

PRESS RELEASE

Ten years of USAID support to the West and Central African cotton sector: stakeholders take stock in Ouagadougou

OUAGADOUGOU, BURKINA FASO - In collaboration with the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) Commission, the International Center for Fertilizer Development (IFDC), the United States Agency for International Development West Africa Regional Office (USAID / West Africa), is organizing, on March 20 and 21, 2018 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, a learning event on cotton projects, implemented by IFDC with the financial support of USAID.

The objective of this major meeting on cotton is to capitalize on and share the gains made over more than a decade of financial support from the U.S. Government to the cotton sector of West and Central Africa, through the West and Central Africa Cotton Sector Strengthening Project (USAID WACIP 2006-2013) and the C4 Cotton Partnership Project (USAID C4CP - 2014-2018).

It will be based on the main achievements, the lessons learned following the implementation of the two projects (WACIP and C4CP). Participants will also discuss a roadmap for the sustainability of achievements through the strengthening of regional coordination, improved dialogue and increased synergy among cotton stakeholders.

The workshop will bring together 65 participants from key players in the African cotton sector and the exchanges will focus on the following topics:

- The establishment of a regional platform for data collection, sharing and dissemination of information among cotton sector stakeholders;
- Strengthening the regional coordination capacity of the cotton sector in West and Central Africa;
- The increase of agricultural productivity in West and Central Africa;
- Improving the competitiveness of the cotton sector in West and Central Africa ;
- Financing mobilization (panel).

The meeting will finally provide the opportunity to transfer to the UEMOA Commission, the tools and materials produced and the knowledge acquired throughout the implementation of the two projects with a view to ensure their sustainability through the UEMOA Cotton Competitiveness Project, funded by USAID for the period 2016-2020.

Contact : Daniel Nana Sei Mensah, Spécialiste en Communication Bilingue, dmensah@ifdc.org (+233) 269741128/ +233 246059120

