



FIRST INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ANNOUNCEMENT

Dynamics and Sustainability of African Cotton Zones

21-24 November 2017

Bamako, Mali

1. Context

With the support of the “Agence Française de Développement” (AFD), Malian government has implemented from 2013 to 2017, the “Project Support to Governance improvement of the Cotton Sector in its new institutional configuration and to productivity and sustainability of farming systems in cotton zone” (PASE II). Project achievements are important and interesting in terms of research development, to innovations extension, farmers counseling, restructuring and strengthening of farmers' organizations and training of producers and extension services. It is important to share this experience for the benefit of Malian cotton stakeholders and more widely to Africans. In addition, since five years, Mali's cotton production has increased regularly by giving back to Mali a leading role in this sector in sub-Saharan Africa. This symposium will therefore be an opportunity for the Malian cotton stakeholders and those from other sectors, in Africa and beyond, to share their experiences and achievements.

At international level, such a demonstration justifies itself on one hand by cotton exceptional contribution in agricultural development in sub-Saharan Africa and on the other hand by necessarily taking into account the sustainability of African cotton agriculture. Cotton production has maintained itself on the same territories for decades, thanks to the involvement of family farms and the efficient support of extension services, research, producer organizations (POs), but also public officials and financial partners. This success, which some called "Agricultural Revolution", deserves sharing for cotton enhancement.

This international symposium on dynamics of African cotton zones is timely because, since the mid-1980s, there has been no big meeting bringing together the main actors of African cotton sector: producers, technical services, cotton companies, POs, decision-makers and donors.

2. Objectives

This international symposium is a collective project of PASE II partners (including AFD and the Malian Ministry of Agriculture) and all stakeholders in the cotton sector in Mali. Its overall objective is to contribute to the improvement of productivity and sustainability of the cotton sector in Mali and more widely in Africa. Its specific objectives are:

- Share PASE II achievements with agricultural world, in particular the cotton sector in Mali, Africa and beyond;
- Encourage exchanges among development and research stakeholders, among other things, to share highlights on performance and constraints of cotton-based farming systems in Africa;
- Mobilize more cotton sectors stakeholders and their partners for better support to cotton sector development, and in particular to improve visibility and valorization of Malian cotton on international level;
- Strengthen the process of OP and cotton sectors organization in Africa;
- To exchange experiences and achievements among cotton sectors and achievement in term of dynamics and sustainability of cotton zones.

3. Themes

Symposium will have five themes. Particular emphasis will be on sharing experiences among actors through scientific communications and testimonies. Sessions are organized with presentations and discussions, round tables and a side event.

Theme 1: Sustainability of Cotton production conditions in the context of global changes. It is to explore options and promising innovations in terms of cropping systems and technical itineraries: crop rotation, variety, fertilization, soil fertility management, pests and water. This theme is for both organic and conventional cotton production.

Theme 2: Dynamics and sustainability of farms and their territory. This theme addresses problem on cotton based production systems sustainability in a global approach at farm levels and their territory: diversification of plants and animal productions, agriculture-livestock integration, mechanization, motorization and agricultural land occupation.

Theme 3: Counseling family farm (CFF). This topic is for sharing experiences from Africa and elsewhere on counseling family farm in order to strengthen the decision-making capacities of producers.

Theme 4: Organizational environment and competitiveness of the cotton sectors. It is to exchange on the dynamics and the role of producers, sectors, coordination among stakeholders (Inter Profession) and supportive policies.

Theme 5: Mobilization, networking and support to sectors. This is to identify/or to stimulate initiatives to support the cotton based development sectors in Africa. This theme will be animated in experience presentation forms and opportunities for policy-makers and donors to support and intervene on their strategies.

4. Practical aspects

4.1. Organization

The symposium is organized by research institutes and development structures with the financial support of the French Development Agency and other partners.

Organization and symposium scientific debates are under the responsibility of two committees:

- An organizing committee (president, secretary and various committees) is in charge of institutional and logistical aspects before and during the symposium;
- A scientific committee (chair, secretary and members) to assess communication, scientific quality of communications and to lead the various sessions on themes selected during the symposium

4.2. Target audience

The symposium is opened to researchers, doctoral students, cotton company scientists, decision-makers, extension agents, farmer organization, input suppliers, donors, NGOs, study offices to communities.

To facilitate exchanges among participants and to allow a maximum of organizations to present and share their experience, a space is provided for posters and side events.

4.3. Languages

Symposium working languages are French and English. Simultaneous translations are provided during plenary sessions.

4.4. Submission of abstracts, papers and posters

Abstracts of papers and posters should be in English and French, or in English only, in MS Word format in Times New Roman font size 12 with a maximum of 300 words. Each summary is composed of the following points:

- A concise title (maximum 15 words)
- Authors names, their affiliation, their e-mail address and contact of corresponding author
- Abstract summary must include objectives, methodology, results, discussions, conclusions and recommendations
- Key words.

Abstracts of communications and posters should be sent in electronic format by e-mail to the symposium secretariat at the following address:

colloque.coton.afrique@gmail.com.

- Deadline for abstract submission: **30 June 2017**

- Deadline for notification acceptance by the secretariat of the symposium to corresponding authors of papers and posters: **01 August 2017**.

After notification of acceptance, the texts of the papers and posters should be sent in electronic format by e-mail to the symposium secretariat at the following address: colloque.coton.afrique@gmail.com.

- Deadline for papers and posters submissions: **30 September 2017**

Document evaluation results will be sent to the corresponding authors by the symposium secretariat no later than **20 October 2017**.

For communication, authors should send an e-mail to the secretariat of the symposium a final version of the text with a PowerPoint (PPT) **by no later than 10 November 2017**.

For posters, the authors must bring an A0 size (height 120 cm x width 80 cm), Arial or Helvetica font size 18 minimum and then send it by an e-mail to the symposium secretariat a version (MS Word, PDF or image) by no later than 10 November 2017.

4.5. Conditions of participation

The symposium is planned approximately for 150 participants. Each participant must complete the form and send it by e-mail to the symposium secretariat to the following address: colloque.coton.afrique@gmail.com. Each participant must pay registration fee (to be paid locally in CFA for a receipt). The Organizing Committee will sponsor the best communications among proposals selected by the scientific committee. However, the Organizing Committee encourages interested in soliciting sponsors and, to this end, has put in place a system to assist requests for funding from structures such as the AUF, CTA and others...

The registration fee is 20,000 CFA francs. Registration for students (Master and doctoral student) is free. Each participant will have a binder with symposium files and free lunches and coffee break at the symposium venue.

4.6. Organizers

- Permanent Assembly of Chambers of Agriculture of Mali APCAM: <http://www.apcam.org>
- Institut d'Economie Rurale-IER: www.ier.gouv.ml
- Center for International Cooperation in Agronomic Development CIRAD: <http://www.cirad.fr/en/home-page>
- Comité National de la Recherche Agronomique-CNRA in Mali: www.cnra-mali.org
- With the support of the “Agence Française de Développement” AFD: www.afd.fr

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Registration Form

Last and first names:

Position:

Institution: Country:

Address:

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Phone: E-mail:

Oral communication: Yes / No (*)

Title:

Theme:

Poster: Yes / No (*)

Title:

Theme:

Request for sponsor from the organizing committee: Yes / No (*)

*(Form to be sent to the symposium secretariat by e-mail to the following address:
colloque.coton.afrique@gmail.com)*

() Highlight the appropriate answer*