



# PROGRAMME REGIONAL DE PRODUCTION INTEGREE DU COTON EN AFRIQUE

Bénin, Burkina Faso, Cameroun,  
Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Sénégal,  
Tchad et Togo

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### 40th MEETING OF THE PR-PICA STEERING COMMITTEE

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the Executive Secretariat of  
PR-PICA.

- Chairman of PR-PICA :  
M. Luc ABADASSI
- Vice-Chairman :  
M. Tete AWOKOU
- Rapporteur :  
Dr Abdou TRAORE
- Executive Secretary :  
M. Félix SAWADOGO

### NEW YEAR GREETINGS 2025 FROM PR-PICA PRESIDENT

Dear PR-PICA Members and Partners,

With this message, I would like to wish you a happy new year 2025. May this new year be one of health, peace, success and prosperity for everyone. To the Cotton Societies and Interprofessions, I wish you a very good 2025/2026 cotton season.

To all PR-PICA member countries and organizations, and to the secretariat, I offer my congratulations for the efforts made throughout 2024 in carrying out the program's activities.

To the Program Partners, I would like to express my sincere thanks for your support and involvement in the implementation of activities in 2024. With the hope that our collaboration will be further strengthened in 2025, I wish your Companies every success and many opportunities.



HAPPY NEW YEAR 2025 TO ALL

Chairman  
**Luc ABADASSI**

# PR-PICA STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

*The 40th meeting was held in Douala, Cameroon.*

On December 17, 18 and 19, 2024, the 40th meeting of the Steering Committee of the Regional Program for Integrated Cotton Production in Africa (PR-PICA) was held at the Adamaoua Grand Hôtel in Douala, Cameroon. The meeting was attended by representatives of cotton companies and/or interprofessions from member countries of the program, heads of research commissions and the African Cotton Producers Association (AProCA). The Chad representative was unable to attend due to scheduling constraints.

The opening address was given by SODOCOTON's Director of Agricultural Production, Mr. Boubakary YABOU, representing the General Manager, who was unable to attend.

After the opening speeches, the proceedings continued and covered the following points:

- ✚ Presentation of the 2024 technical report;
- ✚ Presentation of the 2024 financial report;
- ✚ Presentation of the researchers' commission reports;
- ✚ Discussions on the progress of the 2024/2025 campaign;
- ✚ Review and adoption of the 2025 activities and budget;
- ✚ Follow-up to the recommendations of the Douala meeting on jassids;
- ✚ Preparations for the organization of the 17th review meeting.

✓ **From the presentations made on the progress of the season**, it emerged that rainfall was capricious, with a late start in all countries, followed by pockets of drought and flooding in places. Jassid infestations were recorded, but kept under control by the use of products recommended by PR-PICA.

Seed cotton production forecasts ranged from 13,965 tonnes in Senegal to 669,000 tonnes in Benin. The purchase price of 1st choice seed cotton also varies from country to country, ranging from 280 FCFA/kg in Chad to 350 FCFA/kg in Senegal.

Compared with the 2023/2024 season, seed cotton production is expected to rise this year in Benin, Senegal and Côte d'Ivoire. On the other hand, a drop is expected in the other countries.

Discussions focused on the following points:

- Rainfall irregularities during the season;
- registrations or special exemptions of products against jassids and lepidopterans recommended by PR-PICA at the Douala meeting in Cameroon in November 2023;

- insecticides used in Cmia cotton production. To this end, it was recommended to invite one of the managers of this structure to make a presentation at the 17th meeting;
- subsidies granted by governments or cotton companies to lower input prices for producers.

✓ **On the implementation of the recommendations of the Douala meeting on jassids**, it emerges that for the 2024/2025 season :

- the products recommended against jassids have been registered or have benefited from special dispensation, depending on the country, with the exception of Mali;
- yellow traps have been used by research and some cotton companies (Burkina Faso) for pest infestation alerts;
- recommended doses of seed treatment products were respected in all countries;
- the setting up of a phytosanitary watch committee in all countries;
- training of advisory support agents and growers.

In some countries, only one product against jassids has been authorized. This situation could encourage the development of pest resistance to this product. **It is recommended to have several products against jassids with different modes of action to avoid the development of resistance.**

✓ **Discussions on the organization of the 17th review meeting**, scheduled to take place in Douala, Cameroon in 2025, led to the selection of April 08 to 11, 2025 as the date for the meeting.



*Participants at the Steering Committee meeting in Douala, Cameroon*

## SOME STATISTICS FROM THE 2024/2025 SEASON

|                                                                 | BENIN          | BURKINA FASO   | CAMEROUN                                       | CÔTE D'IVOIRE  | MALI           | SENEGAL        | TCHAD           | TOGO           | TOTAL                                        |                  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Number of producers</b>                                      | 175 548        | 122 069        | 141 276                                        | 99 799         | 212 978        | 11 660         | 117 484         | 76 783         | <b>957 597</b>                               |                  |
| <b>Number of CVPC (Village Cooperative of Cotton Producers)</b> | 2 131          | 7 137          | 1 700                                          | 3 308          | 7 427          | 1 255          | 8 321           | 2457           | <b>33 736</b>                                |                  |
| <b>Area forecast (ha)</b>                                       | 600 000        | 596 411        | 250 000                                        | 368 500        | 757 000        | 17 040         | 285 050         | 100 000        | <b>2 974 001</b>                             |                  |
| <b>Actual area (ha)</b>                                         | Early          | 12 318         | 8 856                                          | 27 983         | 4 401          | 2 015          | 2 352,5         | 17 658         | 274                                          | <b>758 57,5</b>  |
|                                                                 | Intermédiate   | 420 965        | 269 644                                        | 198 406        | 306 995        | 528 550        | 5 905,7         | 109 245        | 55386                                        | <b>1 895 097</b> |
|                                                                 | Late           | 102 296        | 100 484                                        | 2709           | 45 871         | 92 477         | 4061,3          | 39 353         | 23646                                        | <b>410 897</b>   |
|                                                                 | <b>Total</b>   | <b>535 579</b> | <b>378 984</b><br>approved :<br><b>346 778</b> | <b>229 098</b> | <b>357 267</b> | <b>623 042</b> | <b>12 319,5</b> | <b>166 256</b> | <b>79 306</b><br>approved :<br><b>75 792</b> | <b>2 346 132</b> |
| <b>Area (ha)/GPC</b>                                            | 251            | 53,10          | 134,76                                         | 108            | 84             | 9,81           | 19,98           | 27,5           |                                              |                  |
| <b>Area (ha) / producer</b>                                     | 3              | 3,10           | 1,62                                           | 3,6            | 2,93           | 1,05           | 1,4             | 0,99           |                                              |                  |
| <b>Seed cotton production (forecast) in T</b>                   | <b>669 000</b> | <b>299 887</b> | <b>360 600</b>                                 | <b>351 764</b> | <b>569 300</b> | <b>13 965</b>  | <b>80 287,4</b> | <b>65 000</b>  | <b>2 409 803</b>                             |                  |
| <b>Seed cotton yields (forecast) Kg/ha</b>                      | <b>1 248</b>   | <b>865</b>     | <b>1 570</b>                                   | <b>985</b>     | <b>914</b>     | <b>1 134</b>   | <b>513,7</b>    | <b>858</b>     |                                              |                  |
| <b>Seed cotton purchase price FCFA/kg</b>                       | 1st choice     | 300            | 325                                            | 290            | 310            | 300            | 350             | 280            | 300                                          |                  |
|                                                                 | 2nd choice     | 250            | 300                                            | 280            | 285            | 275            | 310             | 194            | 280                                          |                  |
|                                                                 | 3rd choice     |                |                                                | 265            |                |                | 245             | 92             |                                              |                  |
| <b>Start date of collection</b>                                 | 14/11/24       | 15/11/24       | 27/10/24                                       | 14/11/24       | 01/11/24       | 25/11/24       | 01/12/24        | 15/12/24       |                                              |                  |
| <b>End of collection</b>                                        | 30/04/25       | 30/04/25       | 30/04/25                                       | 30/4/25        | 30/04/25       | 27/02/25       | 30/03/25        | 30/04/25       |                                              |                  |

## RESISTANCE MANAGEMENT TRAINING WORKSHOP

On November 18 and 19, 2024, a Training of Trainers workshop on managing pest resistance to pesticides was held at the Hotel Caterina Ressor in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. The training was co-organized by CROPLIFE Africa and Middle East and PR-PICA, as part of the priority activities defined by the two parties.

The workshop is a follow-up to an initial activity carried out in PR-PICA countries, on farmers' practices in plant protection.

The workshop was attended by Entomologist Researchers, Research-Development or Training Managers from Cotton Companies/Interprofessions of PR-PICA member countries, and representatives of Agropharmaceutical Firms.

Initiated by a panel on resistance management, this training session was co-facilitated by Dr Billy ANNAN, Former IRAC Committee Member, International Consultant and Mr Bama YAO, Former Director of CROPLIFE West and Central Africa, Consultant. The following points were addressed:

- Pesticide resistance, its causes and how to avoid it;
- classification and codification of pesticide Mode of Action (MoA);

- pesticide mode-of-action labeling ;
- counterfeit and illegal pesticides and their impact on resistance management.

At the end of the training session, it was **recommended that cotton industry players in the Program countries take into account the labeling of pesticide modes of action in calls for tender.**

Indeed, the alternation of insecticide products with different modes of action is necessary to avoid the development of pest resistance to pesticides.



Resistance management training participants

## DOCTORAL THESIS DEFENSE

**Mr. Daouda Seybou MAÏGA**, Entomologist Researcher at the IER Coton Program in Mali, and member of the PR-PICA Entomology Commission, successfully defended his doctoral thesis on December 26, 2024 on the theme: **“Topping as a lever for agroecological protection against cotton pests (*Gossypium hirsutum*) in Mali”**.

Below is a summary of the results of this research.

Insect pests are a major constraint on cotton production. Their management is still mainly based on the use of pesticides. Topping cotton plants, which consists of removing the apical bud from the main stem of the cotton plant, is a possible alternative to chemical control, by removing resources for pests or inducing defensive reactions of the plant. The work carried out in the framework of this thesis aimed to evaluate the level of protection of the cotton plant conferred by topping, to identify the agroecological factors that condition the success of topping to reduce the incidence of pests, and finally to co-construct with producers new protection systems integrating topping. The work was based on experiments in stations (the N'Tarla Agronomic Research Station and the Farako/Finkolo substation in Mali) with two types of experimental design at the two stations (Fischer block in 2020 and split-plot in 2021) and in real environments (network of peasant plots in the cotton-growing area of Mali) through a survey and the setting up of observation sub-plots. The results show that topping (in the absence of insecticide protection) confers lower protection than insecticide treatments against attacks by bollworm caterpillars, with an average level of 11% reduction in the proportion of pierced fruiting bodies fallen to the ground (compared to the uncrowned), i.e. 5 times less than insecticide protection. Topping also has low to medium efficacy in reducing the incidence of sucking stingers (20-48%), although it is equivalent to insecticide treatments. Although topping (in the absence of insecticide protection) reduces the proportion of harvestable bolls attacked (-31%, compared to -55% for insecticide protection), it does not significantly increase the yield of seed cotton (+7%), unlike insecticide protection (+52%).

In peasant plots, topping has an overall positive effect (+25%) on seed cotton yield, through a significant increase in the number of bolls per plant, which may explain its rapid spread. The abundance of natural enemies, the amount of rain received by the cotton plot after topping, the application of manure and NPK fertilizers, the knowledge of the topping technique by the producers and the diversity of semi-natural habitats around the cotton plot, had a positive effect on the yield response to topping. Conversely, the yield response to topping decreases in the case of late sowing and increasing plant density and nitrogen fertilizer input. The topping prototypes co-constructed with the producers have generally reduced the prevalence of capsule caterpillar damage and the incidence of jassids, aphids and whiteflies. The integration of topping into cotton cropping systems in Mali must take into account the socio-technical barriers of the practice but also by combining other levers for optimal pest control and appropriation by producers.



*Dr Daouda Seybou MAÏGA (2nd from left) with members of the jury, after the defense.*

## PR-PICA AGENDA

**08 - 11 April 2025 in Douala, Cameroon: 17th Review Meeting**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR PARTICIPATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE PR-PICA EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT. Email: [prpica@yahoo.fr](mailto:prpica@yahoo.fr) ; [sawlix@yahoo.fr](mailto:sawlix@yahoo.fr)**

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## SAD PAGE

We deeply regret to announce the death of **Mr. PALAÏ OUMAROU**, SODECOTON Cameroon Breeder and member of the PR-PICA Varietal Improvement Commission. He died on January 1, 2025 in Maroua as a result of illness. Interment took place on January 02, 2025.

**On behalf of PR-PICA, we offer our sincere condolences to his biological family and to SODECOTON. May GOD console hearts and may his soul rest in peace.**

