

Overview of Better Cotton Principles

1 BCI Farmers minimise the harmful impact of **crop protection** practices

BCI supports farmers in developing a better knowledge and understanding of practices that minimise the potential harmful effects of pesticides and in adopting Integrated Pest Management technologies with an emphasis on the use of pest control techniques other than pesticides

2 BCI Farmers promote **water stewardship**

BCI supports farmers in using water efficiently to consume and pollute less water; thus achieving greater yields and building their resilience to climate change while promoting fair use and allocation of water resources amongst users beyond the farm, and up to the watershed level.

3 BCI Farmers care for the **health of the soil**

BCI supports farmers in a better understanding and use of the soil. A healthy soil leads to significant increases in the quality and quantity of yields; to large cost reductions in fertilisers, pesticides and labour; and is a main asset for climate resilience.

4 BCI Farmers enhance **biodiversity** and use **land** responsibly

BCI supports farmers in conserving and enhancing biodiversity on their land; and in adopting practices which minimise the negative impact on habitats in and around their farm.

5 BCI Farmers care for and preserve **fibre quality**

BCI supports farmers in managing inherent fibre characteristics, man-made contamination and waste content; to enhance their cotton quality, thus enhancing its value, and leading to a better price for farmers.

6 BCI Farmers promote **decent work**

BCI supports farmers in promoting fundamental principles and rights at work on employment and income opportunities, social protection and social security, and social dialogue; based on international labour standards.

7 BCI Farmers operate an effective **management system**

BCI supports farmers in operating a management system that includes the framework of policies, processes and procedures ensuring they can fulfil all the tasks required to meet the Better Cotton Principles & Criteria; and to enable continuous improvement in farming practices.