

## Passion for Cotton!

**35<sup>th</sup> International Cotton Conference Bremen from 25 to 27 March 2020**

- **Overview of the Status of Genetic Engineering**
- **Application of Robot Technology**
- **Pure Farming: Seed Breeding, Cultivation, Ginning**

**Bremen, the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February:** the cottonseed as the raw material, the cultivation of



Brazilian Cotton Field © Bremen Cotton Exchange

cotton and its ginning are essential levers for increasing yields as well as quality, particularly against the backdrop of ecological, social and economic sustainability. Genetic engineering is controversially discussed in Europe. The top innovation in the agricultural sector is not to be omitted: robot technology on the field. You can find these topics at the upcoming International Cotton Conference from 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> March in

the historic Town Hall of the Hanseatic city Bremen.

## Development of Yields of Transgenic Seeds in Long Term Survey

**David Albers**, Product Development Manager for Bayer Crop Science in St. Louis, Missouri, USA, will inform about the results of a US long-term study on the use of cottonseed varieties from the Deltapine product line. As part of a comparative study based on data collections from 1980 to 2019, that is a period of almost 40 years, the realised results for yields and fibre quality from the use of the Bayer Crop Science products are introduced. The study compares the results from the eighties, that is just

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before the introduction of transgenic seeds, with those from the decades using continuously developed transgenic seeds. Let's wait for the result.

## **Robot Technology Determines Modern Agriculture**

**Professor J. Alex Thomasson** is professorial chair for cotton production technology, ginning and mechanisation at the Texas A&M University. In his speech “Robot Technology for the Cotton Harvest” he will introduce examples of applications with which the cotton harvest can significantly be improved using robots for higher productivity. For example, harvest robots can execute numerous harvesting processes within the growing season in which exclusively the mature, opened cotton bolls are accessed. This reduces crop losses and ensures better fibre quality by avoiding weathering of the plants. In addition to the use for harvesting, several posters will also show further applications, like weeding, during the conference. Economic as well as ecological advantages?

## **Avoiding Plastic Contaminations in Cotton**

The detection and removal of plastic during the ginning process are essential points in **Greg Holt**'s presentation. He is research leader of the cotton production and cotton processing research unit at the US Department of Agriculture in Lubbock, Texas. During the mechanical harvesting, cotton is more and more often wrapped in round modules made of plastic and then placed in the field. Examinations by the USDA have shown that this packing method is one of the main sources of pollution of fibres with plastic particles, which are hard to detect. They cause deficiencies in dyeing yarns and fabrics and thus lead to complaints in fabric appearance. The methods for solving these problems and their results will be introduced in the speech.

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## Focus on India's Cotton Production

With his speech, **Akhil Kakkirala** directs the sights at aspects of cotton production in India. He is a partner at the Kaveri Business Group based in Hyderabad, South India, one of the leading ginning companies in the country. The Kaveri companies gin cotton from different regions in India and sell to spinning mills in the country. Compared to worldwide cultivation methods, Akhil Kakkirala introduces India's cultivation methods. Using analysis findings, he will show why the yields are comparatively low. He will address ginning quality and problems of contamination and give reasons for quality variations. Does the blockchain help here?

**Gaylon Morgan**, director of agricultural and environmental research with Cotton Incorporated, Carry, North Carolina, USA, is a proven expert for the advancement of cotton growing methods and will lead the conference session "Breeding, Production, Ginning". The almost two hour session takes place on Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> March.

## About the International Cotton Conference

From 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> March, the International Cotton Conference Bremen in the historic town hall offers ten highly topical conference sessions with relevant subjects that currently challenge the internationally networked cotton textile industry. The International Cotton Conference is organised by the Fibre Institute Bremen (FIBRE) and the Bremen Cotton Exchange. During the week beginning on March 23<sup>th</sup> and later additionally to the Conference, group meetings of internationally operating textile associations and cotton organisations will take place. In addition, there will be the public event Sustain, organised in cooperation with the daily newspaper Weser-Kurier. At Sustain, the headline "City and Change - The Future of Textile Retailing" is all about the vitality of the clothing trade in the city centres and the competition from online sales.

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We will continuously inform about further contents of the Cotton Conference and of the supporting programme. Current news about the conference and programme details is also available on the internet site of the conference. We are looking forward to media coverage. We gladly take interview requests and refer you to the right person to talk to. We are already inviting journalists to the conference. Accreditations can be made any time via the conference homepage <https://cotton-conference-bremen.de/press> .

## For further information and interview requests, please contact:

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## About the Bremen Cotton Exchange

- Founded in 1872 to strengthen the interests of the cotton trade and consumption in Germany, the Bremen Cotton Exchange has now been in the cotton business for more than 140 years. As an international court of arbitration, the Bremen Cotton Exchange always stands for neutrality.
- We offer various services to our members. Clear and neutral data and analyses are a part of this.
- As the ICA Bremen, together with the International Cotton Association in Liverpool and in cooperation with the Fibre Institute Bremen, we provide the International Quality Testing and Research Centre in Bremen. The Hanseatic city has now become the international centre for cotton testing and research, quality training and certification.
- We represent our members in all the important international bodies in the cotton world.

## About the Fibre Institute Bremen e. V. (FIBRE)

- In its 60-years history, the Institute has developed from a cotton testing laboratory into a successful research institute in the fields of future-oriented fibres, technical textiles and fibre composites at the University of Bremen. It deals with basic scientific and application-oriented questions along the entire process chain from fibre production to the manufacturing of fibre composite components and more for the aircraft industry.
- FIBRE's central international importance in cotton is shown by its work on the international harmonisation of cotton testing [e.g. round tests in cooperation with the ICAC and USDA-AMS], its work in central committees [ICAC Committee on Standardised Instrument Testing of Cotton (CSITC), ITMF Cotton Testing].

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