



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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Newsletter published by
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PR-PICA.

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- Executive Secretary :

M. Félix SAWADOGO

2026 NEW YEARS GREETINGS FROM PR-PICA PRESIDENT

Dear PR-PICA Members and Partners,

On behalf of the members of the PR-PICA Steering Committee, I would like to wish you a happy New Year 2026. May this new year be one of health, peace, success and prosperity for you and your families.

My sincere thanks go to all PR-PICA member organisations, as well as to the Executive Secretariat, for your commitment to carrying out activities in 2025, which has led to satisfactory results. I would also like to wish the cotton companies and inter-professional organisations a very successful 2026/2027 cotton season.

To our Programme Partners, I would also like to express my sincere thanks for your support and involvement in carrying out activities in 2025. I remain hopeful that our mutually beneficial collaboration will be even better in 2026.



Chairman
Tete AWOKOU

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2026 TO ALL!



**42th MEETING OF THE PR-PICA
STEERING COMMITTEE**

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PR-PICA STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

The 42th meeting was held in Lomé, Togo

On 15, 16 and 17 December 2025, the 42nd meeting of the Steering Committee of the Regional Programme for Integrated Cotton Production in Africa (PR-PICA) was held at the Cika Golden Hotel and Suites in Lomé, Togo. It was attended by representatives of cotton companies and/or inter-professional organisations from the Programme's member countries, heads of research commissions and the African Cotton Producers Association (AProCA).

The opening ceremony was chaired by the General Manager of the New Cotton Company of Togo (NSCT), **Mr Martin DREVON**.



Presidium of the opening ceremony. From left to right: Mr Koussouwé KOUROUFEI, President of AProCA; Mr Martin DREVON, General Manager of NSCT; and Mr Tete AWOKOU, President of PR-PICA.

After the opening speeches, the meeting continued and addressed the following points:

- Presentation of the 2025 technical report;
- Presentation of the 2025 financial report;
- Presentation of the researchers' committee reports;
- Discussions on the progress of the 2025/2026 campaign;
- Review and adoption of activities and the 2026 budget;
- Follow-up on recommendations on whitefly management;
- Audience with the Director General of the NSCT;
- Organisation of the 18th review meeting.

❖ Presentations were made on the progress of the campaign, which revealed that:

- rainfall irregularities in all countries;
- control of leafhopper infestations in countries that followed the PR-PICA recommendations;
- a level of coverage that varies from one country to another, ranging from 20,384 ha in Senegal to 533,779 ha in Mali;

- seed cotton production forecasts ranging from 25,643 tonnes in Senegal to 647,290 tonnes in Benin;
- Cotton seed yield forecasts below 900 kg/ha, except in Benin, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal, where yields are above 1,000 kg/ha;
- Purchase prices for first-grade cotton seed ranging from 280 to 350 CFA francs/kg depending on the country.

❖ The following points were discussed regarding the implementation of recommendations on whitefly management:

- Seed treatment with 3 to 5 g m.a. per kg of seeds of Thiamethoxam or 5 g m.a. per kg of seeds of Imidacloprid;
- Diversification in the ordering of insecticides, modes of action of molecules used against jassids;
- Not using the same active ingredient against whiteflies more than twice in succession during the same agricultural season;
- Inclusion in tender documents of the Mode of Action (MoA) label for better management of pest resistance to products.

It emerged from the discussions that, although implementation varies from one country to another, steps are being taken to ensure compliance with these recommendations for the next cotton season in 2026/2027.

❖ On the organisation of the 18th review meeting to be held in Lomé, Togo, the period from 14 to 17 April 2026 has been chosen for this meeting. As for the researchers' work, it is scheduled for 9 to 13 April 2026.

In addition, hotels that could potentially host the meeting or accommodate participants have been visited by members of the Steering Committee.



Participants at the Steering Committee meeting in Lomé, Togo

SOME STATISTICS FROM THE 2025/2026 SEASON

		BENIN	BURKINA FASO	CAMEROUN	CÔTE D'IVOIRE	MALI	SENEGAL	TCHAD	TOGO	TOTAL
Number of producers		158 897	125 564	127 765	79 989	203 874	16 653	128 970	68 176	909 888
Number of CVPC (Village Cooperative of Cotton Producers)		1 975	6 403	1 736	2 904	8 126	1 252	7 905	2 363	32 664
Area forecast (ha)		600 000	536 422	250 000	353 500	672 000	21 160	225 878	110 000	2 768 960
Actual area (ha)	Early	23 483	28 819	18 251	568	9 806	4 776	12 491	2 303	100 496
	Intermédiaire	356 852	258 805	116 180	243 832	477 966	12 441	118 907	36 074	1 621 056
	Late	130 562	103 783	63 310	45 808	46 007	3 167	19 262	38 376	450 275
	Total	510 897	391 407	197 741	290 208	533 779	20 384	150 660	76 752	2 171 827
Area (ha)/GPC		259	61	113,9	100	65,68	16	19	33	66,5
Area (ha) / producer		3	3	1,54	4	2,61	1	1	1	2,3
Seed cotton production (forecast) in T		647 290	336 812	281 500	317 000	433 700	25 643	75 000	64 340	2 181 285
Seed cotton yields (forecast) Kg/ha		1 267	861	1 424	1 092	813	1 258	500	867	1004
Seed cotton purchase price FCFA/kg	1st choice	300	325	280	310	300	350	280	300	
	2nd choice	250	300	270	285	275	310	194	280	
	3rd choice			255		-	245	96		
Start date of collection		17/10/25	27/10/25	30/10/25	21/11/25	01/11/25	18/11/25	15/12/25	15/12/25	
End of collection		30/04/26	30/04/26	30/04/26	30/04/26	30/04/26	25/03/26	30/04/26	30/04/26	

VISIT TO UPL PRODUCT TRIALS IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE

From 18 to 21 November 2025, a PR-PICA technical mission, composed of the Head of the Entomology Commission, Dr S. A. Omer HEMA, and the Executive Secretary, Mr Félix SAWADOGO, visited Côte d'Ivoire. The purpose of this mission was to visit the trials set up as part of the collaboration with UPL, as well as those conducted as part of PR-PICA.

The UPL delegation was composed of Dr N'GUESSAN Jean Claude, Head of Research and Development for West and Central Africa, and Mr Maxime SAWADOGO, Head of Cotton Marketing for West and Central Africa.

As a reminder, during the 2025/2026 campaign, UPL requested technical assistance from PR-PICA to test its insecticide and biostimulant products in several countries participating in the programme, including Côte d'Ivoire.

In Bouaké, the PR-PICA-UPL delegation paid a courtesy visit to the Regional Director of the National Agricultural Research Centre (CNRA) in Bouaké, Dr Cyrille N. KOUASSI, and to Mr N'Diamoi KODJANE, member of the PR-PICA Steering Committee in Côte d'Ivoire.

It then visited the Bouaké cotton station, where the following trials were visited:

- Evaluation of the effectiveness of new UPL products against cotton pests;
- Evaluation of the effectiveness of UPL's CALLIFERT foliar fertiliser on cotton yield;
- Impact of whitefly attacks on seed cotton yield;
- definition of intervention thresholds against jassids through direct observation of plants;
- definition of intervention thresholds against jassids based on yellow sticky trap catches;
- effect of foliar spraying with calcium nitrate on cotton production parameters;
- pre-vulgarisation testing of zinc sulphate applied in addition to vulgarised fertilisation.



Visit to the trials at the Bouaké cotton station

On the way back to Abidjan, the delegation stopped at Yamoussoukro at the UPL Company's experimental farm. At this farm, screening tests of insecticide products are conducted on cotton plots. In addition, trials are being conducted to select hybrid seeds for maize, cabbage, okra, etc. The possibility of PR-PICA conducting certain trials on this farm was also discussed.

In Abidjan, the delegation met with the Managing Director of CALLIVOIRE, Mr Edmond DUTAUZIET. It was agreed that there was a need to formalise the PR-PICA - UPL partnership, with areas of collaboration.

At the end of this mission, the following conclusions were reached:

- effective implementation and good conduct of the UPL Partner's trials;
- Satisfactory mid-term results from the UPL product trials;
- Low to moderate pest infestation, with however, heavy infestation of the leafhopper *A. biguttula* on untreated plots;
- A need to formalise the partnership between PR-PICA and UPL by initiating discussions immediately.



Trial of the CALLIFERT COTON product at the Bouaké station



Visit to the UPL experimental farm in Yamoussoukro

PR-PICA AGENDA

14–17 April 2026 in Lomé, Togo: 18th Review Meeting

The PR-PICA annual review meeting is a gathering for presentations and discussions on the results of research and development activities during the previous cotton season. Each year, it brings together around 250 participants, including representatives of cotton companies and/or inter-professional organisations, research institutes, cotton producer organisations from programme countries and other African countries, as well as representatives of sub-regional and international organisations and agro-pharmaceutical companies from around the world.

The objectives of this review meeting, which will be held this year **on 14, 15, 16 and 17 April 2026 in Lomé, Togo**, are as follows:

to review the progress of the 2025/2026 cotton season in the Programme member countries;

- present the results of research and development activities carried out during the 2025/2026 campaign and the prospects for integrated cotton production management (pest management, soil fertility management and the issue of new varieties adapted to climate change);
- facilitate B2B meetings between representatives of researchers, cotton companies, cotton producers, technical and financial partners, and agro-pharmaceutical firms.

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