Data Systems and Information Development Committee
Adopted at the 98th Annual Convention
June 24, 2022

The Data Systems and Information Development Committee recommends that ACSA:

1. Urge collaboration with Cotton Warehouse Association of America (CWAA) and EWR, Inc. to create a calendar-based application that provides the availability of shipment ready dates, such as a report of available open shipments (in bales) by day, by warehouse code, or a report including the number of days out and/or next available date by warehouse for new shipment scheduling;

2. Urge warehouses and shippers to adopt the National Cotton Council (NCC) Packaging and Distribution Committee policy to "Urge warehouses to stage any individual shipping order at a single point of pickup, which should be communicated to the shipper in advance of the agreed upon ship date, if the pickup point is not equal to the profile address listed for the warehouse code on EWR, Inc. If warehouses choose not to perform this function by obtaining individual warehouse codes, they will, at their own expense, consolidate all bales to the single point of pickup"; recognize new industry policy concerning warehouse pick-up locations and request the development of a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) fact sheet outlining requirements;

3. Recommend that software providers facilitate the further improvement to cotton flow by enhancing visibility and communication of the data, such as adding notification alerts when a new batch is received and add an interactive chat / communication tool for on-the-spot discussion and resolve of ready dates;

4. Urge collaboration with USDA-Agriculture Marketing Service (AMS), CWAA, and Cotton Growers Warehouse Association (CGWA) to audit current participation in the electronic phytosanitary application process and establish active outreach to non-participating parties to ensure comprehensive enrollment for shippers and warehousemen in the program;

5. Urge the ACSA ePhyto Working Group to continue communication with APHIS to develop and support an electronic interface in addition to the manual process for phytosanitary applications through the Phytosanitary Certificate Issuance and Tracking System (PCIT);

6. Encourage collaboration with USDA-APHIS and other appropriate USDA officials to work with the United Nations ePhyto Industry Advisory Group to assist in initiating full implementation of electronic phyto-sanitary certificates both domestically and in consuming countries;

7. Develop a working group to modernize system digitalization tools;

8. Recommend that ACSA, CWAA, and CGWA form a working group to develop a proposal for a service-based advance reservation system;

9. Recognizing the establishment of the ACSA working group focused on banking procedures and the benefit of outreach to authorities and participants in the Pakistani marketplace, urge similar outreach and advocacy focused on the Bangladeshi marketplace;

10. Recognizing the collaboration between ACSA and Cotton Incorporated and the enhancements that have been developed to the EFS system, request the offering of a webinar or additional measures to further educate users concerning program functionality;

11. Urge engagement with the NCC, The Seam, EWR Inc., and other program developers to fully understand data visibility and functionality of the U.S. Cotton Trust Protocol;

12. Work with NCC, USDA, and warehouse system providers to standardize warehouse tariff formats, noting that having standardized tariff formats will enable the USDA and bale owners to understand more clearly normal warehouse charges and any penalty charges imposed on cotton in storage, and further noting the importance that this format is used for the public tariff as well as the loan tariff;

13. Request ACSA members to report to ACSA staff emerging challenges with regulatory processes in consuming marketplaces;

14. Urge the USDA and other federal agencies to utilize electronic filing, processing, and responses, which are currently done manually, for:
- ELS Competitiveness filings to the USDA-CCC;
- Export Sales Reports;
- Export Declarations and other documents to the U.S. Customs Department;
- GSM Loan documents; and,
- Spot Quotations.