

# BCI STANDARD SETTING AND REVISION PROCESS

## GUIDELINES FOR CONSULTATION – FIRST DRAFT - DECEMBER 2015

|                           |                                                                                                                         |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| First public consultation | 03 December 2015 to 03 February 2016                                                                                    |
| Project Manager           | Gregory Jean, Standard & Assurance,<br><a href="mailto:gregory.jean@bettercotton.org">gregory.jean@bettercotton.org</a> |

### 1. Introduction

The Better Cotton Initiative (BCI) is an international collaboration to encourage the adoption of better management practices in cotton cultivation to achieve measurable reductions in key environmental impacts, while improving social and economic benefits for cotton farmers, small and large, worldwide.

As a global multi-stakeholder initiative, BCI recognizes the wide array of issues connected with cotton cultivation, each with differing levels of importance depending on regional circumstances. In order to effectively address the key negative impacts of cotton cultivation, BCI acts on the most significant social and environmental challenges experienced by all types of farmers in terms of production and management.

In order to stay current with cotton production’s changing environment, BCI standards are revised at least once every 5 years. As a consequence, a formal review was launched in February 2015. A dedicated Standard Setting and Revision Committee was subsequently established to provide technical support throughout the revision process.

This draft is now open for consultation and you are kindly invited to provide your input.

This version is the result of 5 different steps through which the document has already gone and will go through again before being officially approved:

#### 1- The Pre-draft:

This is a first version of the revised standards produced by the BCI project team intended to be reviewed by the Standard Setting and Revision Committee at its first meeting. All comments/suggestions/remarks from stakeholders and secretariat on how to improve the standard in term of structure and content were integrated in this document.

**2- First Consultation draft:** This is the revised version of the standard approved by the Standard Setting and Revision Committee after its first meeting and sent out for a first public consultation. This is the one you are kindly invited to comment on.

**3- Second Consultation draft:** This is the revised version of the standards approved by the Standard Setting and Revision Committee after their first meeting and sent out for a second public consultation.

**4- Final draft:** This is the final version approved by the Standard Setting and Revision Committee after second public consultation.

## 2. Project and Process Information

The BCI standard review process started in February 2015. Key milestones and a timeline are provided on the dedicated webpage: [bettercotton.org/standard-revision](http://bettercotton.org/standard-revision)

Below is a summary of the progress to date and next steps:

|      | Timeline       | Activity                                                                    |
|------|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2015 | September      | Predraft and background documents elaboration                               |
|      | September 30th | 1 <sup>st</sup> committee meeting                                           |
|      | Dec-Jan        | Public consultation 1 (60 days, all stakeholders)                           |
|      | February       | Analysis and preparation of 2nd draft                                       |
|      | March 1st*     | 2nd committee meeting                                                       |
| 2016 | April*         | Public Consultation 2 (30 days, all stakeholders)                           |
|      | June*          | 3 <sup>rd</sup> committee meeting and final draft Submission to BCI Council |
|      | July           | BCI Council approval                                                        |

\*Actual dates depend on technical committee and consultation outcomes. Additional consultations may be necessary if results are inconclusive or lead to diverging views requiring further research.

## 3. How to review the BCI Standard first Draft

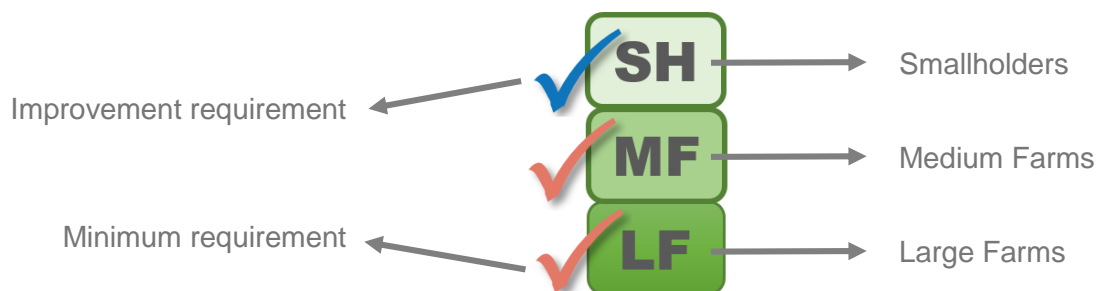
The draft is composed of nine sections:

- Preamble
- Principle 1: Minimise the harmful impact of crop protection practices
- Principle 2: Use water efficiently and care for the availability of water
- Principle 3: Care for the health of soil

- Principle 4: Enhance biodiversity
- Principle 5: Care for and preserve the quality of fibre
- Principle 6: Promote decent work
- Principle 7: Operate a management system
- Annexes

The Draft is structured as follows:

- “**Principle**” is the overarching sustainability requirement
- “**Criteria**” are conditions that need to be met in order to adhere to a Principle.
- “**Intent**” is an explanatory note providing rationale behind the requirement.
- “**Indicators**” are requirements supporting interpretation by users and auditors.
- “**Guidance for implementation**”: Support on how to best comply with the requirement
- “**Farmer category**”: On the right side of each indicator, a 3 parts box representing the 3 farmer categories notifies to which category the requirement applies (see below). A tick is placed in the corresponding box.
- “**Minimum/Improvement**”: Ticks in the farmer categories boxes have a colour code: Orange for Minimum requirements and Blue for Improvement requirements.



- “**Theme**”: Criteria are grouped together according to certain themes. Each Principle is divided into one or more themes. Themes are identified in the top right side of criteria pages.

Suggested change are notified as follows:

- In **brown** for new elements
- ~~Strikethrough~~ for removed elements

Every stakeholder is invited to provide comments on proposals regarding the ambition and scope, structure and content of the proposed version. For this purpose, we have inserted guiding questions to support you in the review but of course you are encouraged to comment

directly on any requirement or propose new wording altogether in the “General Comment” box at the end of each principle. Please make sure you refer to the right criterion when you make a comment in this box.

All feedback will be analysed and used to draw up the next draft that will be submitted to the BCI Standard Setting and Revision Committee in March 2016.

**We encourage you to give explanations, analysis and examples underlying your statements. Your feedback is very important and helps us identify key points to address in the revision process.**

Two options are available to comment on the draft:

- Through the [online survey](#). We encourage you to opt for that option if you have an Internet connection.
- Using the PDF version by filling in answer boxes and sending your comments to the project manager, **Gregory Jean** at [gregory.jean@bettercotton.org](mailto:gregory.jean@bettercotton.org)

**All comments need to be sent back before 03 February 2016.**