

# COTTON

At the World Trade Organization (WTO)



## COTTON IS DISCUSSED AT THE WTO ON TWO TRACKS:

**1** The **reforms** needed to address trade distorting subsidies and to provide improved market access for Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

**2** The **development assistance** to the cotton sector in developing countries through development cooperation projects.

### TRADE ASPECTS

Negotiations to reform cotton trade take place in the Committee on Agriculture in Special Session and its Sub-Committee on Cotton. In addition, **Dedicated Discussions** on cotton are held twice a year as part of the “WTO Cotton Days” for WTO Members to share information on relevant cotton trade and related developments.

### SECRETARIAT REPORTS ON COTTON TRADE

This document, issued twice a year, informs the Dedicated Discussions and examines relevant trade-related developments across the three pillars of Market Access, Domestic Support, and Export Competition in relation to cotton.

### THE COTTON PORTAL [WWW.COTTONPORTAL.ORG](http://www.cottonportal.org)

Launched at the 2017 Buenos Aires Ministerial Conference, the Portal provides a single-entry point for all the cotton-specific information available in the WTO and the International Trade Centre ITC databases. The portal also showcases trade statistics, country-specific business contacts, International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC) statistics and development-assistance related information.

## Cotton days

[www.wto.org/cotton](http://www.wto.org/cotton)

The “WTO Cotton Days” bring together, twice a year, in June and in November, WTO delegates, the International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC), international experts and representatives of governmental and intergovernmental organizations, as well as key private sector actors, to discuss progress in development assistance, cotton market trends and technical information underpinning the cotton negotiations.

### DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE ASPECTS

Discussions on the development assistance aspects of cotton take place twice a year in a forum known as the “**Director-General’s Consultative Framework Mechanism on Cotton**” as part of the “WTO Cotton Days”. The main purpose of this platform is to present and discuss cotton projects, monitor developments, and exchange information on results and lessons learned from the implementation of those projects.


### THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL’S EVOLVING TABLE ON COTTON DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE


The Evolving Table is the reference document for the WTO work on cotton development assistance. It is updated twice a year based on the notifications received by the Secretariat and lists development cooperation programmes benefitting cotton either specifically or as part of a wider programmes. It provides information on donors, project titles and beneficiaries, as well as detailed figures on project-specific disbursements and commitments. It includes the contact details of cotton focal points in beneficiary countries. Updates and trends are presented and discussed during the “WTO Cotton Days” and appear on [cottonportal.org](http://cottonportal.org).

### TABLE ON DOMESTIC COTTON SECTOR REFORM

The beneficiaries of cotton development assistance are encouraged to continue carrying forward their domestic cotton sector reforms. This table lists the reforms put in place by beneficiary according to the notifications received by the Secretariat. The contact details of the officials overseeing the reforms are also listed therein.

### CONTACT US

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