



PROGRAMME REGIONAL DE PRODUCTION INTEGREE DU COTON EN AFRIQUE

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

Tél : (+226) 76 59 55 01/ 70 07 73 51

E-mail : prpica@yahoo.fr

Site Web : www.prpica.org

INFOS PR-PICA

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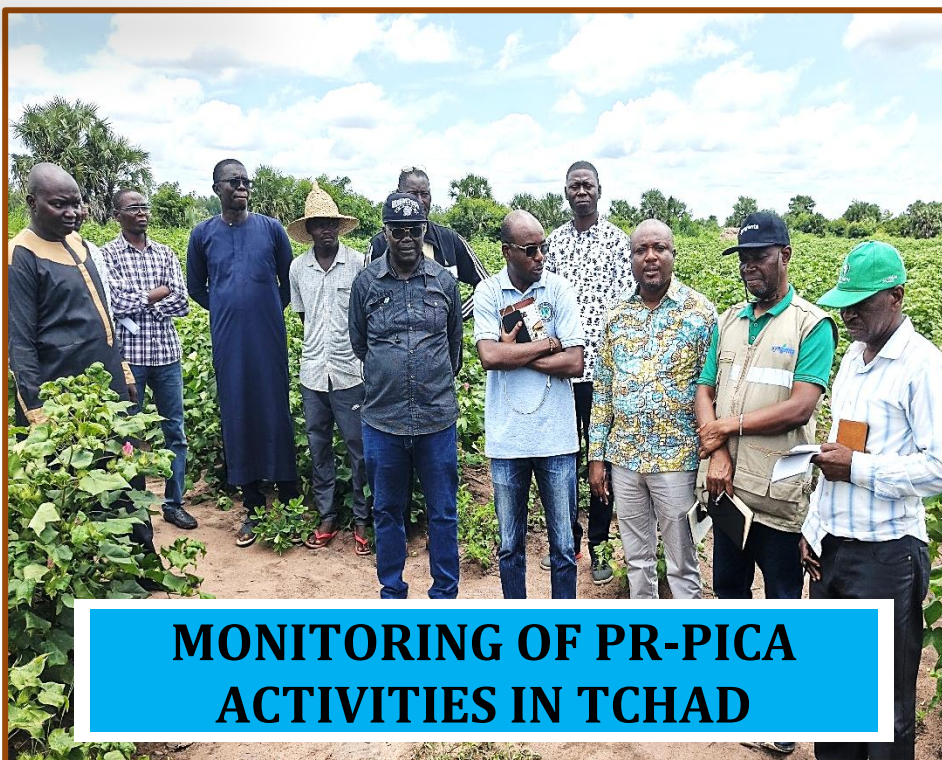
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- **Chairman of PR-PICA :**
M. Tete AWOKOU

- **Vice-Chairman :**
Dr Abdou TRAORE

- **Rapporteur :**
M. NADAMA

- **Executive Secretary :**
M. Félix SAWADOGO



MONITORING OF PR-PICA ACTIVITIES IN TCHAD

2026/2027 cotton season was marked in September by average to good rainfall in most countries participating in the Program, although there were prolonged periods of drought during the first half of the month.

Pest pressure was characterized by low to moderate infestations of fruit-eating insects, particularly *Helicoverpa armigera*. As for sucking pests, infestations in all countries continue to be dominated by jassids and whiteflies.

As part of the monitoring of activities for the 2026/2027 season, a PR-PICA delegation visited the trials set up in Tchad and held discussions with stakeholders in the cotton sector.

In addition, PR-PICA received financial support from CROPLIFE AME for a pilot project on personal protective equipment (PPE) in cotton-growing areas in Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire.

RAINFALL FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2026

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	48	3	45	3	68	4	30	4	51	1	5	3	41	4	48
	Dekad 2	4	62	3	58	4	53	5	60	2	20	3	33	3	45	4	76
	Dekad 3	5	82	4	45	3	75	5	87	4	21	3	24	3	62	5	94
	Total	12	192	9	147	10	196	14	177	10	92	7	62	10	148	12	219
Median zone/ Center	Dekad 1	4	78			4	21	4	54	2	34	2	27	3	63	4	69
	Dekad 2	3	52			3	88	6	163	6	62	4	50	3	47	4	69
	Dekad 3	4	88			2	49	6	130	3	99	4	71	4	99	7	180
	Total	11	218			9	158	16	347	11	195	10	148	9	209	15	318
Humid zone South	Dekad 1	3	68	3	48	4	58	2	26	4	108	4	68	3	67	3	36
	Dekad 2	2	24	3	60	4	57	2	48	4	120	5	82	2	47	3	45
	Dekad 3	3	60	3	53	4	142	1	16	7	137	5	95	3	51	3	71
	Total	8	151	9	161	12	257	5	90	15	365	14	245	8	165	8	152
AVERAGE SEPTEMBER 2026		10	187	9	154	10	204	12	205	12	217	10	151	9	174	12	230
RAINFALL DISTRIBUTION		XX		XX		X		XX		XX		XX		XX		XX	

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

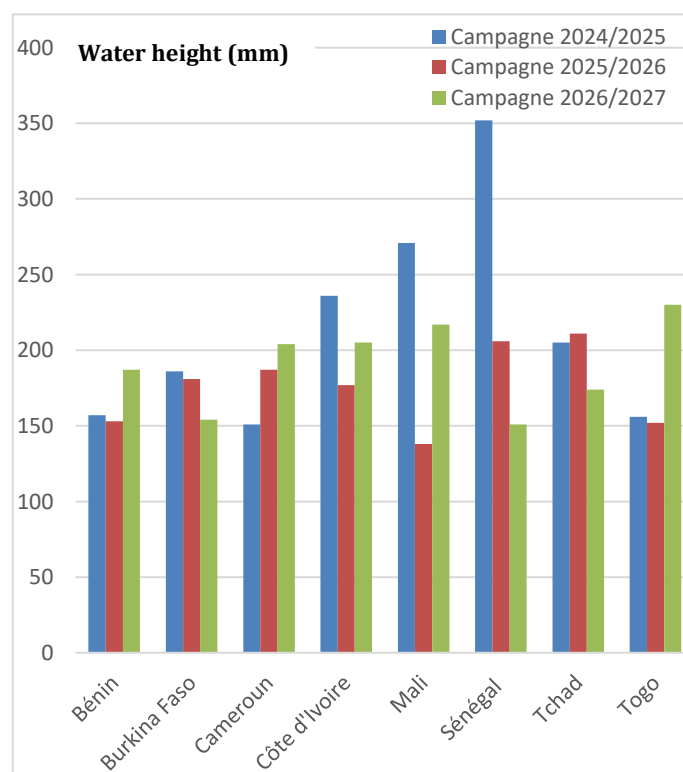
Rainfall levels in September 2026 ranged from average to heavy depending on the country, varying from 151 mm in Senegal to 230 mm in Togo.

As for rainfall distribution, it ranged from poor to good depending on the ten-day period and the country.

Flooding was observed in Benin's northern dry and central zones.

In contrast, pockets of drought were recorded during the first half of September in Cameroon, Burkina Faso, the CIDT zone in Côte d'Ivoire, Chad, and the dry zone in Senegal, leading to fruit drop. Rainfall resumed in these countries starting in the second half of September.

Compared to rainfall levels in September of the previous growing season, a decrease in rainfall was observed for September 2026 in Burkina Faso (-27 mm), Senegal (-55 mm), and Chad (-37 mm). In contrast, an increase was observed in Benin (+34 mm), Cameroon (+17 mm), Côte d'Ivoire (+28 mm), Mali (+79 mm), and Togo (+78 mm).



Rainfall in September 2026 compared to the last two seasons

AVERAGE PEST SITUATION AS OF 30 SEPTEMBER 2026

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

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

During the month of September, pest pressure ranged from low to moderate depending on the pest species in all countries.

Moderate infestations of *H. armigera* were reported in Benin, Burkina Faso, and Senegal.

Sucking pests continue to be dominated by the jassid, *Amrasca biguttula*, with moderate infestations in Benin, Mali, and Chad. Moderate infestations of whiteflies were also observed in Burkina Faso, Mali, Senegal, and Chad.

Given the emergence of whiteflies in recent growing seasons, this must be taken into account in the plant

protection treatment program for upcoming growing seasons.

In Burkina Faso, capsule rot was observed at low to moderate levels, depending on the region.

In general, pest infestations—particularly by *H. armigera* and *A. biguttula*—were exacerbated by pockets of drought observed in several countries during the first ten days of September.

Furthermore, strict adherence to the phytosanitary treatment program is recommended as the growing season comes to a close to ensure effective pest management.

REGIONAL MONITORING OF ACTIVITIES FOR 2026/2027 SEASON

A PR-PICA delegation visits the trial sites and meets with stakeholders in Tchad's cotton sector

In accordance with its 2026 program of activities, a PR-PICA delegation, composed of the President, Mr. Tete AWOKOU; the Executive Secretary, Mr. Félix SAWADOGO; the representative of the Entomology Commission, Dr. Gustave BONNI, the representative of the Agronomy Commission, Dr. Emmanuel Kouadio NGORAN, and the representative of the Plant Breeding Commission, Dr. Nambou GNOFAM, visited Chad from September 21 to 26, 2026.

The purpose of the mission was to visit field activities (trials and tests) and to engage with stakeholders in Chad's cotton sector to gather their concerns.

The delegation was joined by members of the PR-PICA Coordination in Chad:

- Dr. Paulin DJEKONBE, member of the Steering Committee;
- Dr. Réoungal DJINODJI, Agronomist Researcher.

During the mission, the PR-PICA delegation held meetings with:

- ✓ the Scientific Director of the Chadian Institute for Agronomic Research for Development (ITRAD), Dr. Djirabaye NADJAM, representing the Director General;
- ✓ the General Director of COTONTCHAD SN, Mr. Ibrahim MALLOUM;
- ✓ the President of the National Union of Cotton Producers of Chad (UNPCT), Mr. MBONTAR Ndouko.

Discussions regarding the challenges of the growing season and expectations for the PR-PICA focused primarily on the following key points:

- collaboration between ITRAD and COTONTCHAD, SN;



PR-PICA delegation with the Director General of COTONTCHAD, Mr. Ibrahim MALLOUM (third from the right), in N'Djamena.

- the progress of the cotton growing season in various countries, marked by prolonged periods of drought;
- the challenge of developing varieties that are well-suited to and meet the requirements of spinners;
- the challenge of government support for research, particularly in the cotton sector;
- the importance of cotton as a driving force for cereal crops;
- collaboration between the ACA and PR-PICA;
- the issue of soil fertility management;
- support for producers;
- the framework for cooperation between COTONTCHAD-ITRAD and the UNPCT;



PR-PICA delegation with ITRAD's Scientific Director, Dr. Djirabaye NADJAM (5th from the left), in N'Djamena.



PR-PICA delegation with UNPCT President Mr. MBONTAR Ndouko (fourth from the left) in Moundou

In addition to these discussions, the delegation visited the trials set up as part of the Program at the Bébédjia research station. These trials included the following:

- evaluation of F5 population lines derived from PR-PICA crosses;
- evaluation of the combined effect of plant protection and potassium fertilization on jassid infestations;
- evaluation of the effect of different weed control practices on cotton yield;
- evaluation of the effectiveness of nano-urea on cotton yield;
- evaluation of new plant protection programs based on Plinazoline;
- evaluation of crop losses and the effectiveness of protection programs;
- a study of jassid preference between cotton and vegetable crops;
- the establishment of action thresholds for jassids based on yellow sticky traps;
- the impact of jassid attacks on seed cotton yield;
- the establishment of action thresholds for jassids based on infested plants;

In addition, the delegation visited smallholder plots in the field and spoke with producers.

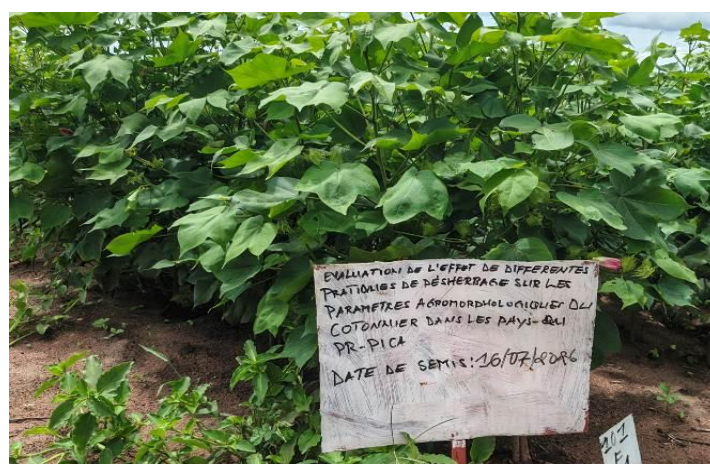
In general, the following was noted:

- ✓ the establishment and proper conduct of most of the program's trials;
- ✓ low to high levels of jassid infestations depending on the location.

Following a series of visits to trial sites and discussions with stakeholders in the cotton sector, the delegation presented a summary of its mission to COTONTCHAD's agricultural production officials.

The following key recommendations emerged from this mission to Chad:

- ✚ Continue self-pollination in the evaluation trial of F5 population lines and assess the extent of jassids damage;
- ✚ Revise the plant protection program to systematically include jassids control products;
- ✚ Use two- or three-component formulations that control not only jassids but also leaf-feeding and fruit-feeding pests;
- ✚ Have several insecticides with different modes of action against jassids to delay the onset of resistance;
- ✚ Begin phytosanitary treatments starting on the 35th day after emergence;
- ✚ Treat seeds with a recommended leafhopper control product;
- ✚ Improve the level of support provided to producers by increasing the ratio of advisors to producers;
- ✚ Establish a framework for collaboration between COTONTCHAD, ITRAD, and UNPCT;
- ✚ Support the institutional reorganization of UNPCT to better structure the producer community.



A trial on the Effect of Different Weed Control Practices in Bébédjia



A trial on the impact of jassids attacks on seed cotton yield in Bébédjia



Visit to a smallholder farm in the village of Meting

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT FOR ALL IN COTTON-PRODUCING AREAS

PR-PICA - CROPLIFE AME pilot project is being implemented in Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire

As part of their collaboration, PR-PICA received financial support from CROPLIFE to build producers' capacity in the use of simple and appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) through a pilot project in Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire.

The objective of this pilot project, implemented during the 2026/2027 growing season, is to help improve the protection of cotton farmers against risks associated with pesticide use by ensuring they have access to a minimum level of protective equipment.

In fact, pesticides can pose risks to human health when these risks are not properly managed, particularly when the farmers who handle and apply them do not have adequate protective equipment.

Unprotected exposure can therefore lead to health problems, such as skin irritation, respiratory problems, nausea, vomiting, and, in some cases, more serious illnesses.

Farmers are therefore advised to wear at least the minimum appropriate protective equipment when handling and applying pesticides, such as gloves, masks, safety goggles, and suitable clothing.

Therefore, it is essential to build producers' capacity regarding pesticide-related risks and best application practices, particularly compliance with the use of a minimum amount of simple and appropriate PPE.

The cascade training system was used to distribute PPE.

✚ Training of trainers from cotton companies

The capacity of trainers from cotton companies were reinforced by the researchers who developed the



Capacity Building for Trainers of Stakeholders in the Cotton Sector in Burkina Faso

training modules and instructional materials needed for the program. In each country, at least 10 trainers from cotton companies or industry associations were recruited.



Capacity Building for Trainers of Stakeholders in the Cotton Sector in Côte d'Ivoire

✚ Training of Agricultural Advisory Staff for Cotton Companies

Capacity building for the agricultural advisory staff of cotton companies was achieved through the training of at least 30 advisory support staff per country by trainers from those companies.

✚ Training for Producers

In each country, the target per agricultural advisory staff member was set at a minimum of 20 producers from cotton producer cooperatives in their respective areas, for a total of 600 producers per country. At least 1,200 producers were targeted across both countries for this pilot project.

By mid-September 2026, more than 1,000 producers had already received training on PPE.



Capacity Building for Agricultural Advisory Staff in the FASOCOTON Zone in Burkina Faso



Capacity Building for Agricultural Advisory Staff in the IVOIRE COTON Zone in Côte d'Ivoire



Capacity Building for Cotton Producers in the FASOCOTON Zone in Burkina Faso

Following these two countries, this project will be expanded to other PR-PICA countries in the coming growing seasons. These capacity-building efforts for producers are a necessary step so that cotton

companies and inter-professional organizations can begin the process of delivering PPE through suppliers during consultations on agricultural inputs.

PR-PICA AGENDA

October 12–16, 2026, in Benin :

Mission to visit trials and exchanges with stakeholders in the cotton sector

November 2–7, 2026, in Côte d'Ivoire:

Training for researchers on resistance management and conducting pest sensitivity tests to insecticides