Guangwei Fu China Textile & Apparel Testing Center China
Bexell, Anna IKEA Supply AG Switzerland
Cunha, Horaldo ABRAPA Brazil

ITMF Secretariat
Schindler, Christian

Apologies
Bashir, Ziad Gul Ahmed Textile Mills Ltd. Pakistan
Bieri, Werner Buhler Quality Yarns Corp. USA
Patodia, B.K. GTN Textiles Ltd. India
Nassar, Ayman Setcore Spinning S.A.E. Egypt
Chen, Steven S.C. Tah Tong Textile Co., Ltd. Taiwan, China
Sukarmadji, Annas Pt Apac Inti Corpora Indonesia

In the Chair
Macdonald, Andrew
Opening Remarks by the Chairman

The Chairman welcomed the members of the Committee as well as the guests to the meeting.

ICCTM

The Director General reported about the last meeting of the ICCTM in April 2008 in Bremen/Germany. He informed the Committee that Mr. Vijayshankar and Mr. Axel Drieling have been elected as new Chairman and Vice-Chairman, respectively. Additionally a new Steering Committee was elected consisting of representatives of the cotton industry:

- Mr. Andrew Macdonald (ITMF Spinners Committee)
- Mr. Terry Townsend (ICAC)
- Mr. Jan Wellmann (Bremen Cotton Exchange)
- Mr. Daryll Earnest (USDA)
- Mr. Färber (Trützschler)

The main objective of the Steering Committee is to support the Chairman and Vice Chairman in their work to identify areas of research that are not only relevant scientifically but also commercially urgent and important to the cotton industry. The Steering Committee is therefore also assisting in acquiring funds with which research in these areas could be financed.

Commercial Future of HVI Classing and Acceptable Testing Tolerances for Spinners

The question was discussed whether the Spinners Committee should recommend that cotton purchasing should be based on HVI results rather than on description. The main question behind it is the one about identifying acceptable tolerances for various cotton characteristics like strength, uniformity or short-fibre index along with the respective discounts/penalties. Cotton associations like the ICA are asking for acceptable tolerance on these characteristics.

It was regretted that the spinners in most cases do not receive the HVI results from the merchants/growers even when available. It would be welcome by the spinners if they could be provided with all the HVI data available.

Vijay noted that yarn traders are following the Uster-Statistics

The Committee agreed that the ITMF Spinners Committee should prepare a document in which it points out the need to make HVI data available to the spinners and sets reasonable tolerances for those characteristics. It also needs to explain what it means, in the textile industry, if the cotton is not within those tolerances agreed in the contract (discounts/penalties).

Some years ago the Spinners Committee developed an ideal contract from the spinner’s point of view, but received little support from the cotton traders.

It was once again pointed out that contamination is still the most costly problems which spinners and all other segments along the value chain up to the garment manufacturers are
facing. In Southern Africa the level of contamination went from bad to unacceptable. In the case of organic cotton the situation is even worse. Education is needed to improve the situation.

**SiroMat (by CSIRO) – Measurement of Cotton Fibre Maturity**

According to the Spinners Committee it is important to measure maturity. The result measurements produced by the HVI are not perfect, but sufficient from a practical point of view. The new method being developed by SiroMat is an excellent concept but still too slow (10 minutes) to be applied on a large scale. The Spinners Committee would like to consider recommending the measurement by the double-compression method. Perhaps even consider triple-compression method could be applied in the future.

This clearly was an excellent study for the ICCTM, to set up a Task Force, and to verify whether the results from the double-compression are pointing in the right direction. It was suggested that they could be compared with those from the SiroMat in order to see whether and to what extent there is a correlation.

**DNA of Cotton**

The Chair raised the question of DNA detection in cotton to establish if it was a native species or had been genetically modified. There were claims in the market that this identification could be made even in finished fabrics. This could be of great concern to spinners who might be marketing certified organic products only to find that the seeds had been Genetically Modified.

Lacking much detail in this respect the Committee agreed to follow up in greater detail the possibilities of analyzing through DNA such testing.

Mr. Simeoni was of the opinion that the question of cotton being sustainable should not depend on whether cotton is organic or conventional. Other criteria are relevant such as the use of chemicals (i.e. pesticides), the consequences of cotton cultivation for the respective eco-system (i.e. water usage).

He suggested that the SpinCom could write to organizations certifying organic cotton (i.e. organic exchange) addressing them on the issue of how and where organic cotton benefits the nature.

It was suggested that the SpinCom works together with the BCI and communicates that GM cotton is a “better” cotton because it reduces the usage of chemicals, etc. and that the usage of man-made organic fertilizer is acceptable on a commercial level.

It was also suggested that it should be analyzed how exactly the benefit of the premium paid for organic cotton at the retail level is distributed along the value chain.

Additionally, “better” cotton should also have the vision of being “better” in the sense that the level of contamination is reduced.

**Bale Packaging**

The Committee agreed that the size of the bale does not necessarily need to be standardized since it would involve a lot of investment in the area of ginning. But it was of the
opinion that the density of cotton bales should be considered for standardization. Mr. Vijayshankar agreed to provide information to the Committee on the issue of the ideal size and density of cotton bales.

Mr. Vijayshankar emphasized that cotton bale covers should be used to cover the raw cotton bales world-wide. During the Spinners Committee in Cairo in 2007 he presented data on the type and specifications of bale covers from all regions. If, however, cotton bale covers cannot be used due to commercial constraints, then transparent HDPE film can be used as is the case for viscose fibers. As HDPE film do not fibrillate there is no danger of contamination. Polypropylene, Jute, colored plastic material, etc. should not be used for covering raw cotton bales. Ideally, cotton bale covers should have minimum specifications of 150 grams / square meter to provide adequate protection if all 6 sides are covered.

Cotton Contamination Survey

The Committee agreed that the survey should be continued and that guidelines as to how to complete the questionnaire should be added. The participants should be asked to also comment on the amount of fibrous contamination (in gram per kilo of cotton lint). The participants should also be able to comment on the survey.

It should be possible to complete the questionnaire online.

Committee Membership

Currently the members of the Spinners Committee are:

1) Andrew Macdonald, Brazil (Chairman)
2) Steven Chen, Taiwan, China (Vice Chairman)
3) Ertekin Ashaboglu, Turkey
4) Ziad Bashir, Pakistan
5) Werner Bieri, USA
6) Romano Bonadei, Italy
7) Jung Soo Kim, Korea
8) Ayman Nassar, Egypt
9) B.K. Patodia, India
10) Walter Simeoni, South Africa
11) Annas Sukarmadji, Indonesia
12) M.N. Vijayshankar, Malaysia

The Committee discussed also to invite a representative from China in the near future to formally join. However since the Committee should not exceed 12 members they could be invited as guest for the time being. The Chairman reminded all members of the Spincom rule concerning missing three consecutive meetings, (including country visits) when there was a waiting list.

Country Visit

The Committee discussed the possibility of travelling to East Africa in 2009 in order to visit conventional and organic cotton growing areas. It also considered teaming up with Organic
Exchange for such a visit as they could assist in identifying directly their program, as well as other ginners and traders involved in the region.

The best time for a visit in East Africa would probably be between April and June.

Next Annual Meeting

The next Committee meeting will be held during the ITMF Annual Conference which will take place in Shanghai/China from October 23 to 25, 2009.

January 2009