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Sub.: Invitation to attend World Cotton Day on 7th October 2019 at WTO, <u>Geneva</u>

Dear Member,

At the initiative of the Cotton-4 (Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad and Mali), the WTO will host the launch of World Cotton Day on 7 October 2019. The WTO Secretariat is organizing the event in collaboration with the Secretariats of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the International Trade Centre (ITC) and the International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC). This event stems from the Cotton-4's official application for the recognition of a World Cotton Day by the United Nations General Assembly, reflecting the importance of cotton as a global commodity.

Objectives

> Give exposure and recognition to cotton and all its stakeholders in production, transformation and trade.

> Engage donors and beneficiaries and strengthen development assistance for cotton.

> Seek new collaborations with the private sector and investors for the cotton-related industries and production in developing countries.

> Promote technological advances, as well as further research and development on cotton.

Launch of World Cotton Day

A high-level plenary session will take place with heads of state, heads of international organizations and executives from the private sector.

The Partners' Conference

Development partners will meet to discuss and consolidate support for a new project on cotton by-products and for other development initiatives.

<u>Side events</u>

Thematic sessions will be organized by partner organizations, with the participation of academics, private sector representatives, NGOs and national cotton associations to exchange views on selected topics.

The thematic sessions will cover:

- > Trade
- > Value addition
- > Sustainability
- > Technology and innovation
- > Market outlook

Cotton exhibition and booths

The World Cotton Day launch event is an opportunity for members, the private sector and the international development community to share knowledge and showcase cotton-related activities and products.

There is no participation fee to attend World Cotton Day conference program.

More information

Programme <u>(click here)</u> Venue and logistics (<u>click here</u>)

For further details, please write to : <u>worldcottonday@wto.org</u> / <u>ravi@texprocil.org</u>

Members interested to participate at 'World Cotton Day', to be held on 7th October 2019 at Geneva, Switzerland are requested to do online registration under intimation to us.

Regards

Dr. Siddhartha Rajagopal Executive Director

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