



# CmiA & COMPACI-News

Competitive African Cotton Initiative

## COMPACI Gets a Facelift: New Website Online!

By Christina Bredehorst (Aid by Trade Foundation) & Constantin Brinkmann (DEG)

We are very proud to present the new COMPACI website – please go to [www.compaci.org](http://www.compaci.org) and have a look around!

With our new design we hope to inspire you to take a tour through COMPACI: The new structure should easily guide you to the information you are looking for and give you an idea of what COMPACI is about.

The **Initiative** section contains information about us, our partners and our concept, all of which will help you better understand the approach of COMPACI.

**News** will keep you up to date on our latest events, while a more fundamental description of our specific programs can be found under **Activities**. You can also register for the **Cotton made in Africa & COMPACI** Newsletter online: The digital version will soon be distributed in a new and improved look and format to ensure better access and readability on devices such as tablets or mobile phones.

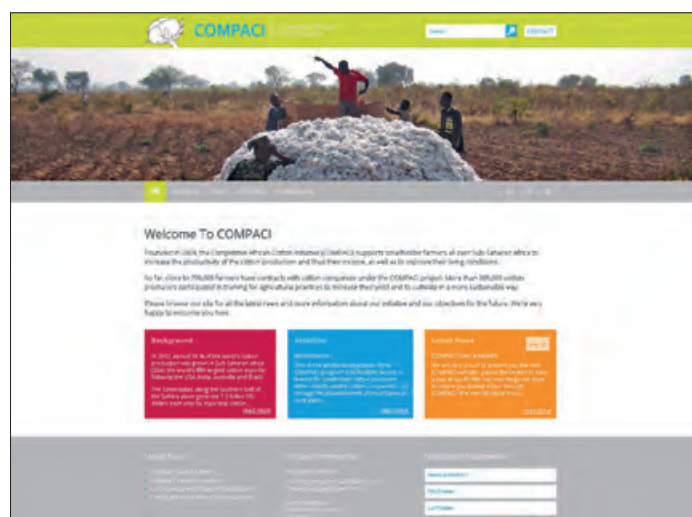
We will, however, continue to provide a printed version so that our partners in the rural areas of Africa – the cotton farmers and their families – can have access to the newsletter and can continue to participate in the exchange of knowledge within the project.

You can download informative documents on cotton production, farmer organizations, pesticide management and much

more under **Downloads**. Some documents will not be available for immediate download. If you are interested in specific information that cannot be found in this section of our website, please do not hesitate to contact us and we will do our best to make the information available to you.

The COMPACI management would like to thank Ed Benn from Rocketship Designs and Stefanie Oehlke (Graphic Design / Art Direction) as well as the colleagues from Aid by Trade Foundation, DEG and GIZ for their support in creating this new website.

Have fun reading! And of course we would highly appreciate any kind of feedback from you. ●



## AbTF Publishes Illustrations on Actions Against Child Labor

Interview with Donald Grant (children's book author and illustrator)



Donald Grant has illustrated many books for young readers and is also author of children's books for which he has worked together with UNICEF and Amnesty International. His last project took him to Sub-Saharan Africa where on behalf of the Aid by Trade Foundation (AbTF) and its Cotton made in Africa (CmiA) initiative he has created a picture book on child labor issues that will be distributed to all AbTF and COMPACI partners in Africa.

*Child labor is a very complex and difficult theme to deal with – especially in a picture book. How did you tackle your task?*

At first, I had to learn in theory what child labor means. AbTF strictly forbids all forms of exploitative child labor and adheres to the respective ILO conventions. However, what do these

regulations mean in practice? To figure this out, I travelled to those areas in Sub-Saharan Africa where Cotton made in Africa cotton is grown. During my trips, I accompanied the verifiers who go to the fields and verify whether the CmiA farmers respect the CmiA exclusion and sustainability criteria. An integral part of the exclusion criteria is e.g. the ban on child labor. Additionally, I participated in workshops on child labor. Most important for me though was to get to meet the people that are addressed by the picture block, firsthand – the smallholder cotton farmers and their families. I created my best drawings during the long journeys in the 4x4 while going from one place to another. The images I gained along the way and in the villages helped and inspired me enormously.

*You have travelled the world and have already published many books. What was the main challenge you had to face with this project?*



The most difficult part of the project was to distinguish between what is “help”, “work” or “labor” on the family farm. This is not as easy as one might think. I wanted to create a realistic picture that interprets the requirements of the CmiA standard in day-to-day situations of an African farmer’s family. Additionally, I wanted to show them what their children could do – according to the international conventions. The farmers explained the fear that their children would become lazy if they had no work to do and would not be prepared for the future on the farm. Through the imagery created for the picture block, I want to explain to them that school education doesn’t mean that their children will not be part of the family farming learning process. I want to show them that educated children can even be a great asset to their parents, e.g. by reading instructions from training manuals, expiration dates on medicines and farming products, doing math calculations and accounting. Additionally, I had to design a picture block that is self-explanatory for those who cannot read, as there are many illiterate people living in the rural cotton growing areas of CmiA.

*How would you describe the picture block?*

The picture block, which was created for the CmiA families in the African cotton growing areas, shows an exemplary, realistic but simplified image of the daily life of African smallholder farmers and their families. The artwork I used is simpler than my usual style. Besides, I adapted it to the « Boîte à image » established style recognized and common in Sub-Saharan Africa.

For me, it is a very fruitful and inspiring CmiA project that I am pleased to be involved in and to support. •

## New COMPACI - partner in Uganda: Western Uganda Cotton Company Limited

By Bruce Robertson (Executive Director of WUCC)



In 2014, the Western Uganda Cotton Company Ltd. (WUCC) has joined COMPACI as a new partner. Executive Director Bruce Robertson gives a short overview of the company’s activities and a first progress report.

### WUCC and its activities

WUCC operates in the Kasese Region, which is characterized by very fertile volcanic soils and excellent agro ecological conditions, most favorable for cotton production. Despite the highly committed farming of smallholder farmers in this area, the poverty level amongst these farmers is high. The potential in the area remains untapped due to several reasons. WUCC has identified these gaps by means of a contextual analysis and has designed mitigation strategies in order to improve the farmers’ welfare, especially by ensuring farmers’ full participation in cotton production training programs.

### WUCC joining the COMPACI programme

The WUCC/COMPACI farmer training program effectively started on 1st May 2014. The program kicked off with the training of ninety lead farmers in principles of group forma-

tion, conflict management and general cotton agronomy. Subsequent trainings on crop/pest management is being planned. Our target is to reach 5,400 farmers trained by 2014 and over 12,000 farmers by 2015. All of these will be organised in groups of between 20-30 each.

So far up to 200 farmer groups have been formed, comprised of 20-30 farmers each. Trainings have been conducted in group formation and in general cotton production. Emphasis is also being put on encouraging participation of women and the development of all-female groups. Furthermore, WUCC has so far managed to establish 155 demonstration plots, embracing all five basic principles of farming which include early ploughing (land preparation), early planting, optimum plant population, weeding and pest control. These demos have attracted a lot of attention in the farming community, as farmers see a very wide difference between their common practices and the new approach. The community is strongly appreciating the efforts and services of the field extension team. They are now hoping for better yields since they learned how to manage cotton in the next season. Initially farmers never believed in group formation and they thought it was just a waste of time, but now they can testify that the initiative is bringing a very positive change in their farming approach. •



children’s book author and illustrator Donald Grant



WUCC Field Extension Officer Muhindo Boaz emphasising a point before planting a demo garden

### About the author:

Bruce Robertson is director of WUCC and Chairman of the Uganda Ginners and Cotton Exporters' Association. This is his 20th year of cotton ginning in Uganda.





## New COMPACI - partner in Zambia: Parrogate Ginneries Limited / Continental Ginnery Limited

By Mr. Ferman Haider (Manager, Continental Ginnery Ltd.)



In 2014, Parrogate Ginneries Limited/Continental Ginnery Limited has joined COMPACI as a new partner. Mr. Ferman Haider, the COMPACI manager for Continental Ginnery Ltd., gives a short overview of the company's activities and explains why Parrogate has joined the program.

### The Parrogate group and its activities in Zambia

We are a group of companies established in India, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Malawi. We are one of the major players in cotton, edible oil, maize and fertilizer in these parts of the world. We provide direct input support to over 100,000 farmers and their families in Africa in order to improve their yields. The group provides direct job opportunities to more than 2,000 people in areas where employment is a challenge. We tapped into the Zambian market in 2006, when we acquired a ginning company called Continental Ginnery Limited. We are proud of cooperating with over 60,000 smallholder cotton farmers (nearly 30% of which are women).

### Parrogate joining the COMPACI program

We are very happy and excited to now be a part of COMPACI. The extension support and trainings provided by COMPACI will considerably help to improve the effectiveness of our work. This will eventually lead to improved farm yields, enhancing therefore the livelihoods of our farmers and bringing about positive changes in their life. The management expects to greatly benefit from cross learn-

ing within and outside the country and to improve the efficiency of the setup of the outgrower scheme. Furthermore, the COMPACI program is expected to help us establish further contracts with female farmers and take care of their training. Another objective is to form and support already existing female farmer cooperatives. We are already CmiA verified and look forward to selling CmiA verified cotton in the near future in order to provide international buyers with a clear traceability of our cotton.

### Recognition for Walmart Foundation

The management appreciates that the Walmart Foundation is jointly funding the project with us, thus adding an extra dimension to the extension farming model of our company in Zambia.



### About the author:

Mr. Ferman Haider is the COMPACI manager for Continental Ginnery Ltd. He graduated in agricultural science and holds a degree in business management. He has over 12 years of working experience, working for companies like Monsanto, Bayer and BASF. He is responsible for the company's cotton business and also directly in charge of the smooth implementation of the project.



## Furthering Sustainability in Cotton Production in Côte d'Ivoire: The Bio-Intensive Approach of Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

By Tadeu Caldas (Consultant to COMPACI)

COMPACI has been active in Côte d'Ivoire for some years, promoting sustainable practices such as crop rotation, erosion control, composting of residues, farmer business schools, etc. One aspect that has a great impact on the sustainability of cotton systems is the use of pesticides.

One step to reduce the toxicity of cotton production among COMPACI partners has been to prohibit the use of highly hazardous pesticides (WHO Toxicity Classes Ia and Ib). Nevertheless pesticides remain dangerous to the health of farmers and their families as well as to the environment. For instance many of the pesticides still in use are highly toxic to beneficial insects such as insect predators, and to pollinators such as bees. These pesticides can also pose serious health risks when used by operators not properly protected. Moreover, pesticides are costly.

As part of an on-going process of optimizing pesticide use, the CNRA, the National Cotton Research Institute of Côte d'Ivoire, promotes a system of six calendar rounds of sprays with different pesticide formulations aimed at the different growth stages of the crop and its specific pest community.

Another more recent initiative to reduce pesticide use is the re-introduction of peg-boards supported by COMPACI to record pest intensity up to pre-established economic threshold levels of pest damage to the plant, beyond which sprays would be necessary to guarantee optimal yields. This system has been promoted by the CNRA for the vegetative stage. It could potentially lead to a reduction of 50% in pesticide use.

After evaluating the situation, and in consultation with our partners, the CNRA and the Cotton Sector Regulation Authority, CCA, within the newly formed COMPACI IPM Working Group Côte d'Ivoire, we have decided to introduce a complementary approach that would help farmers achieve their goal of sustainable crop production, pest control and pesticide reduction at low production costs.

The approach involves the simultaneous introduction of several tools to enable reduction in pest damage through the use of multiple biological components and best agricultural practices.

## New partner CO.I.C.: COMPACI is expanding its activities in Côte d'Ivoire

By René Silue (Project Manager, CO.I.C.)



The Compagnie ivoirienne de coton (COIC) has not only been a new COMPACI partner since this summer, we are also a very young company. Founded in 2009, CO.I.C. is part of the SOUK-PA Group, which is active not only in the provision of extension services for cotton farmers and ginning, but also in trade in general (purchase and resale of consumer products) as well as in public works / infrastructure projects.

CO.I.C. itself operates in the central and northern part of Côte d'Ivoire in eight administrative regions (with 20 "départements" and 71 "sous-préfectures"). In addition to collecting and ginning seed cotton and marketing of fiber and cottonseed, the company provides agricultural inputs to 36,000 cotton farmers and is part of the Agricultural Council.

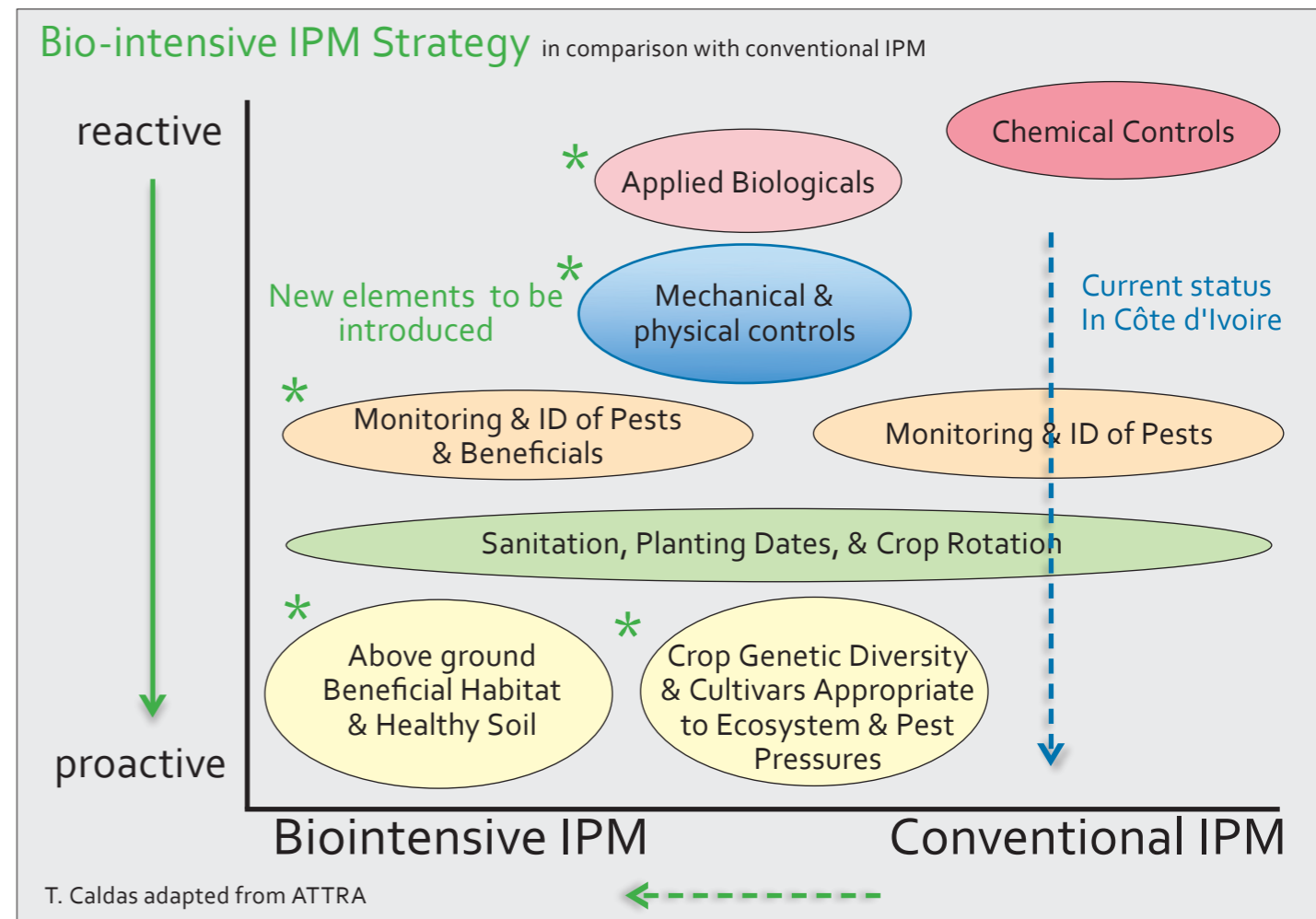
We as a company are very happy to be part of this partnership

with COMPACI because we believe that the measures of this program will improve the farmers' productivity and thus their income by increasing their cotton production in a sustainable way. We are also convinced that the working conditions of our producers will improve after adapting the system of verification according to the Cotton made in Africa criteria for the production of seed cotton.

We are very much looking forward to participating in the exchange of information and experience in the CmiA / COMPACI stakeholder community.

### About the author:

René Silue is a project manager at the Compagnie ivoirienne de coton and the coordinator for COMPACI.





COMPACI manual on beneficial insects & predators

Some of the components of the system are the training of farmers and technicians in the recognition of beneficial insects such as ladybird beetle and green lacewings through the development of posters and training materials, consequently supporting the development of local populations of beneficial insects.

This development is further enabled by the promotion of the following approaches:

- use of less toxic but effective pesticides (chemical and natural),
- use of locally available and low cost botanical pesticides made from plants which contain pesticidal properties that are less toxic but nevertheless effective against pests,
- use of lines of plants that divert pests from cotton (such as maize, sunflower, cowpeas),
- use of plants that attract, feed and host beneficial insects in the cotton fields (flowering plants producing pollen and nectar),
- use of different contraptions that attract and trap insect pests such as molasses, colour, pheromone and light traps.

The trials were setup under supervision of Tadeu Caldas as well as the senior cotton scientist at CNRA Dr. Germain Ochou, and locally by the companies' research and development teams. Sowing took place during the first week of July and the first treatments were to take place in the second week of August. A first evaluation will take place in October and a second one at the end of the cotton season in February.

In a second stage of the process, from 2015 onwards, we will be introducing bio-pesticides, those made with living organisms such as entomo-pathogenic viruses, fungus and bacteria, as well as biological controls such as artificially reared beneficial insects. Better management of soil organic matter and crop nutrition will also be introduced in order to make plants less susceptible to pests and more productive with less use of costly chemical fertilizers. With all these measures we shall be on-course to meet our target to support African cotton farmers improve their income and livelihoods through sustainable cotton production while safeguarding their environment.

#### About the Author

Tadeu Caldas is a consultant to COMPACI. He is a Brazilian agronomist engineer with a MSc in sustainable agriculture and rural development from the University of London. As an international expert in bio-intensive and IPM cotton production, Tadeu advised several textile companies and their suppliers in the most important cotton origins such as the USA, China, India, Pakistan, Brazil as well as in many African countries of West, East and Southern Africa.



## Women on the Up in Côte d'Ivoire

By Laura Franken (Consultant to COMPACI)

Tchéliman Diarrassouba proudly glances across the field of around two hectares, neatly planted with rows of tomatoes, lettuces and onions. She is the President of the "Binkadi de Nondjonni" cooperative, a women's group in the north of Côte d'Ivoire, which comprises 103 women growing vegetables together near the town of Dianra. "Seven years ago, women from a neighboring village told us that they were planting and selling onions and other vegetables together, rather than alone, thus allowing much larger volumes to be produced. And then we thought – we can do that too!" says Mrs. Diarrassouba and laughs, as do three members of her group who are showing us the cooperative's field. There are clear rules for the common work. Tchéliman Diarrassouba wraps her brightly colored pagne tighter around her body and puts her hands on her hips: "Every Saturday is reserved for working on our field. For the remaining days of the week when we work on the fields of our husbands or do other work, there is a different small team of women every day, who are responsible for watering the field. And anyone who is absent without prior notification, has to pay a fine," she adds resolutely. Decisions are always made by the group as a whole,

which gets together every two weeks to discuss various matters.

A treasurer administers the group's communal funds. Prospective members have to pay in a one-off contribution and after selling the harvest each woman also pays a fixed amount into the fund. The money is put towards common investments such as seeds or work materials. Furthermore, the money is used to grant loans to members. Each member of the group can loan the money needed for urgent expenses, such as a hospital visit in the case of illness or a birth, or also for school material for children, and then pays it back afterwards. But it is not only this financial support that facilitates the work of the cooperative. Often the whole group gets together on occasions such as weddings or funerals to help with the organization. The cooperative is a place where women can discuss and share their worries: "Before I joined the cooperative, I often felt alone with my problems. I'm a widow and have no choice but to bring up my children alone," says Awa Konaté shrugging her shoulders, "back then, I didn't know who to turn to. Today, I know that, as a group, we can achieve a whole lot."



Laura Franken visiting the women of "Binkadi Niarana"



As part of the Cotton Made in Africa (CmiA) initiative, the Aid by Trade Foundation and DEG (Deutsche Investitions- und Entwicklungsgesellschaft) have supported a total of 36 cooperatives with 2,800 members with a total of EUR 100,000 since 2012. Through this cooperation, groups have received materials such as seeds, watering cans, barbed wire for fences and other tools for cultivating vegetables, as well as being supported in digging wells. The Ivorian cotton company, Ivoire Coton, is the implementation partner which also delivers CmiA verified cotton in large volumes. Ivoire Coton has its own department for social projects, coordinates the purchasing of all the materials at affordable prices, and trains women in cultivation techniques and business matters. How the project came about makes for an interesting story. It all started with the question of how to advance women in a fitting way in a very male-dominated society. In Côte d'Ivoire, 97% of the fields belong to male-led households. The men sign contracts with the cotton companies and decide on what happens with the proceeds from the cotton sales, e.g. building a house, buying a moped or an ox. The women take care of the majority of the field work, but do not have access to the income from the cotton. The recommendation of an external American gender consultant to pay some of the proceeds from the cotton sales directly to the women proved to be totally unacceptable in the largely Muslim northern region of Côte d'Ivoire. It was our Ivorian partners who pointed out to us that the division of roles in an Ivorian cotton wool farmer family is organized in such a way that, in contrast to the income from cotton, the women do check all the income from cultivating vegetables, raising live-stock or other trade and decide totally autonomously about how the income is spent,

e.g. for purchasing food, clothing, hosting parties etc. Our Ivorian partners therefore made it clear to AbtF and DEG that promoting women's cooperatives is by far the most efficient way to strengthen the rights and the position of women in northern Côte d'Ivoire.

Following the successful launch of the project, it is now to be expanded to a further 30 women's cooperatives. Additionally the digging of another 26 wells is planned this year. By opening an account at one of the micro-finance organizations in the region, the cooperatives should also gain access to micro-loans. Accordingly, the women's groups will be able to receive financing after the project is concluded. Ultimately, the cooperatives' activities not only benefit the women – some groups use their income to repair pumps in the village or donate part of their harvest to the school canteen. And this is how the village community grows closer together. A fact that Tchéli-man Diarrassouba knows very well: "L'union fait la force – Strength through unity." •



The women of "Binkadi de Nondjoni"

## Report on Exchange Visit between Chatata and Tilime Cargill Women Clubs

By Violet Zulu Mandauka (Cargill, Zambia)

An exchange visit was organized for the above mentioned Cargill Women Clubs in the northern and southern territory of Chipata. The Tilime club took the lead and visited the Chatata club in the first week of April. They were given a warm welcome, accompanied by a lot of singing and dancing by the women from the hosting club. The meeting was also attended by women and men from other clubs and cotton schools, bringing the total number of participants to 72 female and 48 male participants.

The chairlady of the host club opened the meeting by explaining the history of the club and their activities and by showing cotton as well as maize fields to the visitors. Cargill represent

natives discussed and emphasized the importance of staying active as a club and the need to register the clubs officially with the government to facilitate the process of opening a bank account and applying for loans or grants. They also talked about the importance of working in groups, of attending trainings and of further development through adoption of best farming practices.

Tilime also performed an educative drama about living with HIV and how one can still work when getting the right treatment.

One week later, 28 members of the Chatata club did a return visit to the Tilime club in Mwasemphangwe. Again other clubs



from the area joined, leading up to 118 female and 57 male participants. Following the same pattern as the first visit, special emphasis was placed on knowledge exchange, especially on bee-keeping. The Tilime club shared its three years of experience with its 32 beehives which were given to the club by Cargill, Women for change and Community Markets for Conservation (COMACO) to which they also sell the honey. Chatata has just been supplied with 5 beehives from Cargill in the current year, so that they received valuable information on how to treat them.

### Conclusions

Many lessons can be drawn from the exchange visits. Even



though it was mostly intended as a get-together of women to share experiences, in the end a lot of men participated and even contributed to and asked questions on best farming practices during the field visits, so that this event really contributed to gender equity. The women also learnt a lot from each other during the interactions. The dramas performed were very educative to all communities as they dealt with the importance of following best farming practices to enhance yields and to improve livelihoods in order to eradicate poverty.

Moreover, more clubs from the regions were attracted and encouraged to pursue with their activities and trainings, so that a high level of knowledge sharing was achieved. •

### About the author

**Violet Zulu Mandauka** (on the right) has been working with Cargill since 2006. She is responsible for Chipata south district leading a team of field officers responsible for giving inputs to farmers, training and buying of seed cotton. She has worked with farmers in cotton production for the past 21 years. Violet is also involved in working with Cargill Women Clubs across the Cargill farmer base. She is trained in Agricultural Marketing.

## Western African Gender Workshop in Natitingou: Fruitful Discussions, Innovative Approaches, New Contacts - and Benin's Excellent Tofu

By Isabel Sommer (Project Manager, GIZ)

A group of 15 people is gathered around the members of Tiyiyilanihin women's group who are in the process of transforming soybeans into "fromage de soja" (tofu). We are on a field trip, perfectly organized by Fructueuse Ouidoh, Gender Focal Person for ProAgri Benin. It is the third day of the first West African COMPACI Gender Workshop that took place in Natitingou from June 2nd to 4th. All participants are impressed by the well prepared presentation of Tiyiyilanihin's work and pose very detailed questions showing they are all experienced in their field of work.

Behind us are already two days of sharing experiences, lessons learned and lively discussions. Long-standing partners gave valuable advice to newer partners like Nassou Coulibaly from CO.I.C. or Issiaka Lallogo from SOCOMA, who have just become COMPACI partners. They said in their feedback that they benefitted a lot from sharing challenges and successes with others. All partners agreed that an enabling political framework is of utmost importance to support women and that discriminating land rights are still a big issue in most of the countries. It was also noticed that even if women groups are formed and supported, sometimes leadership skills are lacking and assistance in this capacity might be enforced through special projects. Some partners are tackling the challenge of feeble alphabetization rates among women by offer-

ing functional alphabetization. It was rightly pointed out that women should not be overburdened with additional activities not to risk increasing their already high workload. Another interesting lesson learned was that the position of a Gender Desk Officer does not necessarily need to be filled by a woman, as could be observed in our group. Many partners are struggling to achieve the agreed numbers of trained female farmers, though veritable progress is seen in FBS training for women and support of women's groups. Our Gender expert Irène Mitchodigni offered some new tools to overcome existing challenges and the Gender Desk Officers from COMPACI's West African countries took home many new contacts, gender instruments and ideas for activities to support their women's clubs. And some of them additionally took home some very fine tofu... •



## Purification of Cotton Varieties and Creation of New Varieties in Mozambique

By Dominique Dessauw (CIRAD, Research Unit AIDA)



Mozambique expects to produce approximately a hundred thousand tonnes of seed cotton between 2013 and 2014. This is a sharp increase in production compared with previous years. Based in the province Cabo Delgado in the northern part of the country, Plexus is the main cotton company in Mozambique. Cotton varieties cultivated in Mozambique consist essentially of: CA 324, originally coming from Western Africa

and transferred by Cirad to the state of Mozambique in 2000 to be used freely on its territory, after a project financed by AFD; Albar SZ 9314 from Zimbabwe; Chureza from Zambia and Stam 42 from Togo. These varieties are old and have lost their genetic purity as they have been used over many generations. It is imperative to recover the genetic identity of those varieties in order to guarantee farmers a positive output and a sufficient tolerance of cultivated varieties to most pest (jassids) and infestation types. What is more, it will ensure cotton companies a satisfactory and uniform ginning output and fiber quality.

In 2014 COMPACI financed two missions, one of which was conducted in April, in order to support CIRAD:

- at the Mozambique Institute for Cotton (IAM, Instituto do Algodão de Moçambique) and at the Mozambique Institute of Agricultural Research (IIAM, Instituto de Investigação Agrária de Moçambique) in order to strengthen the program of creation of new varieties at the IIAM as well as seeds and
- at the IAM, IIAM and Plexus, the later participating in the COMPACI project, in order to recover the genetic identity of the variety CA 324 in a joint effort made by all three entities.

### Constraints

Within the scope of its creation of new varieties, the research team works with a genetic variability model which is quite old and not very flexible. The main selection criterion continues to be the increase in hairiness of seedlings of existing varieties in order to guarantee them a sufficient resistance to jassid infestations. A small amount of seeds are crossed every year. For multiple-site trials by farmers, research is extremely dependent on cotton companies.

The varieties we examined during those trials, on farmers' fields or on parcels of land used for the multiplication of seeds lost their genetic purity. Indeed, seedlings with yellow pollen find themselves on all parcels, whereas the varieties CA 324, Albar SZ 9314, ISA 205... only have cream-colored blossoms. This phenomenon had already been observed with the old va-

riety Remu 40, from which supposedly derive blossom with yellow pollen of current varieties. The nuclei of multiplication are affected. It is therefore essential to purify varieties and start afresh with a new nucleus. The pollen's color reveals the purity loss suffered by the variety in question, owing to undesired natural blending or crossing between different varieties. Evidently, this crossing or blending also affects all other features of the variety.

### Activities

Suggestions have been submitted to enhance the efficiency of the varietal creation program and to recover the genetic identity of the CA 324 variety.

CIRAD will send novel genetic material to IIAM in order to increase the genetic variability worked upon in the varietal creation program. As a consequence, the number of crossings could pick up considerably (at least ten each year), followed by a comprehensive genealogical selection. First, crossings will take place between varieties from Southern Africa (CA 324, Albar SZ 9314) and Turkish, Chinese and Brazilian ones which are already used in Mozambique. More ambitious objectives related to essential criteria for the branch viability will be incorporated, e.g. an increase in output, an amelioration of ginning output and fiber length, while the micronaire of the fiber and hairiness of seedlings are maintained at sufficient levels.

The purification program will be conducted in cooperation between IIAM and Plexus, under the supervision of IAM. Two parcels of land, one in Nampula (IIAM) and another in Cabo Delgado (Plexus), will be sown with the seeds. At these different spots, low-density planting will be undertaken on half a hectare with only one seedling per seed hole and using basic seeds produced by IIAM. A thousand healthy plants will be chosen on the field of each spot based on their conformity to the variety description morphology-wise. Those 1,000 plants will be harvested, weighed, ginned and their fiber analyzed individually with a HVI. The 250 plants the closest to the average in terms of criteria will be kept. The seeds of each selected plant will be sown in the following year in one row, i.e. amounting to 250 individualized rows. The homogeneous rows corresponding to the variety description for ALL criteria will be selected, the other ones removed. The chosen rows will be harvested row by row and then ginned. The fiber technological features will be evaluated with a HVI. The 100 to 150 rows the closest to the average for the ginning criteria and fiber technology will be selected, the seed of these rows being mixed together in order to form the new original nucleus (genetic seed). This new nucleus will be multiplied and compared simultaneously to the CA 324 variety, which is currently used for multiple-site varietal purposes in order to make sure that no output or resistance to pest have been lost.

### Prospects

The selection program will be more efficient, ambitious and creative thanks to the introduction of genetic variability.

Thus, also the creation of new varieties will be possible, and not only the testing of imported varieties. CA324 will be purified by 2016 and the seeds' multiplication will fall back into its normal pattern by 2017. It will be possible to develop the same purification method for other cultivated varieties.

In order to increase the efficiency of Mozambican cotton research, it has been planned to create two research centers of excellence: a national one in Nampula and a regional one in Tete as part of the regional cooperation of MoZaZiMa (Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Malawi). The fusion of both centers would be the most efficient solution for Mozambique as well as for the neighboring countries.

## Marketing Update: Demand Grows Further - TONI Relies on Cotton made in Africa

By Tina Stridde (Aid by Trade Foundation)



The well-known women's trousers specialist TONI, based in Forchheim, Germany, cooperates with Cotton made in Africa. With a ten-part knitwear collection available from spring 2015, TONI supports the initiative. The products can be purchased at upscale retailers.

CIRAD will be able to contribute scientifically to these different initiatives.

### About the author:

Dominique Dessauw is a Special Advisor at the General Direction for Research and Strategy (Direction Générale Déléguée à la Recherche et à la Stratégie) at the French Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement, CIRAD (Agricultural Research for Development) in the field of plant genetic resources and utilisation of plant materials.

## Verification News: SODECOTON Becomes New Partner of Cotton made in Africa in Cameroon

By Carole Romero (Aid by Trade Foundation)

After successfully completing verification, more than 226,000 smallholder farmers in Cameroon will for the first time grow cotton according to the CmiA standard and are now part of the CmiA initiative. Including the family members of the smallholder farmers, over 1.5 million people will now directly benefit from the program.



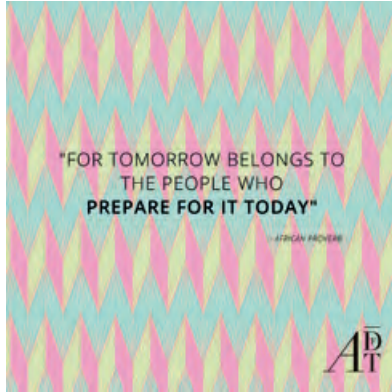


**COMPACI**  
Competitive African Cotton Initiative



## African Fashion Designers for Tomorrow: CmiA-IREN and FA254 Launch African Fashion Designer Contest

By Christina Bredehorst (Aid by Trade Foundation)



Cotton made in Africa, Inter Region Economic Network (IREN) and the African Fashion trend agency FA254 have set up, in close collaboration, an African design contest to rebrand the African Fashion and Textile scene.

Young African designers have been encouraged

to submit a portfolio of their work to FA254's official website to have the chance to take their work to the next level. Ten nominees will be chosen from the submitted portfolios in different categories, namely Apparel, Accessories and Home Decoration. After a three-month training program (October–December 2014), the nominees will be asked to offer improved designs. In January 2015, an international jury chaired by Vogue Germany chief editor Christiane Arp will select the best design in each category. The category nominees will have the opportunity to have their design produced with in-

ternationally renowned fashion companies. Additionally, the overall winner will have the chance to present his or her collection during the Berlin Fashion Week 2015.

"For the first time, there is a direct link between our CmiA cotton farmers who produce the sustainable raw material for the designs, African designers and the international fashion scene," comments Tina Stridde from Cotton made in Africa in Hamburg. James Shikwati, Managing Director of IREN and associated partner of CmiA in Kenya, adds: "At CmiA-IREN, we are happy to collaborate with FA254 to support the enormous fashion design talents in Africa. On top of that, we thereby aim to strengthen the Eastern Africa's domestic textile market."

FA254 was founded in 2013 by Waridi Schrobsdorff, a former Kenyan top model. With FA254 she aims to discover and promote new talents in order to rebrand Africa through young and creative minds. Schrobsdorff has been in the fashion business in the European market for years. "Our goal is to change people's minds. We have many talented young people who deserve the recognition. I'm very excited to call upon young Africans to share their talent with the world," concludes Waridi Schrobsdorff. •

Contest: <http://fa254.com/adft/>



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