



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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INFOS PR-PICA

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2025/2026 COTTON SEASON

**Cotton seed production forecasts:
satisfaction levels vary according to
country**

2025/2026 cotton season, which is coming to an end, was marked in October by low rainfall in all countries, heralding the end of the rainy season.

Pest pressure was low in most countries, both for lepidoptera and sucking pests. However, with the opening of the bolls, rigorous monitoring of the bug *Dysdercus* spp. is recommended.

Boll counts have made it possible to estimate seed cotton production, with projected yields ranging from 813 to 1424 kg/ha depending on the country.

In addition, a PR-PICA delegation participated in a workshop to launch PLINAZOLIN Technology, organised by SYNGENTA on 14 October 2025 in Cotonou, Benin.

OCTOBER 2025 RAINFALL

Agro-ecological zones	Dekad	Bénin		Burkina Faso		Cameroun		Côte d'Ivoire		Mali		Sénégal		Tchad		Togo	
		nber days	height (mm)	nber days	height (mm)	nber days	height (mm)	nber days	height (mm)	nber days	height (mm)	nber days	height (mm)	nber days	height (mm)	nber days	height (mm)
Dry zone/ North	Dekad 1	3	46	2	63	0	0	5	46	1	7	1	8	1	10	3	47
	Dekad 2	1	17	0	5	1	9	2	10	1	10	2	12	2	35	2	26
	Dekad 3	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	4	1	2
	Total	5	67	2	68	1	9	7	56	2	17	3	23	3	48	6	75
Median zone/ Center	Dekad 1	3	44	3	45	3	49	4	26	1	7	2	17	3	45	3	48
	Dekad 2	2	39	0	0	3	24	2	18	0	0	2	27	2	45	4	46
	Dekad 3	1	3	0	0	1	15	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0
	Total	6	86	3	45	7	88	6	44	1	7	4	45	5	90	7	95
Humid zone South	Dekad 1	3	40	2	34	5	14	3	64	2	10	3	48	3	55	3	41
	Dekad 2	2	25	1	2	1	18	3	62	1	7	3	52	1	13	3	40
	Dekad 3	1	14	0	0	1	14	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	4	1	11
	Total	6	80	3	36	7	46	6	126	3	17	6	103	5	72	7	92
AVERAGE OCTOBER 2025		6	77	3	50	5	48	6	75	2	14	4	57	4	70	7	87
RAINFALL DISTRIBUTION		XX		XX		X		XX		X		XX		XX		XX	

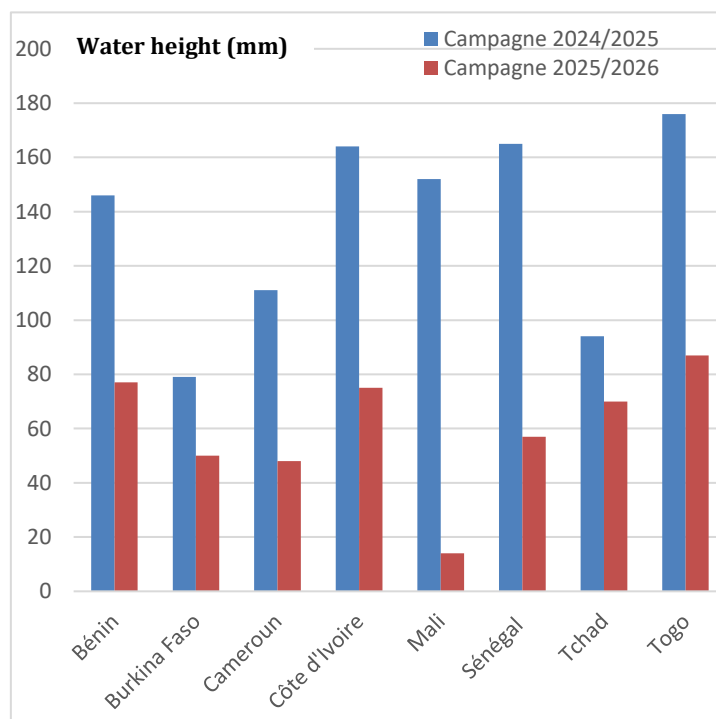
X= Low distribution. XX : Average distribution. XXX : Good distribution

Rainfall recorded during October 2025 was low in all countries, ranging from 14 mm in Mali to 87 mm in Togo.

Rainfall distribution was poor to moderate depending on the country, ranging from 2 days of rain in Mali to 7 days in Togo.

In most countries, rainfall was scarce, particularly in dry and semi-arid areas, heralding the end of the rainy season. This situation could have a negative impact on the development of late crops, resulting in low productivity.

Compared to rainfall in October of the previous season, there has been a decrease in rainfall for October 2025 in all countries: Benin (-69 mm), Burkina Faso (-29 mm), Cameroon (-63 mm), Côte d'Ivoire (-89 mm), Mali (-138 mm), Senegal (-108 mm), Chad (-24 mm) and Togo (-89 mm).



October 2025 rainfall compared to last season's rainfall

SEED COTTON PRODUCTION FORECASTS, 2025/2026 SEASON

	Bénin	Burkina Faso	Cameroun	Côte d'Ivoire	Mali	Sénégal	Tchad	Togo
Updated sown area (Ha)	510 897	391 401	197 741	291 110	533 779	20 384	150 048	74 211
Forecasts Seed cotton production (T)	632 083	337 466	281 500	evaluation in progress	433 700	25 644	evaluation in progress	63 029
Yield forecasts Seed cotton (Kg/ha)	1 237	862	1 424		813	1 258		849

AVERAGE PEST SITUATION AS OF 31 OCTOBER 2025

Pests	Infestation level by country								Observations
	Bénin	Burkina Faso	Cameroun	Côte d'Ivoire	Mali	Sénégal	Tchad	Togo	
<i>H. armigera</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Low infestations
<i>Earias spp</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Low infestations
<i>D. watersi</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Low infestations
<i>T. leucotreta</i>	X			X			X	X	Low infestations
<i>P. gossypiella</i>	X			X			X	X	Low infestations
<i>Bemisia tabaci</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Low infestations
Jassides (<i>Amrasca biguttula</i>)	X	X	XX	X	XX	XX	X	X	Medium infestations in Cameroun, Mali and Senegal
Jassides (Autres)	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	Low infestations
<i>Dysdercus spp</i>	X	X		X	XX	X	X	X	Medium infestations in Mali
<i>A. gossypii</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Low infestations
<i>P. latus</i>	X			X	X	X	X	X	Low infestations
<i>H. derogata</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Low infestations
<i>A. flava</i>	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	Low infestations
<i>S. littoralis</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Low infestations
Virescence florale	X	X		X		X	X		Low infestations
Fusariose	X	X		X		X	X		Low infestations
Bactériose	X	X					X		Low infestations
<i>S. frugiperda</i> (sur coton)	X			X					Low infestations

X = Low infestation; XX = Medium infestation; XXX = High infestation

The level of lepidopteran infestation was generally low in all countries during October 2025. The same was true for sucking pests, although there were low to moderate levels of infestation by the jassid *Amrasca biguttula*. A moderate level of *Dysdercus* infestation was observed in Mali.

Compared to infestation levels in October of the previous season, there has been a significant decrease in infestations of both lepidoptera and sucking pests this season.

Compliance with phytosanitary treatments has helped to control pest infestations.

However, with the opening of the bolls, a high level of infestation by the *Dysdercus* bug is expected in these countries.

Staggered harvesting is recommended to limit the deterioration of fibre and seed quality (**see below: Focus on the *Dysdercus* bug**)

FOCUS ON THE DYSDERCUS BUG

Dysdercus bugs are a major concern because of the damage they cause to cotton plants, from capsule formation to seed cotton harvest. These pests, commonly known as 'cotton boll weevils', impact the yield of seed cotton, fibre and seed in terms of both quantity and quality. To reduce the impact of bugs, it is important to implement an agronomic control method by splitting the harvest.

✚ **How to recognise *Dysdercus*:** Adult *Dysdercus* have a red-striped abdomen and red and black wings. The bright red larvae are usually found in groups on open bolls.

✚ **Damage:** *Dysdercus* larvae and adults feed by piercing the seed at the milky stage, but also at more advanced stages. Through their feeding, these bugs are responsible for reduced productivity, deterioration in seed quality (decreased germination rate) and fibre quality (formation of 'yellow' cotton, hence the nickname 'cotton dye'). They also cause young capsules to fall or rot.

✚ **Geographical and seasonal distribution:** *Dysdercus voëlkerei* is the most common late-stage bug. These bugs are found throughout the cotton-growing areas of the sub-region. Their populations generally vary greatly from one season to the next.

✚ **Control methods: Split harvesting.**

Split harvesting involves harvesting cotton seed twice, approximately three to four weeks apart, to avoid exposure to *Dysdercus* spp. bites and other adverse weather conditions.

- **First harvest:** This is carried out when 50% of the bolls are open.

- **Second harvest:** This takes place when the remaining bolls open.



Dysdercus spp adult and larvae on a green boll



Dysdercus spp larvae on an opened boll

PLINAZOLIN TECHNOLOGY LAUNCH

On 14 October 2025, SYNGENTA organised a workshop at the SOFITEL Hotel in Cotonou, Benin, to launch its insecticide product, **PLINAZOLIN Technology**.

The objective was to present the results of PLINAZOLIN Technology to stakeholders in the cotton sector in West and Central Africa.

PR-PICA, as the programme that tested this product during the 2024/2025 and 2025/2026 seasons, was invited to give a presentation at this workshop.

The presentations yielded the following main conclusions:

Regarding the mode of action:

PLINAZOLIN Technology has a different mode of action from other products currently used against jassids in cotton production. This would be an advantage in managing resistance in *A. biguttula*.

On biological efficacy:

- PLINAZOLIN Technology has shown very good efficacy against whiteflies (*A. biguttula*) at doses of 22.5 g/ha, 30 g/ha and 45 g/ha.

- PLINAZOLIN Technology has demonstrated good efficacy against exocarpic lepidoptera at doses of 30 g/ha and 45 g/ha.

- PLINAZOLIN Technology has demonstrated good efficacy against mites (*P. latus*) at doses of 22.5 g/ha, 30 g/ha and 45 g/ha.

On persistence:

- PLINAZOLIN Technology retains good efficacy against leafhoppers, even at application frequencies of 14 days, 21 days or 28 days.

- In addition, PLINAZOLIN Technology appears to ensure good performance at application intervals not exceeding 21 days.

Recommendations indicate that:

- Caution should be exercised by not exceeding 21 days between applications, as efficacy is limited against certain pests, resulting in a risk of reduced yield;

- The optimal dose of 30 g/ha should be used for economic reasons.

Modality	Aphids	Jassid (<i>A. biguttula</i>)	Whiteflies	<i>Helicoverpa</i>	<i>Earias</i>	<i>Diparopsis</i>	Mite <i>P. latus</i>
Plinazolin (22,5 g/ha)	++	+++	+	++	+++	+++	+++
Plinazolin (30 g/ha)	++	+++	+	+++	+++	+++	+++
Plinazolin (45 g/ha)	++	+++	+	+++	+++	+++	+++

(+) = Low

(++) = Average

(+++)= Good



PR-PICA AGENDA

December 15-17, 2025, in Togo: Meeting of the Steering Committee