

# PRESS RELEASE

## Road to Improving Cotton Producers' Incomes in Mali

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**Bamako** – The US Government, through USAID's West African Cotton Improvement Program (WACIP), will provide CFA 164 million to *the Compagnie Malienne pour le Développement des Textiles* (CMDT) and l'Office de la Haute Vallée du Niger (OHVN) to disseminate a package of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and Integrated Soil and Fertility Management (ISFM) technologies to cotton producers in the regions of Fana, Bougouni, Koutiala, Sikasso, San, Kita, Kangaba, Kolokani, and Koulikoro.



Dr. Sarah Gavian (WAIP) posing with Ousmane Guindo (CMDT).

This grant marks the launching of an innovative approach to technology dissemination. This grant will assist the national cotton company to disseminate improved technologies to 125,000 cotton producers, increase the productivity of seed cotton through: (i) the adoption of new techniques and strategies that lead to increase yield and reduce input cost; (ii) a substantial reduction in the cost of pesticides; and (iii) promotion of sustainable and environmentally-sound agricultural practices.

“This is an important day for all of us; the US Government is helping Malian cotton producers through concrete measures with these IPM-ISFM trainings. This grant is an important step towards the collaboration and trust that will be formed between the two countries”, said Mr. Ousmane Amion Guindo, President and Director General of CMDT. “This first collaboration between WACIP and CMDT demonstrates that the American Government cares about poor Malian cotton farmers, and we hope that this will be a collaborative long term endeavour”, added Mr. Guindo.

Through WACIP, USAID is also supporting applied research on such new IPM/ISFM practices as trap plants, new fertilizer formulas, and threshold levels of pesticide application on farms. This research is enabling the widespread, and long-term adoption of improved agricultural practices, which is expected to bring about a 15-20% increase in the productivity of cotton, maize, and cowpeas for over 500,000 farmers in four West African countries. WACIP is an important component of US Government support for African efforts to reach the Millennium Development Goal of halving hunger and poverty by 2015.

For more information, please visit [www.wacip.org](http://www.wacip.org)