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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RESEARCHERS' CAPACITY BUILDING IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE

2026/2027 cotton season, which is now coming to a close, was marked this October by low to moderate rainfall, depending on the country.

Boll counts were used to estimate seed cotton production, with projected yields ranging from 832 to 1,439 kg/ha depending on the country.

Pest pressure was low to moderate depending on the pest and the country, with jassids and whiteflies being the predominant pests.

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

In addition, a workshop to build researchers' capacity in resistance management and conducting pest sensitivity tests to insecticides was organized in Bouaké, Côte d'Ivoire.

RAINFALL FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 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	2	22	3	36	4	47	4	80	3	96	3	50	1	20	2	30
	Dekad 2	2	19	1	1	0	0	2	11	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	10
	Dekad 3	1	12	0	0	0	0	2	51	1	20	1	16	0	0	0	0
	Total	**5**	**53**	**4**	**37**	**4**	**47**	**8**	**142**	**4**	**116**	**4**	**66**	**2**	**22**	**3**	**40**
Median zone/ Center	Dekad 1	3	44			3	19	3	55	0	0	5	110	2	27	5	106
	Dekad 2	2	14			0	0	2	69	1	10	1	13	1	6	1	7
	Dekad 3	2	16			0	0	0	0	2	77	1	5	0	1	0	0
	Total	**7**	**74**			**3**	**19**	**5**	**124**	**3**	**87**	**6**	**128**	**3**	**35**	**5**	**113**
Humid zone South	Dekad 1	2	40	3	53	2	9	5	65	10	86	6	93	2	15	3	29
	Dekad 2	1	17	1	3	1	15	3	42	1	7	1	17	1	8	2	25
	Dekad 3	1	16	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	16	0	2	1	11
	Total	**4**	**73**	**5**	**58**	**3**	**24**	**8**	**107**	**11**	**93**	**8**	**125**	**2**	**25**	**6**	**64**
AVERAGE OCTOBER 2026		**5**	**67**	**4**	**48**	**3**	**30**	**7**	**124**	**6**	**99**	**6**	**107**	**2**	**27**	**5**	**72**
RAINFALL DISTRIBUTION		**XX**		**X**		**X**		**XX**		**XX**		**XX**		**X**		**X**	

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

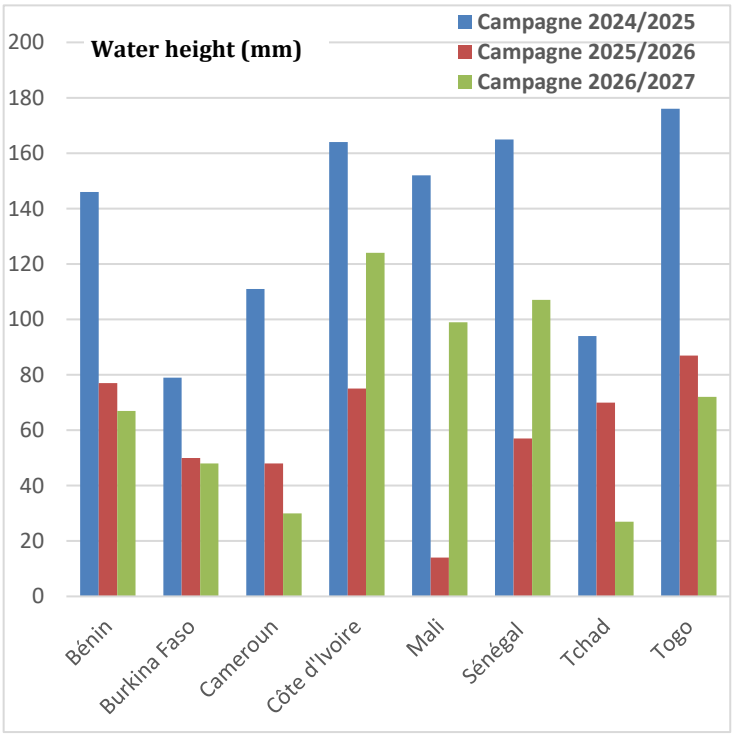
For the month of October 2026, recorded rainfall amounts ranged from low to moderate depending on the country, with amounts varying from 27 mm in Chad to 124 mm in Côte d'Ivoire.

Rainfall distribution ranged from poor to moderate depending on the country, ranging from 2 days of rain in Senegal to 7 days in Côte d'Ivoire.

In some countries, such as Côte d'Ivoire (CIDT zone) and Senegal, heavy rains were recorded during the first ten-day period, disrupting the initial opening of the seed pods and causing pod rot in some areas among early-sown crops.

Furthermore, rainfall ceased at the end of the first ten-day period in several countries, particularly in the dry and mid-range zones, signaling the end of the rainy season.

Compared to rainfall levels in October of the previous growing season, a decrease in rainfall was observed for October 2026 in Benin (-10 mm), Burkina Faso (-2 mm), Cameroon (-18 mm), Chad (-43 mm), and Togo (-15 mm). In contrast, an increase was recorded in Côte d'Ivoire (+49 mm), Mali (+85 mm), and Senegal (+50 mm).



Rainfall in October 2026 compared to the last two seasons

SEED COTTON PRODUCTION FORECASTS, 2026/2027 SEASON

	Bénin	Burkina Faso	Cameroun	Côte d'Ivoire	Mali	Sénégal	Tchad	Togo
Updated sown area (Ha)	528 410	443 441	210 710	351 719	evaluation in progress	27 750	200 957	116 838
Forecasts Seed cotton production (T)	602 773	368 916	303 122	393 017	evaluation in progress	31 543	evaluation in progress	evaluation in progress
Yield forecasts Seed cotton (Kg/ha)	1 141	832	1 439	1 117		1 136		

AVERAGE PEST SITUATION AS OF 31 OCTOBER 2026

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

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

Pest pressure during the month of October ranged from low to moderate, depending on the pest and the country.

Among carpophagous pests, moderate infestations of *H. armigera* were reported in Mali and Senegal.

As for sucking pests, jassids (*Amrasca biguttula*) continue to dominate, with moderate infestations in Benin, Burkina Faso (SOFITEX zone), and Mali. Moderate infestations of whiteflies were also observed in Mali, Senegal, and Burkina Faso (yellowing and reddening of plants in certain SOFITEX zones).

In Burkina Faso, pod rot is spreading this season and affecting 30% of the pods on certain plots in SOFITEX zones.

Compared to October of the previous growing season, an increase in whitefly infestations has been observed for October 2026.

As for thrips infestations, they remain similar to those of the previous growing season.

With the first pods opening, a high level of Dysdercus bug infestations is expected in the fields.

Staggered harvesting is recommended to limit deterioration in fiber and seed quality.

REGIONAL MONITORING OF ACTIVITIES FOR 2026/2027 SEASON

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

A PR-PICA delegation, consisting of the PR-PICA President, Mr. Tete AWOKOU; the Executive Secretary, Mr. Félix SAWADOGO; the head of the Agronomy Commission, Dr. Bazoumana KOULIBALY; the representative of the Entomology Commission, Dr. Malanno KOUAKOU, and the representative of the Plant Breeding Commission, Dr. Elhadji Mamoudou KASSAMBARA, visited Benin from October 12 to 17, 2026.

The purpose of the mission was to visit the trials and tests conducted as part of the PRPICA and to engage with stakeholders in Benin's cotton sector to gather their concerns.

The delegation was joined by members of Benin's PR-PICA Coordination Committee:

- Prof. Emmanuel SEKLOKA, Plant Breeder and Head of the PR-PICA Variety Improvement Commission;
- Dr. Gustave BONNI, Entomologist.

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

- ✓ Benin's National PR-PICA Coordination Office;
- ✓ the President of the Interprofessional Cotton Association (AIC), Mr. Eustache KOTIGAN;
- ✓ the Director General of the Cotton Research Institute (IRC), Mr. Bertin ADEOSSI.

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

- the progress of the cotton season in the various countries;
- research activities carried out by the three commissions;
- the importance of the PR-PICA for the cotton sectors;
- the persistence of jassid infestations;
- the use of agricultural lime in the countries;
- the organization of the 19th PR-PICA review meeting, to be held in Benin in April 2027.



PR-PICA delegation with AIC President, Mr Eustache KOTIGAN (5th from the right)



PR-PICA delegation with the IRC Director General, Mr. Bertin ADEOSSI (fourth from the right)

In addition to these discussions, the delegation first visited the entomology laboratory in Cana, specifically:

- the quarantine rooms, the caterpillar and leafhopper rearing facilities, and the rooms where susceptibility tests are conducted;
- the greenhouses used for seedling production and pest infestation;

Next, the delegation visited the trials set up as part of the program at the Permanent Experimental Centers (CPE) in Cana, Savalou, and Okpara. These trials included:

- the impact of jassids attacks on seed cotton yield;
- evaluation of F5 population lines;
- screening of genetic material through segregation;
- evaluation of lines for tolerance to jassids;
- determination of intervention thresholds against leafhoppers based on infested plants;
- monitoring of leafhopper dynamics using yellow sticky traps;
- assessment of crop losses and the effectiveness of protection programs (three levels);
- assessment of the effectiveness of foliar-applied calcium nitrate on cotton yield;
- assessment of the effect of different weed control practices on cotton yield;
- assessment of the effectiveness of nano-urea on cotton yield.

In addition, the delegation visited a smallholder plot in Savalou.

In general, the following was noted:

- The trials planned as part of the Program were conducted with great rigor;
- Pest infestations, particularly those of jassids, were low in the plots visited.

The following key recommendations emerged from this mission to Benin:

- Conduct laboratory susceptibility tests on all larval stages of the pests, which will often help explain why phytosanitary treatments fail in the field;
- Continue selecting susceptible strains of H. armigera and share the results with other countries;
- include endocarpic pests in susceptibility tests;
- conduct surveys of endocarpic pest infestations in all producer plots in the Savalou area;
- capture drone imagery to demonstrate the diversity of segregating lines;
- support fertilization trials, in addition to soil analyses, through foliar analyses and technological analyses of fiber and seed.
- increase, if possible, the quantities of growth regulators available to producers;
- facilitate scientific visits by researchers to neighboring countries to strengthen scientific exchanges within the PR-PICA.



Greenhouse Trial on the Preference and Susceptibility of Cotton Plants to Jassids at the Cana Station



PR-PICA Delegation Visits the Trials at the Savalou CPE



Study on the Evaluation of Strains for Jassid Tolerance to Okpara CPE in Parakou

RESISTANCE MANAGEMENT AND CONDUCTING PEST SENSITIVITY TESTS

PR-PICA researchers are building their capacity in resistance management and conducting pest sensitivity tests to pesticides in Bouaké, Côte d'Ivoire

From November 2 to 6, 2027, a training workshop on resistance management and conducting insecticide susceptibility tests on pests was held at the National Center for Agronomic Research (CNRA) in Bouaké, Côte d'Ivoire.

The opening ceremony, which took place via videoconference, was attended by representatives from PR-PICA, CROPLIFE, the National Center for Agronomic Research (CNRA), the Ministry of Agriculture of Côte d'Ivoire (Directorate of Plant Protection and the Cotton, Cashew, Shea, and Mango Council), and agrochemical companies.

The event featured four speeches:

- A welcome address by the Regional Director of CNRA Bouaké, Dr. N'Gouan Cyril KOUASSI;
- A speech by the President of PR-PICA, represented by Mr. N'DIAMOI KODJANE, a member of the Steering Committee;
- A speech by the Executive Director of CROPLIFE Africa and the Middle East, Ms. Stella SIMIYU;
- The opening address by the Deputy Director of Crop Protection, Mr. Bah BONI.

The opening ceremony was followed by two presentations on resistance management:

- Classification of Insecticides and Their Modes of Action, presented by Dr. Ibrahim TRAORE, Regional Coordinator of CROPLIFE W&C Africa;
- The Importance of Labeling the Mode of Action of Pesticides in Resistance Management, presented by Dr. Malanno KOUAKOU, member of the PR-PICA Entomology Commission.

From the discussions that followed these two presentations, it became clear that, to better manage resistance, it is necessary to implement labeling of the pesticide mode of action in all PR-PICA member countries. Accordingly, it was recommended that countries not yet in compliance take the necessary steps to ensure its effective implementation.

The second phase of this workshop was devoted to hands-on training on conducting sensitivity tests of pests to pesticides.

It involved entomologists from the eight PR-PICA member countries and representatives from agrochemical companies.



Participants in the training workshop at the CNRA in Bouaké, Côte d'Ivoire

The objective was to build the capacity of researchers and standardize methods for assessing and monitoring the susceptibility of major cotton pests to insecticides in order to improve resistance management.

The trainers for this workshop were Dr. Omer HEMA and Dr. Houphouet KOUADIO.

At the end of this hands-on training, participants will have mastered the following key skills:

- **Conducting the vial test (IRAC 11 methods);**
- **Conducting the test using the leaf soaking method (IRAC 035 methods);**
- **Conducting the test via topical application;**
- **Familiarity with the HSTAT analysis software in R (data recording, processing, and interpretation);**
- **Development and standardization of protocols;**
- **Standardized development of data collection forms for susceptibility testing;**
- **Determination of testing equipment and development of a procurement plan.**

This hands-on training concluded with the presentation of training certificates to the participants.



Collection of jassid samples in the field for sensitivity testing



Conducting sensitivity tests at the Bouaké Entomology Laboratory

PR-PICA extends its sincere thanks to the partners listed below for their technical or financial support for this training session

PR-PICA AGENDA

December 16–18, 2026, in Benin:

Steering Committee Meeting