



Association Cotonnière Africaine
African Cotton Association



Press Release

SIGNING OF A PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE A.C.A. AND AProCA

The Cotton Producing Farmers and Ginning Companies of Africa consolidate their Alliance

Confronted with the long-standing crisis rocking the African cotton segments for several years now, the African Cotton Association (A.C.A), made up of African cotton companies, and the African Cotton Producers' Association (AProCA), the umbrella body of African cotton producers, have decided to strengthen their alliance by signing a strategic partnership agreement on **Thursday, 27 August, 2009, by 6 PM in Dakar**, at the **Madamel Residence**, located at Almadies, Zone 1, Meridien President Road, Mogador Restaurant Corner.

Created on 19 September, 2002, in Cotonou, Benin, the African Cotton Association aims at:

- **Pulling together all the African cotton professionals** and create a consultation framework to address issues of common interest, in particular, through the technical commissions of experts belonging to various fields of specialisation;
- **Collecting from, processing and widely disseminating all information and data concerning cotton** trade to its members, African states, political and economic bodies;
- Ensuring **respect for, and integrity of, commercial agreements** freely entered into by interested parties ;
- **Defending the African cotton segments** within a world economic conjuncture that has become unstable due to subsidised exports and unjustified barriers applied by some producing countries;
- Participating in the **implementation of alliance strategies** with other producing countries put in disadvantaged position owing to wrong commercial practices;
- **Organising consultation, experience sharing drives and the harnessing of means, resources and expertise** between cotton companies in the areas of agronomy, ginning, logistics and marketing policy;
- **Ensuring the implementation and respect of good commercial practices through the adoption of,** and respect for an African type of agreement.

As for AProCA, it was created on 22 December, 2004, in Cotonou, Benin, with the purpose of:

- **Promoting solidarity, consultation and interactions, cooperation and experience sharing** between the member organisations;
- **Collecting, processing and disseminating to members any cotton-related information;**
- **Representing and protecting the interests of cotton producers against any distortion in the world market with regard to cotton;**
- **Assisting the member platforms to carry out their responsibilities of representing and protecting the interests of producers**
- **Promoting the enhancement of productivity and quality of the African cotton in order to keep it competitive.**

In most African countries cotton farmers' organisations and cotton companies have established close partnership relationships, often leading to the set-up of inter-professional bodies. Both Pan-African Professional Associations work together for years now, with focus on actions aiming at protecting the African cotton, a support base for African States, before international organisations such as the WTO. With the signing of this agreement, they have decided to move forward in their cooperation drive and privileged partnership relationship.

Prominent amongst the goals of the present agreement are: facilitation of information and opinion sharing on projects of common interests (agronomic research, training, agricultural counselling, rural development, protection and promotion of the African cotton ...); developing the effective functioning of the cotton inter-professional bodies and a sound management of the cotton segments, on the basis of a neighbourhood relationship, fairness and transparency between the organisations of cotton grain producers and cotton companies.

The agreement also aims at enhancing the competitiveness of the African cotton segments, reclaiming and developing, in a sustainable manner, cotton producing regions, protecting the African cotton while giving priority to home demands from added value generating sectors which process cotton fiber or grain.

The agreement will be signed between the A.C.A. President, Mr. Bachir Diop, and the AProCA President, Mr. François Traore. The signing ceremony will be presided over by **Mr. Khadim Gueye**, Minister-Delegate at the Ministry of Agriculture, in charge of Farmers' Organisations and Farmers' Trade Unionisation. It will be concluded by a « Ndogou » offered by the two Pan-African Professional Associations.

All the national and international media houses are invited to attend this important event.

For further information, please get in touch with us at 77 655 02 40