





BCI MISSION

THE BETTER COTTON INITIATIVE EXISTS 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 WORKS WITH A DIVERSE RANGE OF STAKEHOLDERS TO PROMOTE MEASURABLE AND CONTINUING IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, FARMING COMMUNITIES AND THE ECONOMIES OF COTTON-PRODUCING AREAS.

BCI AIMS TO **TRANSFORM COTTON PRODUCTION WORLDWIDE** BY DEVELOPING BETTER COTTON AS A SUSTAINABLE MAINSTREAM COMMODITY.

MESSAGE FROM LISE

After two harvests, we can confidently say that Better Cotton works. The standard is proven, farmers reactions are positive, and Better Cotton is actually flowing through to store shelves. A remarkable achievement for something that was only theory a few short years ago.

In this Annual Report, we do our best to give you an overview of what has happened over the last season: how many farmers we are working with, what we are doing – with the support of our implementing partners – to improve the environment, the lives of farming communities and, last but definitely not least, how much Better Cotton is being produced.

Putting a comprehensive picture together is no easy task. In 2011-12, thanks to our partners in the Better Cotton Fast Track Program (BCFTP), we again had projects in Brazil, India, Mali and Pakistan, joined by a few new implementing partners. We were also busy setting up in China, where we expect our first Better Cotton harvest from the 2012-2013 season. The sheer volume of data that we receive from the field is immense, and it is sometimes difficult to resist making premature conclusions, especially when the data looks very positive. We try to be conscientious about qualifying our findings by pointing out that conclusive evidence of change and the positive impact of Better Cotton on farming communities and their environment will require impact studies and more years of comparative data.

Having said that, the data, together with the stories that we are collecting from the field, is giving us a good idea of what is happening on the ground. Despite the challenges of this past season (including climatic disasters, fluctuating prices and market conditions), Better Cotton farmers still experienced significant success; the anecdotal evidence and numbers that we have received are certainly encouraging and positive. While we've been busy moving forward, we've also taken the time to make an in-depth assessment of how we are doing. This was planned of course. We knew early on that if we really wanted to transform cotton production worldwide by developing Better Cotton as a sustainable mainstream commodity, significant changes would have to be made. So, together with the incredible dedication and commitment from members, we put together a strategy to allow us to scale up while still maintaining our credibility. We introduced the 2013-15 strategy for Better Cotton to membership at the General Assembly in Istanbul (June 2012). While many members were involved in consultation, it was the first time we shared the entire vision with everyone.

Reactions were largely congratulatory, but members also had excellent, structured – and sometimes pointed – feedback. It is this kind of engagement that makes the Better Cotton community so exciting to work for. Although the diversity of membership means that there are divergent interests and priorities, everyone is truly committed to becoming more sustainable. Now the challenge is to take the vision, the commitment and goodwill and really make it happen!

Also at the General Assembly, members elected a new Council. It was not easy to say goodbye to the old Council – especially as we have all worked so intensely together this past year on developing the 2013-15 strategy. While some Council members are familiar, the fresh faces promise to bring renewed energy and perspectives. I look forward to continuing the transformative work that we've begun.

As we move into our third Better Cotton harvest and beyond, we will continue to look critically at what we are doing well and – as always – how we can continue to make things better.

LISE MELVIN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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COTTON

Cotton is a globally important and widely grown crop. It is an industry that employs around 300 million people in the early production stages alone. For millions of people, in some of the world's poorest countries, cotton is a vital and unique link to the global economy.

Cotton is natural, renewable and hugely versatile. It is a key raw material for clothing, beauty products, home furnishings and insulation. It is used by nearly every person on the planet on a daily basis.

Unfortunately, its cultivation often puts stress on the planet's natural resources and threatens to undermine the long-term sustainability of the cotton sector.

In some areas more attention is needed at the farm level to address inefficient irrigation techniques, poor management practices and improper use of pesticides and fertilizers, which threaten the availability of clean water, soil fertility, human health and biodiversity.

Many cotton farmers also suffer from low incomes, a lack of affordable finance, and often have difficulty overcoming the barriers to organising. Farm workers may experience arduous working conditions (particularly women), and in some regions, child labour and forced or bonded labour persist.

We can transform the potential of the cotton sector to be a force for positive environmental and social change. Retailers, brands, civil governments society, producers, and suppliers are now coming together to reduce negative environmental and social the consequences of cotton production on a scale never seen before.



BETTER COTTON

Better Cotton came to life out of the belief that we can transform this vital sector.

BCI brings together producers, ginners, mills, traders, manufacturers, retailers, brands and civil society organisations in a unique global community committed to developing Better Cotton as a sustainable mainstream commodity. By helping farmers to grow cotton in a way that reduces stress on the local environment and improves the livelihoods and welfare of farming communities, BCI aims to create longterm change.

It is a global approach that provides a solution for the mainstream cotton industry, including both smallholders and large scale farmers. Benefits are delivered to the poorest and at the same time, large producers are helped to develop solutions that enable large scale provision of a new mainstream commodity, Better Cotton.

BCI's approach is to work with members and Implementing Partners to enable the supply of Better Cotton and stimulate market demand. Success is measured by both the positive change created at field level and the use of Better Cotton on a global scale.

Growing Better Cotton means initially meeting a set of **minimum requirements** including pesticide use, water conservation, habitat protection, fibre quality and decent work principles. Once the minimum criteria are met, farmers need to show continuous improvement to remain qualified.

AIMS

- » Reduce the environmental impact of cotton production
- » Improve livelihoods and economic development in cotton producing areas
- » Improve commitment to and flow of Better Cotton throughout the supply chain
- » Ensure credibility and sustainability of the Better Cotton Initiative

SUCCESS MEANS

- » Farmers that are better off, especially in financial terms
- » Cotton grown without putting undue pressure on fresh water supplies
- » No damage done to human and environmental health
- » Thriving biodiversity in and around cotton farming communities
- » Healthy soils that support healthy crops
- » Farmers and workers that benefit from decent working conditions

GLOBAL NUMBERS



GLOSSARY OF TERMS

An **Implementing Partner** is any kind of institution that is equipped to support Producer Units in producing and selling Better Cotton.

A **Producer Unit** is a collection of Learning Groups and/or large farms. It delivers farm support activities and reports to Implementing Partners and BCI.

A **Learning Group** is a group of farmers that meet to learn from each other and receive training on Better Cotton production principles and criteria.

A Better Cotton farmer :

- » minimises the harmful impact of crop protection practices
- » uses water efficiently and cares for the availability of water
- » cares for the health of the soil
- » conserves natural habitats
- » cares for and preserves the quality of the fibre
- » promotes Decent Work

In 2011-12, 10 Implementing Partners worked with 72 Producer units and 125,000 farmers organised in 4,700 Learning Groups.



TOTAL NUMBER OF FARMERS IN BCI PROJECTS

Implementing Partners worked with 125,000 farmers in 2011-12. Only farmers who meet the Better Cotton requirements (ie., are compliant) get a one year license to produce Better Cotton. In 2011-12, the global average compliance rate was 72% and 90,000 farmers produced Better Cotton.

Before, we used to individually perform routine work on our fields. Now, we discuss and talk together at the Learning Group. This is the best way of learning because we can exchange ideas and learn from each other's practices.

[Aijaz Ahmad, Rahim Yar Khan, Pakistan]

This graph represents the number of farmers licensed to produce Better Cotton as well as the area and volume of Better Cotton they harvested.

As harvest is just finishing in Brazil, final results will only be known in November. The area indicated with diagonal lines indicates estimates. As climatic factors have been damaging the crop in some areas of Brazil, the final values may be lower than that presented here.

SEED vs LINT COTTON

Seed cotton is cotton before it is cleaned ("ginned") **Lint cotton** is cotton once it has been ginned, and is typically 30-50% of the mass of seed cotton

BETTER COTTON FIGURES



CAPACITY BUILDING AND FARMER SUPPORT

BCI is focused on effecting change: reducing the environmental impact of cotton production and improving the livelihood of cotton farmers. To achieve this, BCI relies on Implementing Partners with the capacity and skills to organise and train farmers so that they can grow Better Cotton.

In 2011-12, BCI trained Implementing Partners in Brazil, India, Mali and Pakistan. The trainings covered a range of topics: Better Cotton production principles and criteria, how to enable farmers to participate in self-assessments, how to conduct credibility visits, and generally how to deal with the successes and challenges of growing Better Cotton. BCI not only provides general training, but also offers personal support to Implementing Partners during the whole year. Expert organisations, such as FAO, ILO, and Fair labour Association have been contracted by BCI to deliver specific training to Implementing Partners.

Implementing Partners develop awareness raising and capacity building methodologies and materials that best correspond to the needs of the farmers.

Examples include:

- » Decent Work programmes broadcasted on radio to reach large number of farmers simultaneously
- » Wall chalking in villages to describe good practices or to raise awareness on the harmful impact of child labour
- » Farmer Field Schools to practically demonstrate Better Cotton production principles to farmers
- » Partnerships with expert institutions to develop training material, as well as linkages with government bodies to facilitate access to services



Better Cotton training material developed by Abrapa, WWF-Pakistan, Solidaridad, ASA, Arvind, AFPRO and AProCA.



Mural on safe application of pesticides, MYKAPS, Solidaridad, India



Field visit in Mali



Children walk in Pakistan (WWF)



Villager looking at Better Cotton information by Prathiba, Solidaridad, India

- » Awareness-raising walks: children walk for the elimination of child labour, sending children to school and for the safe disposal of pesticides
- Training materials adapted to farmers' needs and capacities (for example booklets wth pictures of pests and beneficial insects)
- » Decent Work Committees in villages to address social issues with whole communities
- » Open Schools for women that offer women the opportunity to regularly meet and learn about health and hygiene, income generation and pesticides risk reduction
- » Videos on agronomic practices and social issues
- » Literacy centres for non-school going children and women
- » Support for the formation of producer organizations able to collectively purchase inputs and organise market operations
- » Street plays and puppet show to inform children about child labour
- » Health and safety trainings and the distribution of safety kits containing aprons, hand gloves, goggles, masks and lists of banned pesticides

125,000 farmers received training on Better Cotton production principles. In addition, 25,000 workers, including over 20,000 women, received training. While farmers typically were trained on all Better Cotton principles, most women and workers were trained on Decent Work and fibre quality principles only – the principles that directly correspond to their needs.

MEMBERSHIP MOVING FORWARD

BCI Membership is changing. We are scaling up: more farmers, more cotton, more members, more impact.

BCI members are organisations committed to improving the environmental, social and economic conditions of cotton production. Being a member means enabling positive change in the field, supporting supply creation, building public support and demonstrating market place demand for Better Cotton as a mainstream commodity. Members share knowledge, take action to enhance trust in the supply chains, and contribute to the credibility of Better Cotton.

Active membership is what makes Better Cotton possible.

In order to support the coming expansion phase, we've made some changes to how membership works, making it both simpler and more flexible.

WHAT'S NEW?

I'm from a Civil Society or Producer Organisation, or I'm an Associate Member

Not much will change in this category although we're looking at more creative ways to involve this group of organisations in BC and BCI.

» I'm a supplier/manufacturer/merchant

Suppliers and Manufacturers will be able to choose between Basic and Registered membership.

Basic membership is great for those of you who are not yet ready to become fully active, or simply want to support BCI in a more hands-off way. Basic membership means you can be part of the initiative while you learn about what it means to market, buy and sell Better Cotton. **Registered membership** is for those of you who are active in the Better Cotton Supply Chain. Not only will we provide training on how you can more efficiently buy, sell, manage and market Better Cotton – we will also actively promote those who choose to become official BCI registered suppliers. By becoming a registered member, you will receive official recognition for the active role you play in taking the BCI agenda forward.

» I'm a Retailer and Brand

Brands & Retailers can choose between Standard membership and Pioneer membership.

As a standard member you contribute to supply creation by investing in farmer support, communicate about Better Cotton and access all BCI benefits such as the traceabillity system, field data and results.

As a **Pioneer Member**, you have chosen to make a statement and want to be seen as a driving force behind the success of BCI. You share some of the risk as we scale up and invest significant amounts both in BCI capacity and for farmer support. You work closely with your own staff to ensure you have Better Cotton entering your supply chain, and are a member of the Better Cotton Fast Track programme. As a leading BCI member and key investor in supply creation, you participate in investment decisions on farmer support, and can bring your procurement requirements into decisions on BCI project locations. In BCI communications, you are identified as a leader business.

If you're brand new to BCI, you may be interested in our **Learning membership** to get started, mobilise internally, and get ready to start supporting and procuring Better Cotton the following year.

WHAT WE'VE ACHIEVED SO FAR

2011 was the second year BCI operated as an independent membership association.

- » Membership grew from 47 members at the end of 2010 to 119 by the end of 2011, against a target of 75 members for 2011 and with 98% retention of members. (Current figures, see graphs)
- » The cotton consumption of BCI brand and retail members represents over 5% of the world's total consumption
- We held the 2011 annual membership workshop in November in Dubai, with a high attendance from all membership categories.
- We organised a field trip, giving members the opportunity to visit a Better Cotton project in India

- » A members' only area was created online to provide communication materials, supply chain information and other materials to facilitate engagement.
- A Supply Chain Coordinator was hired in India, facilitating the sourcing of Better Cotton by members
- At the global level, Supply Chain Working Group meetings and webinars were organized and information was shared with members regarding projected quantity, quality and location of Better Cotton in 2011 to allow them to plan their procurement.



[Migros]





GROWTH IN BCI MEMBERSHIP

RESULT INDICATORS

AGRONOMIC AND ECONOMIC RESULT INDICATORS

Better Cotton farmers keep records of their activities to support learning and continuous improvement. Producer Units have developed different record formats ("farmer field book") to best respond to the needs and capacities of farmers. All farmer field books should include a section on BCI's agronomic and economic result indicators.

At the end of the season, Producer Units compile data from all farmers. Learning Group averages are automatically calculated and all data is submitted to BCI.

Results can be affected – sometimes dramatically – by external factors (rain, pest pressure, market price, etc) and

can vary from one year to another. While real impact can only properly be measured over a longer period of time, BCI keeps records of all years, as the analysis of medium term trends can indicate change. In order to make comparisons within a given year possible, Implementing Partners are asked to collect data from control farmers – farmers who are not part of BCI projects and who follow conventional practices.

It's important to note that while the data presented here illustrates encouraging trends, further studies are needed to assess the actual impact of Better Cotton.

	Indicator	Unit/Comment
	Number of Better Cotton producers and area under cultivation	Number of farmers in Learning Groups licensed to produce Better Cotton + number of large farms licensed to produce Better Cotton. Area: in hectares
	Production and yield of Better Cotton	 Production: Actual total production of Better Cotton expressed in lint equivalent. Production is measured at farm level (not all Better Cotton produced by farmers is ginned into Better Cotton bales). Yield: Production of Better Cotton (in lint equivalent) per hectare harvested
	Profitability	Net income per hectare
	Pesticide use	Amount of pesticide (in kilograms of active ingredient) applied per hectare. Categorized according to WHO recommended classification of pesticides by hazard (2009).
		Amount of fertilizer (in kilograms) applied per hectare
Fertilizer use	'Organic fertilizer' refers to manure, compost and any other bulk organic matter	
	Water use	Volume of water (in cubic metre) used per hectare irrigated



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The farmer field book is an important tool for increasing farmer knowledge enabling better decision making and farmer to farmer knowledge sharing.

[Ambuja Cement Foundation (ACF), Implementing Partner, India]



IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

BCI works with Abrapa (Associação Brasileira dos Produtores de Algodão) as the Implementing Partner in Brazil since 2010. Better Cotton is grown in Bahia, Goias, Mato Grosso, Minas Gerais, and most recently, in Mato Grosso do Sul.

GROWING SEASON

In Brazil, cotton is sown from November to February and harvested from April to September. The 2011-12 harvest is only just finishing, so 2011-12 data presented here is based on licensing figures.





SMALLHOLDERS



DEMOGRAPHICS

In 2011-12, **100**¹ **farmers cultivated Better Cotton in Brazil**, as opposed to 50 farmers in 2010-11. In that year, 80% were smallholders cultivating less than 10 hectares while most large farms cultivated Better Cotton on between 1000 and 2500 hectares. In 2011-12, while the number of smallholders only slightly increased, there were six times as many large farms producing Better Cotton compared to the previous year. *Note: licensed values only*

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The Better Cotton Initiative brought us a practical vision of sustainability, which considers the current state of the project and moves forward progressively: understanding, planning and doing, enabling continuous improvement of processes and routines of the farm.

[Mr. Fernando Minoru Aoyagui, Minas Gerais, Brazil]

A NOTE ON METHODOLOGY AND PRESENTATION OF DATA

As the 2011-12 harvest is just finishing in Brazil, the final results are not available yet. The data presented here corresponds to baseline data collected in 2010-11 season.

RESULT INDICATORS

LARGE FARMS

YIELD

The baseline average yield of the large farms growing Better Cotton was about 1600 kg cotton lint per hectare.

WATER USE

Except in a few small areas, Better Cotton is typically not irrigated in Brazil, so the total use of water for irrigation is low. Better Cotton farmers use a variety of adapted methods such as tillage, terracing and level curve to maximize the benefits of rain water.

FERTILIZER USE

Large farms analyse and map the soil of their land in order to determine the correct amount and type of fertilizers to apply. In 2010-11, Better Cotton large farms used 600 kg of commercial fertilizer per hectare.

PESTICIDE USE

Large farms producing Better Cotton in 2010-11 used 4 kg of active ingredient of pesticides per hectare. The SEEP¹ study found that on average Brazilian farmers use 4.9 kg of active ingredient of pesticides per hectare.

SMALLHOLDERS

YIELD

The baseline yield of Better Cotton smallholders was about 800 kg lint/ha.

WATER USE

Smallholders do not irrigate their land and are dependent on rainfall. Better Cotton farmers practiced level curve and sub soiling, which breaks apart compacted layers of soil and allows better penetration of water into the soil.

FERTILIZER USE

Smallholders used an average of 300 kg of commercial fertilizer per hectare. The cost of fertilizers represents an important expense for smallholders.

PESTICIDE USE

Smallholders used about 5 kg of active ingredient of pesticides per hectares.

PROFITABILITY

High costs of production and difficulties in the ginning and commercialisation of cotton resulted in low profitability. Profit was very low for smallholders in 2010-11, with some farmers even incurring losses. This would have been the situation for all smallholders, but as we have no control data for smallholders, we are unable to say whether Better Cotton farmers did better, worse, or the same as conventional farmers.

1 - Expert Panel on Social, Environmental and Economic Performance of Cotton Production, based on 2006 data.

THE BENEFITS OF BCI



"The BCI has brought us great benefits."

– Jose Brasil

Jose Brasil is a small cotton producer from Catuti, in north Minas Gerais, Brazil – a hot region with little rainfall where rain fed cotton is grown on small family farms.

He has been working with cotton since the age of eight. Today aged 45, married with three daughters, he and his wife continue to work in cotton while the daughters are studying.

He says that for many years he applied pesticides without any protection, and because the plants are tall, he used to get covered with pesticides. Since participating in the BCI, he feels more protected as he has learned how to work with protective equipment during pesticide applications.

He is proud to mention that before joining the BCI he was planting seeds without paying much attention to problems of soil erosion. As a result, seeds, or even small plants, often got washed away after the rain. Now, he only plants following contour lines, his plants don't get carried away and the soil keeps moist for longer.

INDIA

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IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

In 2011-2012, BCI Implementing Partners worked in 9 states. The Implementing Partners are:

- » ACF (Ambuja Cement Foundation)
- » AFPRO (Action For Food Production)
- » Arvind
- » Cotton Connect
- » Solidaridad
- » Trident
- » WWF-India

GROWING SEASON

In India, cotton is generally sown from April onwards and harvested from September onwards.



DEMOGRAPHICS

In 2011-12, **35,000¹ licensed farmers produced 32,000 MT of Better Cotton lint on 47,500 hectares**, a scale-up from 2010-11, when 12,500 licensed farmers produced the equivalent of over 10,000 MT of Better Cotton lint on 16,000 hectares.



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BCI made me aware of not employing child labour, and not allowing pregnant ladies to spray pesticides.

[Tukaram Waghmare, Maharashtra, India]

A NOTE ON METHODOLOGY AND PRESENTATION OF DATA

Better Cotton farmers are active in nine different states in India. Local growing conditions vary widely, from intensive agriculture with irrigation to rain fed farming. The figures presented here are averaged at national level.

Result indicator data from all Better Cotton farmers is collected on a yearly basis. This incredibly extensive amount of data will make it possible to assess change over time. In order to make it possible to compare the results of Better Cotton farmers with those of conventional farmers, control data was collected by Producer Units. The data presented here compares the national average of:

- » 12,500 Better Cotton farmers in 2010-11
- » 35,000 Better Cotton farmers in 2011-12
- » 1,191 control farmers (conventional farmers in 2011-12)

In addition, BCI commissioned teams of experts to realise case studies on result indicators in four states. Two different teams collected data from 467 farmers, including 123 control farmers.

The results of the independent case studies validate the result indicator data collected by the Producer Units. While the data of a few hundred farmers in four states cannot be expected to exactly match that of 35,000 farmers in all Better Cotton producing states, both datasets present similar trends: the changes observed between the 35,000 Better Cotton farmers and control farmers are similar to the ones evidenced by the case studies.

NATIONAL AVERAGES

TRENDS: CASE STUDIES vs. BETTER COTTON



RESULT INDICATORS



AVERAGE YIELD (KG LINT/HA)

YIELD

At 660 kg of lint cotton per hectare, Better Cotton farmers in 2011-12 had a 20% higher yield than control farmers. Average yield was also higher than in 2010-11. The common progress suggests that the adoption of Better Cotton practices can result in higher yields. Impact studies are still needed, when data for longer period is available, to confirm this trend.

WATER USE

In India, about half of the Better Cotton farmers irrigate their cotton fields. In Punjab, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharasthtra and Andha Pradesh, between 90 and 100% of the Better Cotton farmers rely on irrigation.

Better Cotton farmers use water efficiently and care for its availability. In 2011-2012, farmers who irrigated their field used less water than control farmers.

AVERAGE WATER USED FOR IRRIGATION (M³ OF WATER USED PER HECTARE)



FERTILIZER USE

The optimum level of fertilizer required depends on the needs of the soil. It is simplistic, even erroneous, to look at reductions/increases in the fertilizer use in the short term as a measure of improvement. A longer term perspective is required to be able to paint an accurate picture of progress. In 2011-2012, Better Cotton farmers used more organic fertilizers than in 2010-2011, and three times as much as control farmers. This reflects particular efforts made by IPs in promoting the use of organic fertilizers (which improves soil health), principally farmyard manure.

AVERAGE USE OF FERTILIZER (KG/HA)



AVERAGE USE OF PESTICIDE (KG OF ACTIVE INGREDIENT PER HECTARE)



PESTICIDE USE

In 2011-12, Better Cotton farmers used on average 40% less commercial pesticides (in volume of active ingredient applied per hectare) than control farmers. In parallel, the use of botanic pesticides was much more widespread among Better Cotton farmers in 2011-12.

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I enjoy higher profits and a better health in a better environment. It is now time that all farmers in my village, my state and my country can enjoy the same benefits.

[Kare Yadhareddy, India]

PROFITABILITY

Profitability, like water use, fluctuates from year to year. Better Cotton farmers' average profitability was 50% higher than that of control farmers. As we collect more data in the coming years and can conduct proper impact studies, hopefully this apparent trend will be confirmed.







THE BETTER COTTON INITIATIVE INSPIRES INITIATIVE IN OTHERS

On March 6th 2012, 820 farmers from 14 different villages came together at the Ambuja Cement Foundation in Ambujanagar, India and shared their experiences. But while Better Cotton was the impetus and the theme, BCI didn't organise it – the meeting was completely organised by the farmers themselves.

Gandabhai Chauhan narrated his experience with drip irrigation. Karshanbhai Parmar explained how he had reduced chemical use through Integrated Pest Management (IPM). Then followed a Q&A session where water-logging, plant wilting, soil testing and mealy bug management were all dealt with. There was a presentation on the benefits of collective pesticide purchasing, various discussions around supply chain matters, and the importance of ensuring transparency. In closing, awards were handed out to the Best Learning Group, Best Facilitator and Best Extension Volunteer.

BCI wants to congratulate the winners and to thank all the farmers for organising this event. With initiatives like these, everybody is a winner.



IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

BCI has worked with Solidaridad and AProCA (*Association des Producteurs de Coton Africains*) as Implementing Partners in Mali since 2010.

GROWING SEASON

In Mali, cotton is generally sown from May onwards and harvested from October onwards.



DEMOGRAPHICS

In 2011-12, **10,500¹ licensed farmers produced 12,000 MT of Better Cotton lint on 32,000 hectares**, a scale-up from 2010-11, when 3600 licensed farmers produced the equivalent of over 3300 MT of Better Cotton lint on 10,000 hectares.



A NOTE ON METHODOLOGY AND PRESENTATION OF DATA

Result indicator data from all Better Cotton farmers is collected on a yearly basis. This incredibly extensive amount of data will make it possible to assess change over time. In order to make it possible to compare the results of Better Cotton farmers with those of conventional farmers, control data was collected by the Producer Unit. The data presented here compares the national averages of:

- » 3,600 Better Cotton farmers in 2010-11
- » 10,500 Better Cotton farmers in 2011-12
- » 978 control farmers (conventional farmers in 2011-12)
- » Farmer Field Schools

All farmers participating in Better Cotton projects receive support and training. In some locations, Farmer Field Schools (FFS) have been established. FFS provide hands-on training to Better Cotton farmers on specially designated plots of land, by illustrating the best techniques in sustainable production. In 2011-12, 2,000 farmers were trained on 119 FFS on GIPD (*Gestion integrée de la Production et des Prédateurs*) widely recognised as the best in pest management. All other Better Cotton farmers are trained on threshold treatment as well as the Better Cotton production principles. Although time and resource intensive, FFS had an even higher average yield and average profitability than Better Cotton farmers, indicating that there is still scope to improve practices.

RESULT INDICATORS

AVERAGE YIELD (KG/HA)



YIELD

At 390 kg of lint cotton per hectare, Better Cotton farmers in 2011-12 had a 5% higher yield than control farmers and Better Cotton farmers in 2010-11. The common progress suggests that the adoption of Better Cotton practices can result in higher yields. Impact studies are still needed to confirm this trend over a longer period of time.

The yield on Farmer Field Schools was 40% higher than that of Better Cotton farmers, which indicates scope for improvement.

WATER

In Mali, farmers do not record the use of water, as it all comes from rainwater. However, Better Cotton farmers still maximize available water by using a variety of techniques adapted to rain-fed cotton production such as dry ploughing, partition ploughing and ploughing perpendicularly to the contour line.

FERTILIZER USE

While Better Cotton farmers used similar amounts of commercial fertilizers compared to control farmers, Better Cotton farmers' use of organic fertilizers (farmyard manure) was much higher in 2011-12 than in the previous season. Better Cotton farmers on average applied 20% more organic fertilizers (farmyard manure) on their fields than control farmers.



AVERAGE USE OF FERTILIZER (KG/HA)



PESTICIDE USE

In 2011-12, Better Cotton farmers used on average 67% less pesticides (in volume of active ingredient applied per hectare) than control farmers. In 2010-11, due to frequent rains, pest populations were low, which explains the low average use of pesticides for that season.

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Before we were told that without pesticide there was no cotton and we then used to do 5 to 7 sprays in a season. This was very expensive and also gave headaches. Poultry and other animals even used to die during the season. Now we know how to grow 'Koori Sanuman', cleaner cotton, and are benefitting from it.

AVERAGE USE OF PESTICIDE (KG OF ACTIVE INGREDIENT PER HECTARE)



[Issa Dembele, Mali]

AVERAGE PROFITABILITY



PROFITABILITY

The heavy rains of 2010-11 resulted in low yields and profitability, which explains the significant increase in profitability in 2011-12. In the last season, the average profitability of Better Cotton farmers was 8% higher than that of control farmers.

The average profitability on farmer field schools was 25% higher than that of Better Cotton farmers, which indicates scope for improvement.

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All crops are ready for harvesting at the same time, so that's a busy period. When we need extra hands, we can call upon the help of the other women in the village. Children are not allowed to help with the harvest, they have to go to school.

As part of the Better Cotton project, we followed a literacy course after the harvest period, between January and March. So I found myself going back to school again as well.

[Daouda Malle, Mali]

MALI WOMEN LIVING A BETTER LIFE



"Being convinced that Better Cotton can also be an opportunity for women, we have decided to grow cotton this year on our collective plot. This will allow us to apply all BCI production criteria not only on our plot, but for all the village's farms."

- Bintou Traore (president of the "Benkadi" Women's Association, Sarakélé, Mali) "My name is Bintou Traore. I am married to a producer of the Cotton Producers Cooperative (SCPC) and I have eight children.

It was during the 2010/2011 cotton growing season that Better Cotton was introduced into the village. In this context, our association "Benkadi" has received training on better harvesting and storage techniques in order to improve quality. This year, harvesting has been done with cotton bags in order to avoid cotton contamination.

Also, the people applying pesticides (all married men) talked about the benefits of the reduction in the amount of pesticides used this season. As wives, we can testify. In all farms in the village, men have applied a new technique learned in the [BCI] farmer field schools. This technique can greatly reduce the number of pesticide applications. We believe that this contributed to reducing input costs, thereby improving farm incomes.

For now, women are not part of the SCPC office because of the literacy level. But things will change, given that the BCI has initiated a literacy program this year in which two women from our cooperative were involved."



PAKISTAN

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

BCI works with WWF-Pakistan as an Implementing Partner since 2010. Projects are located in Punjab and Sindh.

GROWING SEASON

In Pakistan, cotton is generally sown from March onwards and harvested from September onwards.



DEMOGRAPHICS

In 2011-12 **44,000¹ licensed farmers produced 115,000 MT of Better Cotton lint on 145,000 hectares**, a scaleup over 2010-11 when 12,000 licensed farmers produced the equivalent of over 21,000 MT of Better Cotton lint on 39,000 hectares.

Most of the Better Cotton farmers that WWF-Pakistan works with are smallholders. Three large farms were licensed in 2010-11 and 60 in 2011-12.



A NOTE ON METHODOLOGY AND PRESENTATION OF DATA

Result indicator data from all Better Cotton farmers is collected on a yearly basis. This incredibly extensive amount of data will make it possible to assess change over time. In order to make it possible to compare the results of Better Cotton farmers with those of conventional farmers, control data was collected by Producer Units. The data presented here compares the national average of:

- » 44,000 Better Cotton smallholders in 2011-12
- » 785 control farmers (conventional farmers in 2011-12)

The first season of growing Better Cotton in Pakistan (2010-11) was characterised by adverse weather conditions, with severe floods in the project area. This extraordinary event had a huge impact on crop and on result indicators, which is why figures presented here are only of Better Cotton farmers (smallholders only) compared to control farmers for the 2011-12 season.

RESULT INDICATORS

YIELD



Better Cotton farmers' average yield in 2011-12 was about 800 kg lint cotton per hectare, 8% higher than that of control farmers.

WATER

In Pakistan, Better Cotton is cultivated on irrigated land. The data reported by Producer Units indicates that, in 2011-12, Better Cotton producers used about 20 % less water than control farmers.

AVERAGE WATER USED FOR IRRIGATION (M³ OF WATER USED PER HECTARE)





AVERAGE USE OF FERTILIZER (KG/HA)

FERTILIZER USE

Better Cotton farmers used 33% less commercial fertilizers than control farmers in 2011-12.

At the same time, Better Cotton farmers used much more farmyard manure (FYM) than control farmers which reflects the particular efforts made by WWF-Pakistan to promote the use of organic matter. While the average volume is still low, some measures were promoted to maximize the benefits of manure, such as having it fermented before applying it with irrigation water.

PESTICIDE USE

In 2011-12, the average volume of pesticides applied by Better Cotton smallholders was 1.4kg of active ingredient per hectare, 38% less than that of control farmers.

> n fi Now my f

Now my farm is like a business to manage, while before I was simply doing routine activities. My records are like the meter of a car, they guide me in my activities.

[Aijaz Ahmad, Rahim Yar Khan, Pakistan]

AVERAGE USE OF PESTICIDES (KG OF ACTIVE INGREDIENT PER HECTARE)



AVERAGE PROFITABILITY



PROFITABILITY

Better Cotton farmers' profitability was 35% higher than that of the control farmers. This may be due to the ability of Better Cotton farmers to reduce their costs on commercial fertilizers, pesticides and water, while maintaining their yield, resulting in greater profitability. As we collect more data in the coming years and can conduct proper impact studies, hopefully this apparent trend will be confirmed.



LOCALLY VIABLE SOLUTION



"All farmers should know about beneficial insects as this is key to progress."

> – Allah Nawaz Khan (LFE, Adam Sahabha, Pakistan)

Allah Nawaz Khan is a Large Farm Employer who owns more than 50 hectares of land in Adam Sahabha village, Pakistan.

In the area, pink bollworms are a common problem. To fight against this pest, Deltaphos is normally sprayed several times. Even educated farmers like Khan normally do not have much technical knowledge about insects and agronomics in general. As a result, farmers follow the advice of the only agronomic graduate working in the area: a pesticide companies' representative.

3 years ago, the WWF came to the village to tell farmers about better practices. They did practical demonstrations, for example of predation, that convinced the farmers. Khan remembers that he used to think that ladybeetles were some stage of bollworm, while he now knows that they are a beneficial insects that feed on pests.

Last year however, Khan faced a problem with regards to using natural pesticides, such as bitter melon extract, as it is not possible for him to prepare enough product for all his land. He explored ideas and decided to purchase bollworm traps. He only put the traps on part of his land as they are expensive, but the results were very positive, with a higher yield of about 300kg per hectare. Khan has already decided to use more traps this season, and is still thinking how best to get more natural products to deal with pests.

Khan believes that with convincing examples, increased understanding, exchanges and field visits and the personal support provided by the WWF facilitators, the good practices will spread.

TRANSFORMATIONAL GOALS TO 2020

Together with representation from all parts of the supply chain, the BCI Council and other stakeholder groups, BCI developed a strategic plan for the coming three years, with an eye on 2020. The strategy is designed around the need to achieve scale while maintaining credibility. Absolutely unchanged is BCI's commitment to its 3-pronged focus: social, economic and environmental sustainability. Ultimate goal: Transform cotton production worldwide by developing Better Cotton as a sustainable mainstream commodity

	Specific Aim	Global Indicator	2015 Target	2020 Target
1	Increase commitment to and flow of Better Cotton throughout the supply chain	Volume of Better Cotton bought by spinners	1.5 million*	4 million**
2	Improve livelihoods & economic development in cotton producing areas	Number of Better Cotton farmers	1 million	5 million
3	Reduce the environmental impact of cotton production	Better Cotton hectares under cultivation	2 million	9 million
4	Ensure organisational credibility and sustainability of BCI	Earned income as % of global costs	75%	100%

*Based on retail member demand estimation of 1.3million MT and volume output of 2.6m MT lint

Based on retail member demand estimation of **4million MT and volume output of **8.2m MT** lint

For Specific Aims 1-3, there are also Local Indicators

AIM 1 : Increase commitment to and flow of Better Cotton throughout the supply chain		
Global Indicator: Volume of Better Cotton bought by spinners		
Local Indicator Desired Outcome		
Number of supply chain actors using BCI Traceability System	More supply chain actors committed to Better Cotton	
Ginner uptake rate of Better Cotton Retailer uptake rate of Better Cotton	Increased uptake	
% of high performing members and partners	Better Cotton system integrity respected throughout supply chain	



AIM 2 : Improved livelihood & economic development in cotton producing areas

Number of Better Cotton farmers

Local Indicator	Desired Outcome
Net profit/MT	Increased profitability for cotton producers
Women trained in Better Cotton	Increased influence of women
% Better Cotton farmers promoting Decent Work in their communities	Elimination of child labour

AIM 3 : Reduce the environmental impact of cotton production		
Global Indicator: Better Cotton hectares under cultivation		
Local Indicator	Desired Outcome	
Volume of water / MT lint by Better Cotton producers	Reduced irrigated water usage	
Pesticide usage / MT lint by Better Cotton producers	Reduced toxic load of pesticides	
Fertiliser use / MT lint by BC producers	Improved soil health	

Underlining the strategy are a number of important principles, namely that:

- » BCI is focused on effecting change
- » BCI is firmly based on traceability of Better Cotton
- » Credibility and multi-stakeholder nature is crucial to BCI
- » Demand for Better Cotton is key to funding and influence
- » BCI enables evidence-based communication within a clear framework
- » BCI does not set a premium and pricing is a function of the market

DONORS

Our donors not only offer financial support - they are truly partners in what we do.

They have made BCI a stronger and more effective organization.

In founding the Better Cotton Fast Track Programme, ICCO, IDH and Rabobank Foundation have significantly increased the pace of Better Cotton production.

SECO, Sida, Swedish Postcode Lottery and WWF Sweden have also provided BCI with invaluable support, all along the way.

The BCI Council, Secretariat and members - want to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation.

Thank you!



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft Confédération suisse Confederazione Svizzera Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Economic Affairs FDEA State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO













PARTNERSHIPS

One of the strategic decisions that BCI is committed to is working in partnership. In order to extend the benefits of Better Cotton as quickly and efficiently as possible, while leveraging the excellent work being done by existing initiatives, BCI will form strong partnerships with global, national and local organisations. Through the cultivation of partnerships and strategic alliances, it will be possible to scale up Better Cotton more rapidly, attract and share knowledge, and help growers adopt more sustainable practices.

BCFTP

A major partner to speed up the production of Better Cotton is the **Better Cotton Fast Track Program** (BCFTP). The Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH), together with leading brands, NGOs and other funders have set up this program. The BCFTP channels funds directly to farmer training and improvement programs, all designed around the Better Cotton standard. This allows BCI and its implementing partners to reach more regions, train more farmers and produce more cotton. Implementation is based upon retailer investment, which is matched by a fund created by IDH, Rabobank Foundation (a Dutch financial cooperative) and ICCO (Interchurch Organization for Development Cooperation).





CMiA

This year BCI and **Cotton Made in Africa** (CmiA) signed an interim partnership agreement that should see increased effectiveness and efficiency in promoting greater sustainability to African smallholder farmers as well as delivering sustainable solutions for the textile and fashion industry.

The partnership will deal with such issues as child labour, Integrated Pest Management and developing systems to better connect supply and demand. The collaboration further defines activities that include an exchange on subjects like impact assessment, verification and financing models.



TURKEY

Work on Better Cotton in Turkey kicked off this year as well. A multi-stakeholder Turkish Steering Group was formed to oversee the necessary research, consultation and planning to establish Better Cotton production from the next season. Members of this Steering Group are: National Cotton Council of Turkey, Sanko, Orta Anadolu, Tariş, and Şahin Pamuk. They represent a wider group of Turkish BCI member organisations who are investing in this work.

Better Cotton is made a reality through these kind of partnerships, as well as through BCI's partnerships with local and national and international organisations working with farmers.

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

BCI's Implementing Partners play a key role in ensuring that program training and knowledge sharing takes place, and that accurate records from the field are provided to BCI.



BCI welcomes discussions by organisations interested in supporting the production of Better Cotton in their region(s). **Through partnership we can improve the lives of farming communities**, while making the cotton industry more sustainable.

66

BCI has a unique position through its overall goal to influence cotton farmer practices sustainably, via a wide range of criteria and through different mechanisms aimed at training farmers but also at extending supply chain integration

[Adidas]

ACCOUNTS



Income Description	Amount €	%	Field Contribution (Unaudited	d) Amount €
Membership fees	422,522	17	Private sector	2,633,506
Donations	18,249	1		,,
Bilateral donors	1,938,841	80	Public match	2,589,662
Other income	39,555	2		
TOTAL	2,419,167	100	TOTAL	5,223,168

In 2013, we will introduce a new business model designed to secure the continued supply of Better Cotton and deliver lasting impact in the field. Financially, this

new model will transport BCI from earning 19% of its income in 2012, to 75% in 2015, moving the organisation towards increased financial sustainability.

MEMBERS (AS OF 1ST SEPT 2012)

Brands & Retailers

- » adidas AG
- » Asda Stores Ltd
- » Axstores
- » Bestseller
- » Federation of Migros Cooperatives
- » Gina Tricot AB
- » Hemtex AB
- » Hennes & Mauritz AB
- » Ikea Supply AG
- » Inditex
- » Jackpot
- » KappAhl Sverige AB
- » Levi Strauss & Co.
- » Lindex AB
- » Marks and Spencer
- » MQ
- » Natimeo
- » Nike, Inc.
- » Sainsburys Supermarkets Ltd
- » Stadium
- » Tchibo GmbH
- » Tesco Clothing
- » VF Corporation
- » Walmart Home / ASDA

Producer Organisations

- Brazilian Cotton Growers Association (ABRAPA)
- » Association des Producteurs de Coton Africains (AProCA)
- » Farmers Associates of Pakistan
- » Guoxin Rural Technical Service Association
- » Khargoane Producer Co.
- » Kashtar Developing Organisation
- » Kassan-Dost Association
- » Kissan Dost

»

- » Kissan Welfare Association
- » Nimad Farmers Producer Company

Civil Society

- » Action For Food Production (AFPRO)
- Action for Social Advancement
- » Ambuja Cement Foundation
- » CABI Regional Office Pakistan
- » Cotton Incorporated
- » International Labor Rights Forum
- » Organization for Social Development Initiatives
- » Participatory Rural Development Initiatives Society (PRDIS)
- » Pesticide Action Network UK
- » Solidaridad
- > WWF International

Associate Members

- » All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA)
- » Cotton Connect
- » SGS Société Générale de Surveillance S.A
- » Textile Exchange (Organic Exchange)
- » Uster Technologies AG

- **Suppliers and Manufacturers**
- » Abhishek Industries Ltd.
- » Addchance Limited
- Ahmed Fine Textile Mills
- » Ahmed Oriental Textile Mills
- » Al-Abid Silk Mills Limited
- » Al-Karam Textile Mills (Pvt) Ltd.
- » Alok Industries Ltd
- » Amin Textile Mills
- » Amna Industries
- » Anandi Entreprises
- » Arik Bey Tekstil
- » Artistic Denim Mills Ltd

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- » Artistic Fabric Mills
- » Artistic Milliners
- » Arvind Limited

- » Ashima Group
- » Awami Cotton Industries
- » Basil Group
- » Basyazioglu Tekstil Sanayi Ve Tic AS (AKA Bamen)
- » Beirholms Væverier A/S.
- » Berto Industria Tessile SRL
- » Best Corporation (P) Ltd
- » Bimeco Garnhandel
- » Birla Cotsyn (India) Limited
- » Birpas Birlik Pamuk A.S.
- » Bombay Rayon Fashions
- » BOSSA
- » Bros Eastern
- Carona Industries Private Ltd
- Chenab Ltd

- » Comptex Bangladesh Ltd
- » Crescent Bahuman
- » Cresox Private Limited
- » Dadasons Private Limited.
- » Dalian Shenzhou Textiles Co. Ltd.
- » Deniz Tekstil Sanayi Ve Ticaret A.S.
- » Devcot S.A.
- » Din Textile Mills
- » Eastman Exports Global Clothing
- » Ecom Agroindustrial Corp, Ltd.
- » Equity
- » ETF Tekstil
- » Far Eastern New Century Corporation (Taiwan)
- » Fashion Knit Industries
 » Fazal Cloth Mills Ltd

- » Flying Deer Textiles (Kunshan) Co., Ltd
- » Gapsan Tekstil Sanayi ve Ticaret A.S
- » Garg Acrylics Ltd
- » Ghazi Fabrics International Ltd.
- » GID Textil
- » Gill & Co Private Ltd.
- » Grospinz Fabz Ltd.
- » GTN Industries
- » GTN Textiles/Patspin India
- » Gul Ahmed Textile Mills
- » Gulistan Textiles
- » Gulshan Cotton Ginning & pressing Factory
- » Gulshan Spinning Mills Ltd.
- » Hantex
- » Hateks Hatay Tekstil
- » Hero Fashions
- » Hiya Overseas
- » HRM Textiles
- » Huafu
- » Hursan Havlu
- » Hussain Mills
- » ICT Cotton Trading Limited
- » Ikrama Cotton Factory
- » Indus Group of Companies
- » INSAF Cotton Ginniers & Oil Mills
- » Iskur Tekstil Enerji Ticaret Ve Sanayi A. S.
- » Jalaram Cotton & Proteins
- » Jaydurga ginning mills pvt limited.
- » Karacasu Tekstil
- » Kasim Textile Mills
- » Kassim Textiles
- » Kipas Mensucat
- » Lesha Impex Private Ltd
- » Loknayak Jayprakash Narayan Shetkari Sahakari Soot Girni Ltd
- » Louis Dreyfus Commodities Suisse SA.
- » Mafatlal Denim Limited
- » Mahmood group: Khawaja Muzaffar Mahmood Muhammad Masood
- » Mahmood Group: Mahmood Textile Mills
- » Mahmood Group: Masood Fabrics Limited
- » Mahmood Group: Masood Spinning Mills
- » Mahmood Group: Roomi Fabrics Limited
- » Malwa Industries Ltd
- » Maral Overseas
- » Marsan Tekstil
- » Maruti Oil Mills
- » Master Textile Mills Limited

- » Matrix Sourcing
- » Maydin Çoraplari
- » Meezan Enterprises (PVT) Ltd
- » Menderes Textile
- » Muktsar Cotton (p) Ltd.
- » Mustaqim
- » Nagina Group of Industries
- » Nagreeka Exports Ltd
- » Nahar Industrial Enterprises
- » Nahar Spinning Mills
- » Naveena
- » Naveena Industries Ltd
- » Navjyot International Trading Pvt. Ltd.
- » Nishat Chunian Limited
- » Nishat Textiles
- » Nithin Textiles
- » NSL Textiles Ltd
- » NSL Cotton Corporation
- » Ocean Sky Global (S) Pte Ltd
- » Olam International Ltd
- » Omax Cotspin
- » Orta Anadolu
- » P.D. Sekhsaria
- » Patel Cotton
- » Paul Reinhart AG
- » Plexus Cotton Ltd.
- » Pratima Agro & Paper
- » Precot Meridien Limited
- » Rajvir Industries Limited
- » Ramatex Private Limited
- » Rana Denim
- » Rana Oil Industries
- » Reliance Weaving Mills Ltd
- » S A Aanandan Spinning Mills Pvt Ltd
- » S RAJA EXPORT
- » Sadaqat
- » SAF Mensucat San. TIC A.S
- » Saif Textile Mills
- » Sambandam Spinning Mills
- » Sanko Tekstile
- » Sapphire Fibers Limited
- » Sapphire Textile Mills
- » SEL Manufacturing Co. Ltd.
- » Shanghai Flying Dragon Textiles Co., Ltd
- » Shanghai ShenAn Textile
- » Shangtex Yufeng
- » Shree Ambica
- » Shree Ram Fibres India

- » Siddiqsons Limited
- » Sociedade Algodoeira do Niassa, JFS, Sarl

Sunrise (Shengzhou) Textiles Co Ltd

Suryajvoti Spinning Mills Limited

Umer Group (lessed Textiles, Faisal

Spinning and Bhanero Textiles)

Vaibhav Laxmi industries

Vardham Textiles Ltd

Viyellatex Spinning

Well Dyeing Factory Ltd

Winsome Textile Industries Itd

Xinjiang Youngor Cotton Textiles Co. Ltd

Zhejiang Saintyear Textile Co., Ltd.

Zhengzhou Zhaoge Cotton Yarn Co.

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Win Hanverky Textile

Winsome Yarns Ltd

Topkapi Iplik San.ve Tic. A.S.

- » Soorty Enterprises
- » Spentex Industries Limited
- » Sportking India Ltd

Sunny Trexim

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» Sri Ram Spinning Mills Ltd.

Super Spinning Mills

Top Star Textiles

TRC Candiani

US Denim

Vicunha

Winnitex

Zorluteks



WWW.BETTERCOTTON.ORG

(SP)

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