Programme Coordinator – Côte d’Ivoire

Starting Date: 1st September 2023
Contract type: Independent Contractor/Consultant Agreement
Contract Duration: One-year consultancy. Renewal is subject to the satisfactory completion of the consultancy contract and available financial resources.
Fee: commensurate with relevant skills and experience
Location: Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire
Application closing date: Midnight GMT, 8th August 2023

About Better Cotton
Better Cotton is the world’s largest cotton sustainability programme. Our 200+ colleagues of 37+ nationalities are united by a shared passion and commitment to achieving the Better Cotton mission: to help cotton communities survive and thrive, while protecting and restoring the environment. Through our network of field-level partners 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.

About this role
Working under the guidance, and supervision of the Regional Manager for West Africa, the Programme Coordinator will be responsible for implementing a Better Cotton programme in Côte d’Ivoire. They will work in close collaboration with national cotton stakeholders.

The Programme Coordinator will manage the relationship with Better Cotton’s programme partners (PPs) in Côte d’Ivoire. PPs are organisations who are responsible for organising and training farmers, collecting field level data, and ensuring that the Better Cotton sustainability standard is implemented well at farm level. The role will be supporting Programme Partners to ensure that they have the knowledge and tools they need and are effectively supporting farmers to implement more sustainable practices and are proactively contributing to Better Cottons’ global impact targets in the areas of climate change mitigation, livelihoods, soil health, women’s empowerment and pesticide use.

Under the technical leadership of the Global Assurance Team, the Programme Coordinator will coordinate the delivery of Assurance activities in Côte d’Ivoire. Assurance covers the auditing and monitoring systems that are used to ensure farmers participating in the Better Cotton programme meet essential requirements of the Better Cotton Standard System and are continuously improving their practices.

The Programme Coordinator will work in close collaboration with the regional MEL coordinator, also based in Abidjan, as well as the wider Africa Contractors Team and colleagues from a range of functions within the Better Cotton Global team.
Responsibilities

The consultant will be responsible for the provision of support, and capacity strengthening to Better Cotton Programme Partners (PPs) in Côte d’Ivoire; This will include:

- Working with the relevant functions at Better Cotton to develop the overarching capacity strengthening strategy for Côte d’Ivoire
- Developing and delivering training on the BCSS and its components for the Programme Partners.
- Working closely with PPs to identify their training needs, then connecting them with external experts; ensure that their capacity strengthening programmes are adequately planned, align with Better Cotton’s requirements, and are effectively implemented in a timely manner
- Creating an enabling environment for cross-learning among the PPs so that they can share best practices, learn from each other and collectively find solutions to the challenges they face in implementation.
- Promoting a culture of continuous improvement, including ensuring PPs are proactively supporting farmers to continuously improve their practice, including through the effective implementation of corrective action plans

The consultant will coordinate the planning and delivery of assurance activities in Côte d’Ivoire including:

- Supporting with developing annual assurance activity plans, ensuring the programme is implemented in a timely, comprehensive, and compliant manner.
- Feeding into development of the broader Better Cotton assurance model, including identifying local adaptations and approaches as relevant
- Ensuring that all Producer, farmer, and assurance related is entered into the Better Cotton database in an accurate and timely manner.

The consultant will be responsible for driving programme quality and impact in Côte d’Ivoire including:

- Working with regional and global teams to identify ways in which the Cote d’Ivoire programme can contribute to delivering Better Cotton’s 2030 strategy and achieving impact target areas of smallholder livelihoods, women’s empowerment, soil health, pesticide use and climate change mitigation

The consultancy will involve ongoing coordination and collaboration with national and regional stakeholders including:

- Engaging in developing partnerships to drive multi-stakeholder engagement in the Better Cotton Côte d’Ivoire programme
Profile
The selected candidate will have the following skills, knowledge, and experience:

**Essential**

- University degree, or equivalent higher education qualification, in a relevant field
- At least 5 years’ working experience in a similar role.
- Demonstrated interest in sustainability and international development
- Experience in the field of smallholder agriculture
- Excellent analytical and problem-solving skills with a proactive approach to finding and proposing solutions to challenges within clearly defined boundaries.
- Experience working as part of a team
- Experience gathering information from farmers and/or assessing activities through direct observation and semi-structured interviews.
- Experience of working with farmers/farming communities
- Experience working in complex, multi-cultural environment and liaising with a diversity of actors.
- Fluent in English and French - ability to communicate clearly and concisely
- IT literacy, to include Word; Excel; PowerPoint; outlook
- Excellent organisation and capacity to handle a set of different priorities
- Objective and meticulous professional with the ability to multitask.

**Desirable**

- Academic background in rural/agricultural sustainable development.
- Understanding of Decent Work principles and climate change in the context of Côte d’Ivoire
- Experience of working in the cotton sector
- Experience of delivering or organising farmer extension services
- Experience in managing information and databases
- Experience in Monitoring and Evaluation.
- Experience in improving social standards in agriculture (including reducing child labour and promoting women’s empowerment)

**What we offer**

- Competitive salary
- Remote working
- Continuous learning and development
- A warm, positive working environment where everyone is valued
- The opportunity to make your mark and make a difference.
Working arrangements
The consultancy position will work remotely from Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire. Better Cotton offers flexible working. The successful candidate will receive a one-year, consultancy contract, with the possibility of extension.

Frequent travel to cotton production areas in Côte d’Ivoire will be required.

Apply now
Send us by or before **08.08.2023** your CV (2 pages maximum) and a brief cover letter (1-page maximum) in English [via this link](#). In your cover letter, please include an explanation of why your experience is specifically relevant to this role. We want to see your personal style – what makes you tick and why you think your next opportunity is here with us.

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

Better Cotton is committed to creating a diverse environment and is proud to be an equal opportunity employer with a strong commitment to good practice and transparency in the management of natural, human, and financial resources.

We have a zero-tolerance approach to any attitudes or behaviours that put children or adults at risk of harm. Safeguarding incidents are acts of serious misconduct and are grounds for disciplinary action, up to and including, dismissal and referral to relevant authorities for criminal prosecution. Therefore, all offers of employment are subject to satisfactory references and appropriate screening checks.