

WOODROW WILSON CENTER
1300 PENNSYLVANIA AVE., NW WASHINGTON, DC

OCTOBER 26, 2006

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON COTTON:

The Next Steps for Africa

*A conference organized by the Woodrow Wilson Center,
the International Food & Agricultural Trade Policy Council, and the IDEAS Centre*

The negotiations on cotton in the Doha Development Round have focused the world's attention on the plight of African cotton farmers, whose income and even food security have been affected by the low price of cotton. With the WTO talks at an impasse, not only is the outcome for cotton uncertain, but the spotlight on cotton risks being diminished. It would be a pity to lose the momentum that has gathered around the cotton issue.

WTO members agreed to the unusual step of dealing with cotton as a sectoral negotiation within the Agricultural negotiations and to forming a special Subcommittee on Cotton, which was given the mandate to address both trade and development aspects. On the trade front, the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration called for a more ambitious, expeditious and specific treatment of cotton within the three pillars of the agricultural negotiations: export subsidies, market access and domestic support. Although more far reaching reforms in cotton than for agriculture in general are thus called for, the outcome is far from certain. Moreover, African governments and the private sector have a role in boosting the competitiveness of African cotton so that producers can actually benefit from trade reforms. The WTO sectoral initiative has also rightly stressed the need for improved policy coherence between trade and development assistance, but has not yet clearly pointed the way on how to achieve such convergence. To help African producers take advantage of new market access opportunities, "aid for trade" specific to cotton should be debated.

This conference will cover trade and development, as well as African domestic policy and competitiveness issues. It attempts to convene cotton producers, African governments, trade and agriculture officials, NGOs, development agencies, and the private sector in order to:

- find ways and means to assure the survival of Africa's vital cotton sector;
- help identify each actor's next steps and long-term strategies; and
- define the inter-linkages of the required reforms in trade and agriculture policies, and the support necessary to improve African competitiveness.

Please join us for a discussion of the next steps for African cotton.





The Next Steps for Africa

OCTOBER 26, 2006



Woodrow Wilson
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for Scholars



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Partnership for development

We have the pleasure of welcoming:

Mr. Youssouf Abbassalah, *Minister of Trade, Industry, & Craft, Chad;*

Mr. Choguel Kokala Maïga, *Minister of Industry & Trade, Mali;*

Mr. Moudjaidou Issifou Soumanou, *Minister of Industry & Trade, Benin;*

Mr. Bonoudaba Dabiré, *Minister of Agriculture, Burkina Faso.*

8:30-9:00 a.m.

COFFEE AND REGISTRATION

9:00 – 9:15 a.m.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Robert Thompson

Gardner Chair in Agricultural Policy, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and IPC member

9:15 – 9:45 a.m.

IMPORTANCE OF COTTON IN AFRICA

9:45– 11:30 a.m.

TRADE ISSUES

Moderator: Robert Thompson

Gardner Chair in Agricultural Policy, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and IPC member

Crawford Falconer

Chairperson of the WTO agriculture negotiations

Pedro de Camargo Neto

former Secretary of Production and Trade, Brazilian Ministry of Agriculture, and IPC member

Dan Sumner

Director, University of California Agricultural Issues Center

Mark Lange

President, National Cotton Council

12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

LUNCH

Crawford Falconer

Chairperson of the WTO agriculture negotiations

Florizelle Liser

Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Africa, USTR

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

AFRICAN COMPETITIVENESS

Moderator: Sara Rogge

Senior Trade Policy Advisor, DATA

Gobind Nankani

Vice President, Africa Region, The World Bank

3:00 – 3:15 p.m.

François B. Traoré

President, Association des Producteurs de Coton Africains (Aproca)

David Blackwell

Vice President & Chief Financial Officer, Global Procurement, Wal-Mart

3:15 – 5:15 p.m.

ROLE OF DONORS

Moderator: Ambassador Tertius Zongo

Burkina Faso Ambassador to the United States

Chiedu Osakwe

Doha Development Agenda Special Duties Division, World Trade Organization

Ambassador Samuel Amehou

Benin Ambassador to Switzerland

Philippe Chedanne

Agence Française de Développement (AFD)

Mary Barton-Dock

Sector Manager, Agriculture, Environment and Social Development, West Africa, The World Bank

Hannele Tikkanen

Counselor (Trade), Delegation of the European Commission

5:15 – 6:00 p.m.

CONCLUSIONS

Moderator: Nicolas Imboden

Executive Director, Ideas Center

Robert Thompson

Gardner Chair in Agricultural Policy, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and IPC member

6:00-6:30 p.m.

RECEPTION AND CONVERSATION