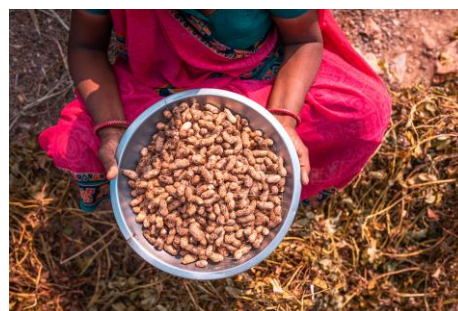


Consultancy Offer BCI Climate Change Strategy

RFP n#: 2021-02-SA-STRAT
Location: Remote
Start date: May 2021
End date: September 2021
BCI contact: Gregory Jean
gregory.jean@bettercotton.org



Application deadline: 14 April 2021

All applications must be sent to tender@bettercotton.org and addressed to the BCI contact, with the subject header: "Application Climate Change Consultancy". Further information about the project and position is detailed below. Questions, requests and applications sent after the deadline (14 April 2021) will not be considered.

BCI BACKGROUND:

The Better Cotton Initiative (BCI) is a global not-for-profit organisation and the largest cotton sustainability programme in the world. BCI 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. In the 2018-19 cotton season, BCI and on-the-ground partners provided training on more sustainable farming practices to 2.3 million cotton farmers across 23 countries, and Better Cotton (the cotton grown by BCI Farmers) accounted for 22% of global cotton production.

The Better Cotton Initiative (BCI) is a multi-stakeholder initiative and the largest cotton sustainability programme in the world. BCI and its Partners currently support over 2.3 million farmers in 23 countries in adopting more sustainable agricultural practices. Thanks to these efforts, Better Cotton accounts for around 22% of global cotton production. BCI works closely with stakeholders all the way from farms to fashion brands and civil society organisations, driving the cotton sector toward sustainability.

The [Better Cotton Standard System \(BCSS\)](#) is at the heart of BCI's approach and includes six main components: the Better Cotton Principles & Criteria, assurance programme, capacity building, chain of custody, monitoring and evaluation, and the Claims Framework.

The Better Cotton Principles and Criteria lay out the global definition of Better Cotton, across seven principles. They ensure that Better Cotton meets clearly defined requirements for pesticide use, water management, biodiversity, soil health, fibre quality, decent work, and management systems.

The Better Cotton programme is delivered through a network of more than 70 'Implementing Partners' (IPs), often local NGOs or cotton supply chain partners who recruit and train field staff and organise and work with farmers on the ground. These partners are a critical part of BCI's operating model and the key touchpoint between the BCSS and millions of cotton farmers.

BCI recognises that climate change is a real and pressing challenge for cotton farming communities worldwide. It affects all farmers, from large and mechanised farms to smallholder farming families. Cotton production contributes to climate change – for example, through

emissions due to fertiliser use and land use change – but also can be a part of the solution, through reducing emissions and supporting carbon sequestration.

At the same time, climate change poses a growing threat to the livelihoods of many BCI farmers around the world, who may face increasingly difficult growing conditions and decreasing yields because of changing weather patterns.

Through adoption of the Principles & Criteria, BCI farmers already address many key elements related to climate change, such as reducing use of pesticides, enhancing biodiversity, and restoring soil health. BCI is also engaged in several projects to better understand how its farmers contribute to climate change, and to measure their related impacts over time. **BCI is now looking to formalise its approach to climate change and set an ambitious path to guide the organisation, through the development of a five-year climate change strategy.**

PROJECT SUMMARY:

BCI is looking for an experienced consultant to support with the drafting of this five-year climate change strategy, which will cover the global footprint of Better Cotton partners and farmers around the world. The strategy will support BCI's overall 2030 strategy through setting out a clear approach for BCI's efforts on climate change, including mitigation and adaptation measures.

The main objectives of the BCI Climate Change Strategy are to:

- Equip BCI farmers to contribute to climate change mitigation, through reducing emissions and measuring progress;
- Enhance the ability of BCI farmers to understand and adapt to climate change impacts, and strengthen resilience amongst farming communities;
- Support BCI to take a leading role in collaborative efforts on climate change mitigation and adaptation in agriculture; for example, through institutional partnerships.

The strategy will guide BCI and its partners over the next five years to identify priority areas and programmes and allocate resources accordingly. The strategy will enable BCI to leverage its global scale and partner network to help transform the cotton production sector around climate change adaptation and mitigation.

The consultant will work closely with the BCI project team and key stakeholders to help design and validate the strategy.

OVERALL REQUIREMENTS

Activity 1: Building off existing research and analysis, identify priority areas in terms of how BCI farmers contribute to, and are affected by, climate change.

BCI has already undertaken extensive research to understand how its operational footprints contribute to climate change, including an emissions analysis. In addition, BCI is aware of, or directly involved in several projects mapping the impacts of climate change on cotton production. Building from this work, the consultant will be asked to:

- a. Summarize and confirm the hotspots in terms of how BCI farmers contribute to climate change (both by geography and topic area, i.e., land use conversion, pesticide use, soil carbon depletion...etc.). This will involve reviewing the internal hotspot analysis work BCI has put together to identify key sustainability challenges by region, along with the draft work on BCI's 2030 climate change targets and BCI's existing emissions analysis. It will also include mapping BCI's operational footprint (i.e., number of farmers and land area by region) against other available data sources on emissions in cotton production.

Note: BCI is not looking for a detailed emissions analysis or GHG footprint exercise; much of this work has been done. The aim here is to synthesise and apply the learnings to inform the higher-level strategy.

- b. Confirm priority areas in terms of how BCI farmers are likely to be impacted by climate change (i.e., vulnerabilities). This should utilise existing data sets and analyses on climate change vulnerability (such as Forum for the Future – Cotton 2040 research, the Partnership for Resilience and Preparedness (PREPdata), the WRI CAIT Climate Data Explorer, etc.), mapped against BCI's operational footprint in terms of farmers, land area, etc.

Output: The consultant will develop a clear summary of points a) and b) above, which outlines these priority hotspot areas and identifies data sources and assumptions. This summary will inform the development of the strategy and recommendations, as below.

Activity 2: Carry out background research to understand the basics of BCI's current standard system, and how it relates to climate change adaptation and mitigation.

The consultant will review key elements of the Better Cotton Standard System (BCSS) – including the Principles & Criteria, capacity building approach, and monitoring & evaluation framework – and related projects underway at BCI. To facilitate this process, BCI has already undertaken initial research to outline how the BCSS supports climate change mitigation and adaptation, which will be provided to the consultants.

This step should include:

- a. Reviewing key documents of the BCSS, such as selected sections of the P&C and training materials;

- b. Reviewing BCI tools, approaches and projects developed for emissions analysis or GHG footprint;
- c. Carrying out targeted interviews with relevant BCI staff (estimated 3-4 small focus group discussions).

Output: The consultant will identify key elements of the BCSS that may need to change or evolve to better drive climate change mitigation and adaptation and will outline draft recommendations.

Activity 3: Develop a draft, 5-year Climate Change Strategy, informed by findings from the research in Activity 1 and 2

Based on the findings of this initial research, the consultant should develop a draft strategy for BCI, setting out a high-level approach on climate change and an accompanying roadmap for mitigation and adaptation measures for the next five years.

The draft strategy should:

- a. Set out an overall approach and ambition for BCI in relation to climate change, encompassing BCI as an organisation, along with its global network of partners and farmers. This will include a summary of the priority areas and hotspots related to climate change, as in Activity 1 above.
- b. Propose short and mid-term actions for BCI to strengthen its mitigation and adaptation approach, including:
 - i. Recommended strategies to build resilience amongst farmers and farming communities, with a focus on the most vulnerable groups;
 - ii. Stakeholder engagement approach, including connections with governmental and civil society organisations and initiatives that can help improve scalability and adoption of farm-level measures;
 - iii. Estimated resourcing and investment (i.e., technical, financial, equipment, knowledge) required to better incorporate climate smart agriculture practices and technologies across the Better Cotton network;
 - iv. Recommendations on fundraising opportunities with identification of potential bilateral, multilateral, and foundation funders (governments, private entities and multilateral institutions relevant to BCI).
- c. Outline implications and suggested changes across core elements of the Better Cotton Standard System, e.g., Principles & Criteria (P&C), M&E framework, capacity building, etc. This should consider:
 - i. How the P&C can more effectively serve as a lever to drive climate change mitigation and adaptation at scale;
 - ii. Suggested changes or improvements in the existing M&E framework and capacity building approach;
 - iii. Where relevant, provide input into BCI's 2030 targets work. With particular focus on potential indicator testing and baseline setting for GHG emission measurement (climate change mitigation impact area) and building resilience;

- iv. Input into consultations related to other relevant projects: farmer centricity research, Adaptation to Landscape Approach (ATLA), Delta framework, Gold Standard research...etc.
- d. With a focus on one or two priority countries, outline a 2-3 year roadmap for climate change mitigation and adaptation. These countries will be agreed together with BCI based on findings from activity 1. This will serve as an example of a more localised action plan and will include:
 - i. A high-level review of existing regional climate change-related programmes and initiatives;
 - ii. Recommended new efforts or programmes that BCI should initiate (e.g., across capacity building, technical knowledge transfer, access to finance, etc)
 - iii. Implications and expectations for BCI Implementing Partners
 - iv. High-level objectives and metrics to measure progress.

Output: The consultant will develop a draft strategy document including the sections out-lined above. The draft strategy should be shared for review and discussion with the BCI project team periodically during its development.

Activity 4: With support from BCI, carry out targeted consultation with key stakeholders on the draft strategy.

BCI will coordinate internal consultation on the draft climate change strategy; including with BCI country teams and Implementing Partners. BCI will work with the consultant to confirm the scope and focus of the consultation, and to ensure that findings are synthesized in a format that is clear and easy to incorporate into the final report.

In parallel, the consultant will lead targeted consultation with selected external stakeholders, such as BCI Retailer and Brand members, and climate change experts or organisations in the priority countries identified in section d) above.

The selection of stakeholders will be determined together with the consultant, but might include, for example:

- a. 1-2 webinar focus groups with Retailer/Brand members
- b. 5-6 interviews or webinars with civil society organisations, climate experts, grassroots organisations, or other local initiatives relevant to the high-priority countries outlined in part d) above

Output: Scope and plan for external stakeholder consultations, along with a summary of consultation findings (bullet point or outline format). This summary of findings will be discussed with the BCI project team to align on implications for the strategy.

Activity 5: Finalise strategy based on consultation feedback and present final strategy.

The consultant will make final revisions and clarifications to the draft strategy, informed by key points from the consultation feedback.

Output: Revised and finalised five-year climate change strategy, based on consultation feedback and discussions with the internal BCI project team. A summary of the final strategy will be presented to the Standards and Assurance team and selected members of the BCI leadership.

DELIVERABLES

The strategy should be developed through a phased approach and will include the following deliverables:

1. An initial written summary outlining the priority areas for BCI farmers in terms of contribution to climate change and vulnerability to climate change consequences; along with clear references to data sources and assumptions made;
2. A draft five-year Climate Change Strategy;
3. The finalised Climate Change Strategy, integrating stakeholder feedback received, and a summary presentation version for sharing with the BCI leadership team.

EXPERIENCE, SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES:

- Strong familiarity with standard or certification systems (especially in agriculture) and good knowledge of climate-smart agriculture technologies and practices; the pros, cons and challenges in adopting them;
- Recent extensive network, knowledge and experience on climate change adaptation and mitigation in the agriculture sector; Competence in adaptive management of community schemes or projects as applied to Climate Change mitigation and Adaptation (Community-based adaptation projects, Payment for Ecosystem Services, CDM/REDD+...);
- Experience in project review/evaluation
- Demonstrated understanding of issues related to gender and Climate Change Adaptation; and experience in gender sensitive evaluation and analysis;
- Ideally, field experience in one of the main countries where BCI operates (India, Pakistan, China, Mali, Mozambique, Turkey, etc)
- Excellent communication skills;
- Demonstrable analytical skills;
- Demonstrated ability to deliver projects on time and within budget.

WAYS OF WORKING:

The BCI Project team will include, but is not limited to:

- Head of Standards & Assurance
- Standards & Learning Manager
- Standards & Learning Senior Officer

The consultant's contact point will be the Standard and Learning manager.

Microsoft Teams is our preferred platform for project coordination and collaboration. Regular meetings will be organised for the duration of the project.

TIMELINE

Objectives	Estimated Timeline	Estimated days
1. Confirm BCI priority areas in terms of climate change impacts and vulnerabilities	May-June 2021	3 – 5
2. Background research on BCI current standard system and identify recommended revisions	June 2021	3 – 5
3. Develop draft 5-year climate change strategy, informed by the priority areas and background research in activity 1 and 2	July-August 2021	15 – 18
4. Carry out targeted stakeholder consultation on draft strategy	August 2021	2 – 3
5. Finalise and present strategy	September 2021	2 – 3

	Application process
By 14th April 2021	Submission of application to tender@bettercotton.org , headed “Application Climate Change Consultancy” addressed to Gregory Jean. Please share: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - cover letter, highlighting relevant experience; - a formal project proposal describing how you will approach this project; - CVs of the Consultant and any additional team members proposed.
April 28th	Application review & shortlisting / interviews. Proposals will be evaluated based on relevant skills and expertise of the project team, quality and clarity of proposal, alignment with the project objectives, and value for money
April 30th	The successful applicant will be notified. Unsuccessful shortlisted applicants will also be notified.
May 24th	Project kick-off
November 21st	Latest date for project completion

We thank all applicants for their interest; however only shortlisted applicants will be contacted. BCI is committed to good practice and transparency in the management of natural, human and financial resources. All applications will be reviewed under these principles and subject to BCI's policies on equal opportunity, non-discrimination, anti-bribery & corruption and conflict of interest.