



Project title:

**Integrating Social Science Research Into Cotton
Reform Implementation lined with the international
outlook**

Project acronym: ISSCRI

**SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME
PRIORITY [10]
[SCIENTIFIC SUPPORT TO THE EU COTTON REGIME]**



**Deliverable No. 9: Presentation notes on the modalities for the
continuation of the national interaction process in Greece**

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Introduction

This report is the outcome of the first meeting of the “Thessaly Cotton Stakeholders’ Forum”. The Thessaly Cotton Stakeholders’ Forum was formed on 18th of May 2007 in Volos during the Greek interaction seminar organized by the ISSCRI project. Its members are nine Greek cotton stakeholders and its purpose is to explore the means and procedures to enable the continuation of a self-sustained interaction process. This objective lies within the first Working Package of the project (“Launching self-sustained national processes of interaction with EU cotton policy”) which is critical to set up a new approach in monitoring the EU cotton policy.

The forum met, with the mediation of the Greek partners of the ISSCRI Project, on the 27th of September in Karditsa and their main topic of discussion was the problems that the cotton sector faces and the possible ways to overcome some of these problems. Mr. Ragos was responsible of keeping the minutes of the meeting, which are presented in the following paragraph.

It has to be pointed out that, even though the ambition of this ISSCRI project is to contribute to a formation of an active and sustainable stakeholders’ forum, it is beyond ISSCRI partners’ control whether this forum will successfully live up to the expectations. Forum members may need some other kind of support (e.g. financial, managerial) in order to start working independently of project partners’ directions.

Minutes of the first meeting of the “Thessaly Cotton Stakeholders’ Forum”

Today, 27 October 2007, the following members of the “Thessaly Cotton Stakeholders’ Forum” had a meeting in Karditsa to talk about the future of cotton cultivation in Thessaly and Greece.

Participants:

First name	Surname	Address
Michalis	Magos	Trikala
Ioannis	Ragos	Larisa
Euangelos	Mavroudis	Karditsa
Athanasios	Grivas	Karditsa
Vasilios	Falaras	Karditsa
Konstadinos	Kranias	Trikala

The outcome of the discussion is the following list of proposals for the maintaining of the cotton production:

- The formation of groups of producers
- Motivations should be given for the formation of producers' groups, and more specifically, for the formation of cotton producers' groups.
- A legal framework to support and direct the organization, operation, structure and goals of the groups should be developed.
- An informative campaign for the necessity of the groups should be carried out.
- The provision of subsidies.
- A legal way should be found to connect subsidies with production. Furthermore, these subsidies should be given to those producers who produce high quality cotton.
- Infrastructure works should be carried out.
- Financing of infrastructure works (for example irrigation, roads) that will help cotton producers decrease the production cost.
- Simplify the procedures necessary for producers to utilize agricultural European programs.
- Higher subsidies should be given to motivate the production of higher quality and environmental friendly cotton (for example cotton of integrating management).
- A legal framework to support the union of small size farmings into larger and more viable ones should be developed.