

Programme Officer - Pakistan

Starting Date: March 15, 2022

Contract type: Full Time, one-year contract

Salary: PKR 1,200,000 (depending on experience)

Location: Lahore, Pakistan

Positions: Two (2)

Application closing date: Midnight 31 January 2022 GMT

Background

Better Cotton is the world's largest cotton sustainability programme. Our mission: to help cotton communities survive and thrive, while protecting and restoring the environment. In challenging times, we are meeting the challenge head on. Through our network of field-level partners we have trained over 2.5 million farmers - from the smallest to the largest - in 23 countries in more sustainable farming practices. A quarter of the world's cotton is now grown under the Better Cotton Standard. We have united the industry's stakeholders behind our efforts, from ginners and spinners to brand owners, civil society organisations and governments. Everyone who cares about cotton and its sustainable future can now be part of something better.

Description

Better Cotton is looking for a qualified individual to serve as Programme Officer to contribute to three main components of programme team: Assurance, Capacity Building and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) to support continuous improvement of more sustainable practices at farm level. The Assurance Programme involves farmers participating in a continuous cycle of learning and improvement and is the central mechanism for assessing whether participating farmers meet the Better Cotton Standard. The Programme Officer will implement agreed activities within the overall Better Cotton Assurance Programme, including carrying out verification visits to participating farmers, data collection, cleaning, and analysis. Capacity Building focuses on training and development to ensure continuous improvement in farming practices. The successful candidate will support the capacity building programme for Better Cotton Pakistan Implementing Partners and take on other relevant functions of Better Cotton rapidly expanding Pakistan country programme. The Programme Officer will function under the line management of the Pakistan Senior Programme Coordinator and matrix managed by global team.

Frequent travel to cotton-growing regions and time spent in the field with farmers and Better Cotton partners will be required. Some international travel may be required.

This challenging role offers excellent opportunities for personal and professional development, together with a competitive benefits package.

Responsibilities

Credibility checks

- Conduct verification visits on farmers and IPs to assess whether they comply with the Better Cotton Standard around sustainable cotton production.
- Develop clear, detailed, and timely reports after verification visits, including identification of non-conformities and supporting evidence.
- Through field visits, identify areas for improvement and specific capacity needs of farmers participating in the Better Cotton programme.
- Carry out frequent travel to project locations during the growing and harvest season to conduct partner support visits and verification activities.

Data management

- Support in collection of data from project and control farmers by Producer Units to ensure Better Cotton requirements and deadlines are met.
- Provide required support in cleaning data received from projects on farming practices and managing large databases to ensure that the data used for analysis is of the best quality it can be.
- Support the analysis of agronomic, economic, and social indicator data, to ensure accurate referencing to regional contexts
- Share the results of data analysis to facilitate Producer Units' learning and encourage the continuous improvement of participating farmers.
- Support Producer Units' staff, matters concerning Better Cotton reporting tools and processes to ensure that deadlines are respected and to collect their feedback to ensure the continuous improvement of Better Cotton systems.
- Manage/Provide necessary support for the online database (including management of the data, training of partners, and preparation of reports), providing support to partners and ensuring that Better Cotton data is available to support claims on results and impact.

Capacity building and support to Producer Units and Programme Partners' staff

- Support the Programme Coordinator and Sr. Programme Coordinator in Pakistan to develop and deliver training and capacity building activities around sustainable farming practices, in line with the capacity building strategy. This may include outreach to external experts and NGOs to run 'train the trainer' workshops on topics such as biodiversity and water management or building and coordinating a resource bank of guidance materials on key sustainability issues.
- Support Programme Coordinator and Sr. Programme Coordinator to conduct capacity building trainings with Implementing Partner staff.
- Support Programme Coordinator and Sr. Programme Coordinator to identify the training needs of Producer Units' and IP staff. Collect feedback from Producer Units' staff to ensure the continuous improvement of the Better Cotton systems.
- Develop liaison with Implementing partners (IPs) and conduct regular virtual and in person meetings.

Information and Knowledge management

- Collect project information on farmers and Producer Units structure and communicate to focal person of Monitoring & Evaluation in team, so that the Better Cotton project database is up to date and contains accurate information.

- Communicating regularly with the Sr. Programme Coordinator to ensure the workplan is up-to-date and revised as needed based on country-level changes or developments.
- Providing required information to Membership Team, Programme Team and Supply Chain team as required.

Beyond these specific responsibilities, the Programme Officer is expected to collaborate on additional activities agreed with the Pakistan Sr. Programme Coordinator and matrix manager (s) from Better Cotton global team.

Profile

The candidate will have the following Skills, Knowledge, and Experience:

Experience
<i>Essential</i>
Minimum of 2 years of work experience in development program/project
Experience of working in team and individually will be an advantage
Experience working with projects in rural settings
Experience in field data collection
Strong report writing skills
<i>Desirable</i>
Experience in monitoring and evaluation and/or auditing and/or capacity building
Experience in soil management
Experience with working in cotton farming
Experience with working in the agriculture sector of Punjab and Sindh province of Pakistan
Skills and Knowledge
<i>Essential</i>
Master's degree, or equivalent higher education qualification, in a relevant field
Demonstrated interest in sustainability and international development
Superior skills and aptitude to appraise arguments critically and logically, organise ideas in a clear and concise manner, and draw conclusions and formulate arguments in a way that is effective, concise, and precise
Excellent interpersonal skills, along with the ability to work independently, proactively, and in a collaborative manner with a team.
Excellent written and communication skills with the ability to communicate clearly and concisely, and to assimilate and process information for wide-ranging audiences
Fluency in English and Urdu (spoken and written)
High proficiency in MS Office, particularly Excel, PowerPoint, Word, Outlook
Willingness to frequently travel domestically, and occasionally overseas
Good aptitude for statistics and data analysis
<i>Desirable</i>
Objective and meticulous professional with the ability to multi-task
Academic background in rural/agricultural development and sustainability
Understanding of Soil Health Management in the context of Pakistan
Knowledge of cotton production
Knowledge of Punjabi / Sindhi/ Siraiki

Working Arrangements

The successful candidate will report to the Sr. Programme Coordinator – Pakistan.

The position is full-time (40 hours per week) and will be based in the Better Cotton Pakistan office in Lahore. Candidates based near cotton-growing regions of Rahim yar Khan and Khairpur/ Sukkur will also be considered. Better Cotton offers flexible working, with core hours being 10am – 4pm and the option to work from home one day per week.

The successful candidate will receive one-year employment contract, with a 3-month initial trial period and possibility of extension.

Frequent travel to cotton-growing regions will be required. Some international travel may be required.

Applications

Interested applicants with the required attributes are asked to send, in English, a detailed CV and a brief motivation letter (2 pages maximum) to Better Cotton by email at: bci.pakistan@bettercotton.org, with Subject Title 'Programme Officer'.

We thank all applicants for their interest; however, only candidates short-listed for a telephone interview will be contacted.

Better Cotton is currently unable to provide sponsorship for work permits, and candidates need to have a pre-existing right to work in the location where they will be based.

Better Cotton is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to good practice and transparency in the management of natural, human, and financial resources.