

# BETTER COTTON INITIATIVE 2015 ISRAEL HARVEST REPORT



JAN

DEC

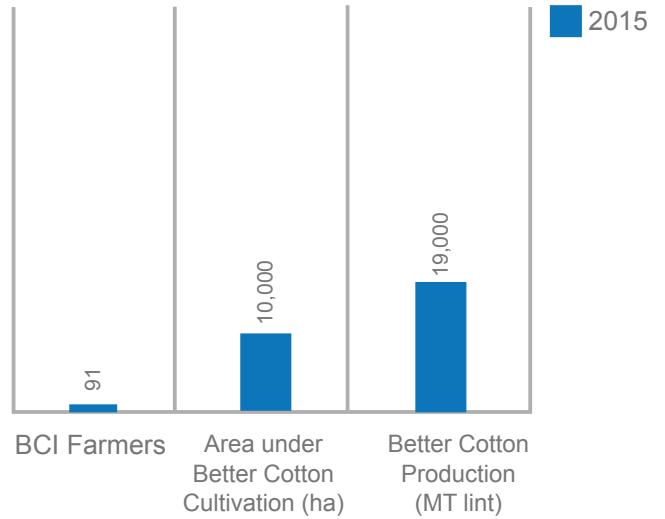
Harvest  
MAR - MAY

Sowing  
SEP - NOV

## BETTER COTTON PROJECTS



## DATA OVERVIEW



## ORGANISATION



In Israel during 2015, **BCI's Implementing Partner** worked with **91 farmers** organised into 2 Producer Units.

**91 farmers** from 2 Producer Units earned a Better Cotton licence.

**IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:**

המועצה לייצור ושיווק כותנה בע"מ  
The Israel Cotton Production & Marketing Board Ltd.



We are celebrating our first cotton harvest in Israel in partnership with the Israel Cotton Production and Marketing Board Ltd (ICB).

The ICB is a producer organisation owned by farmers which represents all 91 cotton farmers in the country. The ICB coordinates relations between farmers, other supply chain actors and research and development institutions in Israel. As a result of this newly formed partnership and the training and verification that followed, 100% of Israeli cotton farmers earned a Better Cotton Licence in 2015.

## RESULTS

In 2015, 91 BCI Farmers in Israel produced their first cotton harvest licensed as Better Cotton. This amounted to 19,000 metric tonnes of cotton lint across 10,000 hectares in the Northern District and Southern District of the country.

Since 100% of Israeli cotton farmers are producing Better Cotton, Comparison Farmer data is unavailable. BCI Farmers are normally compared to Comparison Farmers in the same geographical area and during the same season to ensure we present credible data. Although this prevents us from reporting Results Indicators in Israel's 2015 Harvest Report, the achievement of licensing 100% of farmers in Israel should be celebrated. We will continue to monitor the inputs (water, pesticide and fertiliser usage)



of BCI Farmers in Israel and to work towards a structured way in which farmers can learn from their own results as they strive towards continuous improvement.

## SUSTAINABILITY CHALLENGES

Israel presents a unique set of circumstances for growing cotton; more than half of Israel's surface is desert and the climate makes agriculture challenging given water is an extremely scarce resource. It is expensive and often in short supply, making carefully managed irrigation essential. Irrigation is scheduled based on weather conditions and observations of plant needs. Farmers are also investing heavily in expensive drip irrigation systems. These techniques, taken together, are providing efficient and effective ways to save water whilst, at the same time, increasing yields. Israel's water management programme also includes the extensive use of recycled water.

A high level of investment in desert land reclamation and agricultural infrastructure also go some way to overcoming the sustainability challenges faced in Israeli cotton production.

## LOOKING AHEAD

We are developing our partnership with ICB who are providing training on the Better Cotton Standard System to cotton farmers throughout Israel. The ICB intends to develop an Israeli cotton standard. By the end of 2017, we plan on initiating our benchmarking process, with the aim of recognising the new Israeli standard as equivalent to the Better Cotton Standard.

Sharing of best practices, skills, innovation and specialist knowledge is a key benefit of the partnership between BCI and ICB in Israel.

“ICB is proud to become a member of the BCI community. We view this Partnership as a mutual opportunity whereby we envisage both sides benefiting from each other’s strengths in the cotton sector. The ICB is excited to contribute its experience as a producer organisation while learning from BCI’s culture and global accomplishments.”

*Uri Gilad, Managing Director,  
Israel Cotton Production &  
Marketing Board (ICB)*

