

Member Code of Practice

Our vision is a world where all cotton farming is sustainable.

BCI's mission is to help cotton communities to survive and thrive, while protecting and restoring the environment. Cotton farmers are at the centre of what we do.

General

BCI is a not for profit multistakeholder membership association. It is politically neutral and it does not discriminate on any grounds.

BCI is a pre-competitive initiative, and does not act in any way that can be construed as limiting competition. The members of BCI ("BCI Members") abide by a strict anti-trust policy. BCI does not set a premium for Better Cotton and pricing of the commodity is a function of the market. The ultimate beneficiaries of BCI's actions are cotton farmers, cotton farm workers, cotton farming communities and the environment.

BCI has a collaborative approach to other established sustainability initiatives, it complements, rather than competes with them. BCI works alongside others to increase the amount of cotton produced in a more environmentally and socially sustainable way.

Code of Practice

BCI Members are expected to act with integrity and not partake in any activity that could negatively impact the credibility of BCI. This Code of Practice outlines areas in which internationally recognised best practice is expected. The BCI Secretariat reserves the right to define best practice in case of dispute.

Not acting in accordance with this code may lead to the termination of membership in accordance with the BCI Statutes and the BCI Terms of Membership.

➤ **Commitment and Conduct**

BCI Members are committed to the mission of BCI. They support BCI in their communication, are transparent in all their dealings, and collaborate with BCI and its key stakeholders. They provide truthful and accurate input to the organisation. and participate in its governance to improve how BCI works.

➤ **Business Integrity**

BCI Members act with integrity in their businesses, comply with all relevant legal requirements, respect contract sanctity, do not offer or accept bribes or deliberately withhold information. They act with fiduciary responsibility and protect data responsibly.

➤ **Decent Work and Human Rights**

BCI Members uphold internationally recognised standards with respect to decent work and human rights (incl. the eight fundamental ILO conventions relating to principles and rights at work) . They do not accept any form of harassment or discrimination on any grounds. They respect workers' rights to organise themselves and care for their health and safety.

➤ **Communication**

BCI Members are honest and transparent in their sustainability marketing and communication. They do not use unsubstantiated, or in other ways, misleading claims about Better Cotton or of the impact associated with it. They do not communicate on behalf of BCI.

➤ **Sourcing**

BCI Members abide by applicable chain of custody guidelines as developed and implemented by BCI, or otherwise recognised officially by BCI.

➤ **Environmental compliance**

BCI Members are committed to (i) protecting the environment they operate in and (ii) adhering to, at a minimum, the local environmental laws for the location(s) in which they operate.

Credibility and Reputation

These are universal principles that BCI has established for the credibility and wellbeing of its membership community, and to protect the reputation of the association and its members. Above and beyond these principles, if the BCI Council deem that a particular entity, for whatever reason, poses a risk to credibility and/or reputation, BCI reserves the right to protect the reputation of the association for purposes of supporting its mission.

Implementation of the Better Cotton Standard System, and other parts of the BCI programme have their own rules of engagement, however, the above underpin behaviours expected from all members within the BCI Community.

I am authorised on behalf of my organisation to hereby confirm that we understand and commit to this Code of Practice.

Signature	Company stamp
Name	
Role	
Date and Place	