


6.8 Factsheet Better Cotton

This factsheet aims to provide accessible and factual information on the Better Cotton certification scheme. This factsheet presents the actual status of the scheme in April 2023. For more detailed information on the system, the reader may visit the website of the certification scheme or contact the scheme owner.

Disclaimer: The information contained in this factsheet is for informational purpose only and cannot be used in replacement of the official Better Cotton standards and procedures

Table 16 Factsheet Better Cotton

Scheme Feature	Description
General	
Name of scheme	Better Cotton
Scheme owner	The Better Cotton Initiative is a non-profit, multistakeholder governance group that promotes better standards in cotton farming and practices across 21 countries.
Website	https://bettercotton.org/
Label provided	
Operational since	2010 (founded in 2005)
Number of active certificates	2.2 million Licensed Better Cotton Farmers (according to Better Cotton 2021 Annual report)
Standard ownership	Private
General objective	The purpose of the BCI is to make global cotton production better for the people who produce it, better for the environment it grows in and better for the sector's future. BCI connects people and organisations from across the cotton sector, from field to store, to promote measurable and continuing improvements for the environment, farming communities and the economies of cotton producing areas.
Scope	
Biomass feedstock coverage	Specific type of feedstock – Cotton.
Sector/Product group coverage	The BCI covers the cotton sector and products made from cotton. The BCI scheme covers cotton fiber, cottonseed, and cotton products such as yarn, fabric, and apparel. However, it's important to note that the BCI does not certify finished products, but rather the cotton used to produce those products.
Supply chain coverage	The BCI works with a wide range of stakeholders in the cotton industry, including farmers, ginners, traders, spinners, weavers, knitters, and retailers. The BCI certification scheme covers the entire cotton production process, from farming to manufacturing, and focuses on promoting sustainable farming practices, improving the livelihoods of cotton farmers and workers, and reducing the environmental impact of cotton production.
Geographic focus of the standard	Global
Governance, Standard Development and Certification Requirements	
Scheme governance	Better Cotton is governed by a Council, an elected multi-stakeholder board. The Council sits at the centre of the organisation and is responsible for the strategic direction. Council Members come from the organisations and companies that represent four different Better Cotton membership categories: Civil society, Producer Organisations, Retailers & Brands, and Suppliers & Manufacturers. Each category has up to three seats. Each category has up to three seats, two elected by the General Assembly, made up of 2,100+ Better Cotton Members, and one nominated by

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	the existing Council. A global group of secretariat staff, led by the Better Cotton Executive Group and Leadership Team, manage day-to-day operations and act as the conduit between Council decision-making and ground-level action.
Standard documents	Better Cotton certification system (among others) includes the following main documents: BCI Principles and Criteria, the Better Cotton Assurance Model, Chain of Custody Guidelines, and Better Cotton Claims Framework.
Transparency and accessibility of standard documents	Transparency through freely accessible Better Cotton standard documents and information is available in different languages upon request and on the BCI website.
Multi-stakeholder participation in standard development	The Better Cotton Initiative is a non-profit, multistakeholder group that promotes better standards in cotton farming and practices across 21 countries. Council members are drawn from the organisations and companies that represent the four major Better Cotton membership categories: retailers and brands, suppliers and manufacturers, producer organisations and civil society. The General Assembly, made up of 2,100+ Better Cotton Members from across the cotton supply chain and beyond elects the Council.
Compliance with ISEAL's Standards-Setting, Impacts and Assurance Codes of Good Practice	The Better Cotton Initiative is ISEAL Code Compliant and therefore has successfully undergone independent evaluations against the ISEAL Codes of Good Practice in Standards-Setting, Assurance and Impacts.
Compliance with regional, national, international laws	Section 1.4 Scope of Better Cotton Principles & Criteria (P&C) states that underpinning the P&C is the fundamental premise that producing Better Cotton respects national and other applicable law. Cotton producers should always abide by national legislation, unless that legislation sets standards that are below the referenced internationally recognised standards and conventions, in which case, the international standards prevail. However, where national legislation sets higher requirements on a specific issue than these standards, national legislation applies.
Reference to standards and policies	References are provided for the Better Cotton Principles and Criteria development: The ISEAL Code of Good Practice for Setting Social and Environmental Standards (v. 6.0); The Better Cotton Assurance Programme; The Better Cotton Standard Setting and Revision Procedure; The Procedure for Developing Local Interpretation of BCI Global Standards.
Obligation for certification	Under the Better Cotton assurance model, all Producers require a Licensing Assessment before they can receive a licence to sell Better Cotton. Licensing Assessments are field-based visits that assess compliance against Core Indicators in the Better Cotton Principles & Criteria and monitor progress against continuous improvement priorities. Under the Better Cotton Standard System, farms are differentiated into three categories: Smallholders, medium farms and large farms. Smallholders and Medium Farms are grouped into Producer Units (PUs) and are licensed to sell Better Cotton at the PU level. Large Farms are licensed to sell Better Cotton on an individual farm basis.
Certification process	Certification process includes registering participation, completing a self-assessment survey, commissioning a Licencing agreement with an approved third-party verifier, review of conformance by the Better Cotton Assurance Managers and receiving licencing based on the evaluation. Further information is provided in The Better Cotton Assurance Manual v4.3.
Traceability and Chain of custody	The Better Cotton Chain of Custody Guidelines set out requirements for organisations in the supply chain that are buying or selling Better Cotton or cotton-containing products as BCI Orders. The Better Cotton Chain of Custody Guidelines incorporate two different chain of custody models: product segregation between the farm and gin and mass balance beyond the gin. Between the farm and gin level, this includes cotton produced by licensed BCI Farmers in accordance with the Better Cotton P&C which must be kept segregated from conventional cotton. This ensures that all Better Cotton bales produced by registered BCI gins are 100% Better Cotton and can be traced back to licensed BCI Farmers. After the gin level, BCI Orders are bought or sold together with 'Better Cotton' claims using mass balance model. Refer to the Better Cotton Claims Framework for more detail on the claims that can be made when sourcing or selling products associated with Better Cotton claims.
Verification of compliance	The verification of compliance with the BCI requirements combines assessments by approved third-party verifiers along with assessments by trained Better Cotton staff members, support visits by Programme Partners (for Producer Units only), and regular self-assessments by producers themselves. Programme Partners are organisations with local expertise who oversee the setup and management of Producer Units under the Better Cotton assurance model.
Accreditation of Certification Bodies	Approval Procedures for Verifiers document presents the different procedures developed by the BCI for approving third-party verifiers: what are the core competencies required, the application/approval procedures in place. Reference to third-party accreditation bodies accrediting the certification bodies (ISO 17065 compliance) was not found in this document. The application procedure for prospective third-party verifiers seeking BCI approval is made of 4 different steps: Send in the completed verifier application form; Participate in an interview with BCI; If recommended after the interview, participate in BCI training for verifiers as required and address any conditions required by BCI prior to approval; Successfully pass the verifier assessment at the end of the training program Verification organisations who have successfully completed the

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	application process, addressed any additional conditions stipulated by BCI, had their Lead Verifiers attend the training workshop and passed the online training assessment, will be eligible to conduct third-party verification visits on the Better Cotton Principles and Criteria.
Training of auditors and staff and qualification and evaluation of competencies	The Better Cotton third party verifiers (3PV) Qualifications and Competency Requirements lists the qualifications and competencies that a lead verifier must have, are desirable as well as a verification mechanism to evaluate them. Verification organisations will need to implement an on-going training programme to ensure that all verifiers meet the Qualifications and Competencies requirements.
Audit process	The audit process consists of first-party audits in the form of producer self-assessment, and Licensing Assessments comprising either 2 nd party audits (conducted by BCI) or 3 rd party audits (conducted by an approved third-party verifier) conducted prior to a license being granted. A license is valid for 3 years and the producer must undergo a new Licensing Assessment at the end of the active license period to demonstrate continued compliance. In addition to Licensing Assessments, Surveillance Assessments are carried out on a sample of licensed PUs in the second or third year of an active licence.
Frequency of audit	At minimum, producers will undergo an external audit (either 2 nd party conducted by BCI or 3 rd party) every three years. Licensed Producer Units are also subject to Surveillance Assessments at BCI's discretion during their active 3-year license period; these Surveillance Assessments would be conducted in the second or third year of an active license.
Internal audit	To be licensed to sell Better Cotton, producers must submit an annual self-assessment survey on producer practices. The results of the self-assessment are not directly linked to licensing; they are used instead to help the PU or Large Farm Manager identify improvement areas. Self-assessment results may also be used by third-party verifiers (3PVs), Programme Partners (PPs), or Better Cotton teams to help prepare for an assessment or monitoring visit.
Certification claims and labels	The Better Cotton Claims Framework enables Members to make credible and positive claims about Better Cotton. The Claims Framework equips members to make credible and positive claims about Better Cotton while allowing flexibility in how to communicate about their commitment. The BCI Logo Guidelines set guidelines for the correct use of the logo.
Sanctions, non-conformities and suspension	Non-conformities (NCs) identified during Licensing Assessments and Surveillance Assessments are graded as either incidental or systemic. For incidental non-conformities: Corrective action plan to be completed within ten working days of being notified of assessment findings. The Producer has six months to implement corrective actions to prevent the identified non-conformity from re-occurring in future. BCI staff verify the implementation of corrective actions, either through a remote evidence review and/or through a site visit. For Systemic non-conformities: The Producer is denied a licence (for a Surveillance Assessment, the PU's active licence is cancelled). Corrective action plan to be completed within ten working days of being notified of assessment findings and implementation of corrective actions is checked during the subsequent Licensing Assessment. Additionally, Criterion 7.4 of the Better Cotton Principles and Criteria: The Producer must monitor and review risks of noncompliance and implementation of corrective actions.
Complaint and appeal mechanisms	In the case of complaints against the conduct and/or performance of the third-party verifiers, producers have the option of initiating the Appeals Process if they feel a licence has been incorrectly refused. Appeals process is explained in section 21 of the Better Cotton Assurance Manual. There is also the BCI Grievance Management Process which can be activated by other BCI members and stakeholders formally involved in BCI to address concerns about verifiers. Better Cotton recognises that anyone that engages with Better Cotton activities, people or programmes has the right to raise a complaint. There are two ways in which to report a complaint. By filling the Better Cotton complaints form or send a report directly to complaints@bettercotton.org . The Better Cotton Complaints Policy and Procedures has been developed that provides clear guidance on how to raise a complaint, how complaints are handled and what to do if a complaint is not satisfactorily resolved.
Guarantee smallholder inclusiveness of the standard	Under the Better Cotton Standard System, farms are differentiated into three categories: Smallholders, medium farms and large farms. Smallholders and Medium Farms are grouped into Producer Units (PUs) and are licensed to sell Better Cotton at the PU level. Farmers in a Smallholder Producer Unit are further divided into Learning Groups (LGs) of approximately 35 farmers (with a Lead Farmer in each one) managed by a Field Facilitator (FF) to help facilitate learning. Typically, each FF in a Smallholder PU will work with about 10 Learning Groups, or 350 farmers at a maximum. This helps to ensure the FF can have regular contact and visits with each farmer.
Promote continuous improvement	The Better Cotton P&C undergoes a periodic revision (at least once every five years) to ensure the requirements remain locally relevant, effective and up to date with innovative agricultural and social practices. The revision consists of an iterative process of drafting and various stakeholder consultations. It follows the ISEAL's Standard-Setting Code of Good Practice v.6.0, which sets out best practice guidelines to develop or revise sustainability standards. The Better Cotton Standard System approaches more sustainable cotton production as a journey of

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	continuous improvement. Producers are required under Core Indicator 7.1.1 to demonstrate ongoing sustainability improvements through the development and implementation of a Continuous Improvement Plan.
Assurance of quality	The Better Cotton Assurance Manual v4.3 document sets out the main requirements of the Better Cotton assurance model for key stakeholders. It is intended to be a reference manual for Programme partners, Producers, Better Cotton staff, and third-party verifiers, to ensure consistent implementation of assurance requirements across all Better Cotton projects. The assurance model supports this process through providing Producers with regular assessment and feedback. Quality assurance is part of the licensing process where quality of the data provided, and the reporting done by the producers are checked. Incomplete or insufficient quality can lead to license cancellations. Criterion 7.3 The Producer must operate a data management system. When operating the data management system, it is important for the Producer to continuously assess their adherence to data quality principles.
Impact assessment	Results Indicator reporting is the annual collection of environmental, economic, and social data from a representative sample of smallholder farmers, and from all Medium and Large Farms. Results Indicators quantitatively measure differences between licenced Better Cotton Farmers and other farmers in the same geographic area who are not participating in the Better Cotton Programme. Via the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Programme, BCI analyses data from across the breadth of the cotton community and examines the results in detail to gauge improvements in social, environmental and economic performance. This ensures that sustainability improvements are measured everywhere Better Cotton projects are implemented.
Risk management	CB carries out Surveillance Assessment based on risk factors (i.e., known sustainability issues or labour violations in a specific region). The total sample of surveillance assessments varies depending on the risk factors. For Assessment Sampling farms with any compliance risks are prioritised for assessment.
Cost of certification	No complete overview was found on the overall certification costs, only for membership. Information on the Membership fees can be found in the document Better Cotton Membership Fees. Fees are different for different membership categories (Civil Society, Producer Organization, Retailers and Brands, Suppliers and Manufacturers, and Associate Members).
Sustainability Principles and Criteria	
Reference Document	The Better Cotton Principles and Criteria (P&C) document aims to assist BCI Implementing Partners in interpreting the P&C and explaining to cotton farmers both the importance of addressing the issues covered by the P&C, and the practical implications of producing Better Cotton. It also seeks to help other audiences interested in Better Cotton, such as retailers, ginners, spinners, traders, NGOs, trade unions, producer organisations and large independent cotton farmers, in better understanding the P&C.
Major Must and Minor Must	The BCI standard has two type of indicators that are color-coded in the farmer category boxes: core indicators (highlighted in red with ticks) and improvement indicators (using blue ticks). The compulsory nature of each requirement is expressed according to a simplified form of the ISO 'verbal forms for the expression of provisions': 'must', 'should', 'may' and 'can'.
Environmental	
Reduce GHG emissions	Section 2.2. of Annex 5 Climate change mitigation within the BCI Principles and Criteria. In the context of cotton production, the use of good management practices can substantially reduce GHG emissions. Reference to criterion 3.1. concerning fertilizer management to ensure optimal nitrogen oxide use and ultimately mitigate the resulting emissions and managing soil carbon to increase carbon stocks through appropriate practices.
Protection of land with high carbon stock	Principle 4 criterion 4.2 For the conversion of land used to grow cotton, the Producer must adopt the High Conservation Value approach and respect the right of local communities and indigenous people. Reversing land degradation through the adoption of a sustainable land use change approach, so that high carbon density areas are protected from significant loss. HCV2: Intact Forest Landscapes and large landscape-level ecosystems and ecosystem mosaics that are significant at global, regional or national levels, and that contain viable populations of the great majority of naturally occurring species in natural patterns of distribution and abundance. E.g., a large tract of forest, grasslands or wetlands.
Protection of peatland	Covered by Principle 4 criterion 4.2. Additionally, Principle 2 Water Stewardship. Criterion 2.1 The Producer must adopt a Water Stewardship Plan to help protect and conserve local water resources and identify opportunities for climate change adaptation. i. Mapping and understanding water resources includes mapping wetlands; iv. Managing water quality includes protecting wetlands areas
Promote sustainable forest management	n/a
Protection of land with a high biodiversity value	Principle 4 criterion 4.2 For the conversion of land used to grow cotton, the Producer must adopt the High Conservation Value approach and respect the right of local communities and indigenous people.

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Restoration, preservation and strengthening of biodiversity	Principle 4 criterion 4.1 The Producer must adopt a Biodiversity Management Plan that conserves and enhances biodiversity on and surrounding the farm and includes all of the following components: i. Identifying and mapping biodiversity resources; ii. Identifying and restoring degraded areas; iii. Enhancing populations of beneficial insects as per the Integrated Pest Management plan (Principle 1); iv. Ensuring crop rotation; v. Protecting riparian areas.
Sustainable use of water	Principle 2 Water Stewardship. Criterion 2.1 The Producer must adopt a Water Stewardship Plan to help protect and conserve local water resources and identify opportunities for climate change adaptation. Especially iii. Applying efficient irrigation practices to optimise water productivity, and v. Engaging in collaboration and collective action to promote sustainable water use.
Maintaining and enhancing water quality	Principle 2 Water Stewardship. Criterion 2.1 The Producer must adopt a Water Stewardship Plan to help protect and conserve local water resources and identify opportunities for climate change adaptation. Core Indicator 2.1.1: A time-bound Water Stewardship Plan is defined that addresses each of the following component iv. Managing water quality. Indicator 2.1.8 Risk to water quality is considered when managing and applying nutrients and pesticides, as per the Water Stewardship Plan.
Maintaining and enhancing soil quality and productivity	Principle 3 Soil Health. Criterion 3.1 The Producer must adopt a soil management plan to maintain and enhance soil health that includes all of the following components: i. Identifying and analysing soil type; ii. Maintaining and enhancing soil structure; iii. Maintaining and enhancing soil fertility; iv. Continuously improving nutrient cycling.
Soil quality consideration for use of residual flows	n/a
Prohibition on the use of hazardous/toxic chemicals	Principle 1 Criterion 1.3 Pesticides listed in: i. Annex A and B of the Stockholm Convention; or ii. Annexes of the Montreal Protocol; or iii. Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention; are not used. Criterion 1.4 The Producer must phase out the use of any pesticide active ingredients and formulations that are known or presumed to be extremely or highly hazardous (acute toxicity). Criterion 1.5 The Producer must phase out the use of any pesticide active ingredients and formulations that are known or presumed to be carcinogenic, mutagenic or reprotoxic (CMR) substances.
Implement best practices for the use of (agro)chemicals	Principle 1 Crop protection: Criterion 1.1 The Producer must adopt an Integrated Pest Management Programme. Criterion 1.2 All pesticides used are registered nationally and correctly labelled. Criterion 1.8 Producers must store, handle and clean pesticide application equipment and containers, in order to avoid environmental harm and human exposure. Criterion 1.9 Producers must apply pesticides in appropriate weather conditions, according to the directions on the label, and/or manufacturers' directions, with appropriate and well-maintained equipment. Principle 3. Soil Health: Indicator 3.1.15 Fertilisers are applied using precision agriculture technologies.
Restrict air pollution, promote good air quality	Partially covered under Principle 3 Soil Health where burning of plant residue and other organic matter should be avoided.
Limit the risk of Indirect Land Use Change (ILUC)	Not explicitly covered
Circularity	
Promote waste reduction and responsible waste management	Principle 1 Crop protection: 1.10 Producers should dispose of used pesticide containers safely, or through a collection and recycling programme. 1.8.1 The areas must fully comply with relevant legislation for the storage, handling and disposal of pesticides. Within these areas, all rinsate and runoff must be completely captured so that it poses no contamination risk.
Raw material efficiency	Principle 5 Fibre Quality: Criterion 5.1 The Producer must harvest, manage and store seed cotton to minimise trash, contamination and damage. Criterion 5.2 The Producer should adopt management practices that maximise fibre quality.
Efficient use of energy	Not explicitly covered
Promote use of renewable sources	Not explicitly covered
Promote material circularity	n/a
Social	
Compliance with labour rights	Covered under Principle 6 Decent Work: Child labour - Criterion 6.1 The Producer must ensure there is no child labour, in accordance with ILO Convention 138. In the case of family smallholdings, children may help on their family's farm provided that the work is not liable to damage their health, safety, well-being, education or development, and that they are supervised by adults and given appropriate training. Forced and compulsory labour - Criterion 6.3 The Producer must ensure there is no forced or compulsory labour, including bonded or trafficked labour.

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	<p>Equal opportunities/discrimination - Criterion 6.4 The Producer must not practise discrimination (distinction, exclusion or preference) that denies or impairs equality of opportunity, conditions or treatment based on individual characteristics, group membership or association; Criterion 6.5 The Producer must observe the principle of equal pay for equal work; Criterion 6.16 The Producer should ensure that temporary, seasonal, and (sub-) contracted workers receive equivalent benefits and employment conditions to permanent workers in relation to their period of employment. Grievance mechanism – Covered under Criterion 6.4 and 6.5.</p> <p>Association and collective bargaining - Criterion 6.11 The Producer must guarantee all workers the right to establish and join organisations of their own choosing, and to draw up their own constitutions and rules, elect representatives, formulate programmes, and bargain collectively; Criterion 6.12 The Producer should provide representatives from trade unions or other workers' organisations with access to reasonable facilities.</p> <p>Fair salary and remuneration - Criterion 6.13 The Producer must ensure that all workers – waged and piece rate – are paid wages at least equivalent to the applicable legal national minimum wage or regional norm, whichever is higher; and that workers are paid regularly, on time, and through an appropriate method of payment.</p>
Respect wellbeing of workers	<p>Covered under Principle 6 Decent Work:</p> <p>Occupational health and safety: Criterion 1.7 Producers must ensure that any person who prepares and applies pesticides always uses appropriate protective and safety equipment in a correct manner; Criterion 6.2 The Producer must ensure that for hazardous work, the minimum age is 18 years; Criterion 6.6 The Producer must provide access to safe and hygienic sanitation facilities and to potable and washing water; Criterion 6.7 The Producer must provide all workers with a clean place to eat and access to adequate medical care; Criterion 6.8 The Producer should provide workers with regular health and safety training appropriate to the work they perform; Criterion 6.9 The Producer should identify work hazards, inform workers of safe work practices, and adopt preventive measures to minimise hazards in the workplace. The Producer must maintain records of any accidents and occupational illnesses; Criterion 6.10 The Producer should ensure that measures are in place to deal with accidents and emergencies, including first aid, trained first aiders and access to appropriate transportation to medical facilities.</p> <p>Contract - Criterion 6.14 The Producer must obtain the worker's consent in advance regarding all working conditions; Criterion 6.15 The Producer should keep adequate records on employment obligations, in accordance with national law and sufficient to enable monitoring.</p> <p>Work and overtime - Criterion 6.17 The Producer should ensure that working hours comply with national laws or relevant collective agreements, whichever is more favourable to the worker; Criterion 6.18 The Producer should ensure that overtime work is voluntary and remunerated in accordance with the law or applicable collective agreements.</p> <p>Harassment/violence - Criterion 6.19 The Producer must not engage in or tolerate the use of corporal punishment, mental or physical coercion, sexual harassment, physical or verbal abuse or harassment of any kind; Criterion 6.20 The Producer must have a transparent policy and system for disciplinary measures, and must communicate this to workers.</p>
Respect property and usage rights	<p>Covered under Criterion 4.2 For the conversion of land used to grow cotton, the Producer must adopt the High Conservation Value approach and respect the right of local communities and indigenous people. Negotiating land and resource use rights through Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC).</p>
Respect wellbeing of the local population	<p>Covered under Criterion 6.21 The Producer should develop partnership and collaboration on decent work at local, regional or national level. Producers should recognise their role in contributing and supporting local communities: In times of need (e.g. natural disasters) by taking advantage of equipment or facilities; In improving living standards with expertise (e.g. domestic agricultural practices); By taking advantage of equipment or facilities (e.g. providing space for community leaders to meet); Through education on caring for the environment and basic health and safety practices.</p>
Food security	n/a
Economic	
Financial and economic viability	<p>Principle 7 Management, Criterion 7.1 The Producer must develop and implement a Continuous Improvement Plan. Criterion 7.2 The Producer must ensure that BCI Farmers and workers receive regular training on best practices to achieve the Better Cotton Initiative Principles and Criteria Core Indicators and relevant Continuous Improvement Plan goals.</p>
Fair business practices, Integrity	Not explicitly covered
Promote local development, Inclusive economic growth	<p>Covered under Criterion 6.21 The Producer should develop partnership and collaboration on decent work at local, regional or national level. Producers should also engage with local communities with the aim of supporting community development and wellbeing of community members, extending decent working conditions to other employers in the community, and securing a solid base of capable workers. Community</p>

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	engagement activities can include: Establishing and managing local decent work committees with involvement from other employers in the community; Establishing or supporting child labour monitoring committees; Contributing training and development of skills, safety and development of the potential workforce or community members; Putting forward individuals for Lead Farmer roles.
Use of knowledge and technology	Covered under Principle 2 Water Stewardship. 2.1.5 Irrigation methods and technologies are implemented to improve irrigation efficiency, as per the Water Stewardship Plan (applicable to irrigated farms only), under Principle 5 Fibre Quality in managing contamination risks, as well as under Principle 1 Crop protection: enabling farmers to make informed choices about the availability of technologies, and how to use them appropriately.
Fair trade and market practices	Implicitly covered under Criterion 6.22 Producer Organisations should also collectively market members cotton production and find/negotiate outlets. While collective action in itself cannot solve all the competitive and structural challenges faced by Producers, Producer Organisation can create: An intermediary and larger business that enables them and notably smallholders to compete more effectively in the market and increase their bargaining power; A platform for producers to promote and defend their interests; A channel through which support and investment can be provided to ensure implementation of the Better Cotton Standard System.
Risk assessment and management	Principle 7 Management, Criterion 7.2 also considered an analysis of the risks perceived by farmers in adopting the improved practices, for example, in terms of an adverse impact on cotton production and/or an increase in financial inputs that may be needed to introduce the improved practices. Criterion 7.4 The Producer must monitor and review risks of noncompliance and implementation of corrective actions.

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Sources:

- Better Cotton website: <https://bettercotton.org/> (Last visited: 4 April 2023)
- Better Cotton resource library: <https://bettercotton.org/document-library/> (Last visited: 4 April 2023)