



SALON INTERNATIONAL
DU COTON ET DU TEXTILE

***INTERNATIONAL COTTON AND TEXTILE CONFERENCE
(SICOT)***

THIRD (3rd) EDITION

***Theme: « Local processing of cotton : what models of industrialization for Africa
within the framework of the African continental free trade area (AfCFTA) ? »***

Koudougou (Burkina Faso), January 27 & 28, 2022

CONCEPT NOTE

April 2021

I. CONTEXT AND JUSTIFICATION

The consumption of the natural textile fiber products has been decreasing drastically over the world. This trending down of fiber consumption is largely due to its lack of competitiveness compared to the polyester textile products. To illustrate, the consumption of products that derives from the natural textile fiber has been divided by two over the last two decades to be situated at 25% in 2016.

According to the International Trade Center (ITC), the annual average consumption of cotton fiber per capita has remained stable since 1960, while the consumption of the other non-cotton textiles products has almost quintupled.

Similarly, the cotton market has suffered from its prices instability, while those of polyester are less fluctuating and, moreover, on a downward trend.

Evidence shows that the main issue of African cotton and textile industry remains the low level of local processing of the fiber and the valuation of by-products. In fact, for an estimated African production of 1.988 million tons of fiber in 2019/2020, only 373,000 tons (around 19%) are consumed locally. Likewise, in Francophone Africa, only 12 000 tons (less than 1%) out of 1.336 million tons of fiber produced were locally processed and consumed (ICAC, April 2020).

In addition, with the onset of Covid-19 pandemic disease, the demand for fabrics and clothing collapsed. This situation created disastrous effects on all links in the cotton value chain, and the collapse of raw cotton prices and yarn, as well as the accumulation of stocks in consuming countries.

Despite the above-mentioned issues in the cotton and textile sector, the African continental free trade area (AfCFTA) which came into force on January 1st, 2021, obviously offers a large market of more than 1.3 billion consumers, as well as several business opportunities. This large market could further stimulate industrialization and investment opportunities in the cotton value chain.

In order to address these various issues of cotton production, processing and marketing, Burkina Faso has launched, since 2018, the International Cotton and Textile Conference (SICOT). This framework offers a room to professionals from the sector, to meet, reflect, discuss, share experiences and lessons to properly address obstacles that hinder the effective development of the cotton and textile value chain.

In this respect, the third edition of SICOT will be held on January 27 & 28, 2022 at Koudougou/Burkina Faso, around the following theme: ***“Local processing of cotton : what models of industrialization for Africa within the framework of the African continental free trade area (AfCFTA) ?”***

II. OBJECTIVE OF SICOT

The main objective of SICOT is to highlight the African cotton sector and make Burkina Faso, the African crossroads where the main concerns of the actors of the entire value chain of cotton and textile will be periodically discussed.

More specifically, SICOT aims to be an international platform for exchange and reflection, a platform for promoting African cotton through the presentation of innovative methods of production and conservation, the promotion of industrial processing, funding, and marketing.

III. BRIEF REMIND OF THE PREVIOUS EDITIONS OF SICOT

Placed under the very high patronage of His Excellency Mr Roch Marc Christian KABORE, the President of Faso, the first edition of the International Conference on Cotton and Textile (SICOT) was held from 27 to 29 September 2018 at Koudougou, under the theme: *"Integrated transformation of cotton: A factor for creating jobs and wealth"*.

The Federal Republic of Germany was the *Guest country of honor*. The SICOT was placed under the *official sponsorship* of Mr Abdallah BOUREIMA, President of the Commission of the West African Monetary and Economic Union (WAEMU).

The second edition of SICOT was held from 30 to 31 January 2020, around the central theme: *"Production and processing of cotton: engines of industrialization and economic growth for African States"*.

The *Guest country of honor* was the Republic of Turkey and Mr. Akinwumi Ayodeji Adesina, President of African Development Bank Group (ADB) was the *official sponsor*.

Several Delegations from thirty-three (33) countries of four continents (Asia, Europe, Africa and America) and regional and international institutions attended the past two editions of SICOT. Thus, policy makers, experts in the field, researchers, technical and financial partners, government officials, agencies and institutions that support handicraft activities, the private sector, direct and indirect actors of the cotton value chain were involved in these two events.

IV. ORGANIZATION OF THE THIRD EDITION OF SICOT

This third edition of the International Cotton and Textile Conference (SICOT) will be held on **27 and 28 January 2022** at Koudougou/Burkina Faso, under the very high patronage of His Excellency Mr Roch Marc Christian KABORE, the President of Faso, around the central theme *"Local processing of cotton : what models of industrialization for Africa within the framework of the African continental free trade area (AfCFTA) ?"*.

Similarly, to the previous editions, the current edition aims to be a platform for exchanges and reflection, bringing together professionals from the entire cotton value chain around the concerns and other development opportunities for the cotton and textile sector.

As such, it will offer a forum for promotion and development of cotton, through the presentation of innovative methods of conservation, production, promotion of processing (spinning, weaving, dyeing, garment making, etc.) as well as all questions related to the funding and the marketing of the cotton sector.

Besides, in view of international health context marked by the COVID-19 pandemic, the third edition of SICOT will be held through both virtual and face-to-face, in strict compliance with barrier measures.

4.1. Main activities of SICOT

The 3rd edition of SICOT will be held around the following activities :

- an opening ceremony, under the very high patronage of His Excellency the President of Faso ;
- an inaugural conference around the central theme ;
- panels around various themes ;
- round tables ;
- B to B / B to G business meetings ;
- professional exhibition ;
- a market space for national and international actors in the cotton and textile value chain ;
- a professional Fashion Show during a Gala Dinner ;
- Nuits du SICOT (cultural/musical events, fashion shows) ;
- Onsite visits of enterprises and touristic places ;
- a closing ceremony.

4.2. Expected participants

Around 1,500 participants are expected to attend this 3rd edition of SICOT, including participants from textile industry investors, textile cotton professionals and experts, textile machinery and equipment manufacturers, input manufacturers, principals, and well-known brands, international textile traders, cotton producers, representatives of agricultural professional organizations, policy makers, academics and researchers, technical and financial partners, representatives of regional and international integration organizations, civil society organizations are targeted.

4.3. Conditions of participation in SICOT

4.3.1. Registration

All participants of SICOT are invited to register according to the following formats : - "*Participant*" or - "*Exhibitor*" or - "*Press*" – which are downloadable from the website **www.sicot-bf.com**.

Registration can also be done by contacting the organizers as indicated in point VI below (useful contacts). .

For face-to-face participants, each approved registration gives right to an access badge to the event site.

For virtual participation, each approved registration gives the right to an access code to the virtual platform.

4.3.2. Reception, Transportation, Accommodation and Catering

To enable the participants to enjoy their stay during the SICOT event, there is a proposal of accommodation *Pack* at **500 Euros** which cover the period from **26 to 29 January 2022**, as follow :

- ✓ Reception and transportation (arrival and departure) : Ouagadougou International Airport - Hotel - Ouagadougou Airport ;
- ✓ Transportation under a security escort: Ouagadougou - Koudougou - Ouagadougou;
- ✓ Accommodation: one night in Ouagadougou and two nights in Koudougou ;
- ✓ Catering: breakfast on three days and lunch on two days ;
- ✓ Participation in the Gala Dinner.

However, participants can book hotel rooms in Ouagadougou and Koudougou, by checking the list of hotels accredited by the General Commissariat of SICOT and available on the website: **www.sicot-bf.com**.

In addition, arrangements will be made to facilitate entry visas to Burkina Faso for foreign participants whose visas are required. Foreign exhibitors will also benefit from customs facilities for the entry of their products into Burkina Faso.

Foreign participants are highly recommended to update their international vaccination card and subscribe for travel insurance. Moreover, they are invited to get informed on the requirement for travel to Burkina Faso, regarding COVID-19 and other health matters.

The details of these information is available on the SICOT website: **www.sicot-bf.com**

An onsite health team will be available for participants during the SICOT.

4.3.3 Participation to the activities

Participation in the different activities of SICOT (inaugural conference, panels, B2B / B2G, round tables, Nuits du SICOT) is free of charge. More, service of translation will be provided (French -English-French) to participants.

About the B2B / B2G meetings, the contacts will be arranged by the General Commissariat of SICOT, based on interests of the participants. The establishment of the contacts for the B2B / B2G meeting purpose will be done on the website :

www.sicot-bf.com.

Participants will also be proposed for onsite visits of businesses and tourist sites.

4.3.4 Exhibitions

Professional exhibition booths, with different rates, will be set up as follow :

BOOTH CATEGORY	CONVENIENCES	UNIT COST
Professional exhibition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 9 m², air-conditioned, with 1 TV, 1 table, 2 chairs, - Exhibitor + 1 person with badge, - Access to works, Lunch, Gala Dinner 	1 000 000 F CFA (1 525 €)
Exhibition of diverse items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 9 m², - 2 badges for exhibitor 	50 000 FCFA (76 €)

In terms of allocation of booths, special attention will be made to the exhibitors that operate in the cotton value chain and its by-products, namely financing, research, production, processing, commercialization activities.

Settlement of the professional booths will cover the period of **26 to 28 January 2022**.

Booths for exhibition of miscellaneous items will cover the period of **26 to 30 January 2022** included.

V. SPONSORING OF SICOT

To give more visibility to the partners, a sponsorship sheet, with various advantages, is available on the SICOT website (**www.sicot-bf.com**) and can also be requested from the General Commissariat of SICOT.

VI. USEFUL CONTACTS DETAILS

❖ General Commissariat of SICOT

↪ **M. GUINKO Jean-Pierre (Commissaire Général du SICOT)**
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