



# Annual Report 2023-24

BETTER  
COTTON  
GROWTH &  
INNOVATION  
FUND



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**Photo:** Tata Djire with Better Cotton Farmers, sorting through seed cotton.  
© Better Cotton/Seun Adatsi.



# Introduction

The Better Cotton Growth and Innovation Fund (Better Cotton GIF or the Fund) is a field-level funding programme, funded through a volume-based fee (VBF) paid by Better Cotton Retailer and Brand Members, as well as through contributions from donors, and the Programme Partners themselves.

The Better Cotton GIF is designed to further the Better Cotton mission by making grants to partner organisations which work with farming communities. These communities are, in turn, supported to survive, and thrive, while protecting and restoring the environment. It comprises four distinct sub-funds: the Small Farm Fund, the Knowledge Partner Fund, the Innovation and Learning Fund and the Large Farm Fund. Each has its own unique objectives which are detailed [here](#).

# Summary

2023-24 was a year of change for Better Cotton's Growth and Innovation Fund (GIF), being the first season of funding wholly managed by Better Cotton. Two new sub-funds were established, and the scope of what was funded was broadened and deepened to help achieve Better Cotton's 2030 Strategy.

This report will highlight the work being done by Programme Partners, introduce the sub-funds of the GIF, and look at how we monitor and evaluate the projects funded.

# An overview of the Small Farm Fund<sup>1</sup>



## Farmers

Women: 120,083  
Men: 1,190,202  
Total: 1,310,285



## Workers

Women: 502,147  
Men: 841,265  
Total: 1,343,412



## Metric tonnes

1,419,789



## Hectares

2,289,796

## Project grants and activities

GIF contribution:

€14.61 million

Programme Partner contribution:

€9.16 million

Co-funding raised by Programme Partners:

€4.63 million

Total funding for projects:

€28.40 million

## 2023-24 season: highlights

In 2023-2024, many Programme Partners who received grants from the Small Farm Fund added new and creative activities to their projects. Ingenious water structure renovation, use of solar power, mass production of bio-inputs (to replace or supplement synthetic pesticides and fertilisers), experimentation with biochar, agroforestry, and homemade fungi growth stimulators are just a few of those activities funded this year.

Partners also stepped up their work with women, recognising that their contribution to cotton cultivation is huge, and that involving them properly in projects is critical to making adequate and lasting progress. Some Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs)<sup>2</sup> supported through the GIF also made impressive strides this year. Many provide lower price, better quality inputs to farmers; others have taken over some activities of partners. Exciting progress has been made on involving government stakeholders, another important element in ensuring programme durability, with village and municipal composting schemes, for example, or their work with gins to 'push' them to pay for different qualities of fibre.

However, despite the uplifting progress of many of our partners, everything that the GIF funds is touched by climate change. Much of the potential of GIF's grant-making is undermined by extreme weather events: cotton is a 'fragile' crop; it does not thrive in erratic rain and heat, and this results in many farmers looking to alternatives. There is no doubt that the existence of smallholder farmers is becoming ever more precarious, and we, and our partners, will need to redouble our efforts to ensure cotton cultivation remains viable.



Demonstration plots<sup>3</sup>

20,879



Trees planted

1,783,071



Partners working with FPOs

31%

1. Due to seasonal differences, Mozambique contributions to these figures are based on contracted grant figures and mid-season report data

2. Depending on the country, FPOs are generally set up and supported by Programme Partners. The organisations are owned and run by farmers and undertake various activities for the benefit of the farming communities in which they are situated.

3. Demonstration plots are plots where the best farming practices are implemented, and visits are organised for local farmers to see the practices 'in action'.

# China

2

Projects



Shandong

Hubei

## Programme Partners

- Huangmei
- Nongxi

## Programme results 2023-24



The two Programme Partners in China had a strong 2023-24 season. Partners strengthened their internal management systems through clearer division of roles and responsibilities and they improved communication channels between project stakeholders. They further increased the proportion of women producer unit (PU) managers and field facilitators and improved capacity building for field staff. They also set up additional demonstration plots.

One area for improvement is climate change mitigation understanding: field staff find this topic difficult to grasp and teach, and cotton farmers struggle to understand why it is particularly relevant to them and their farms.

### ● Spotlight: Wu Deqin, a Nongxi farmer

Wu Deqin has been a Better Cotton farmer since 2016. She lives in Wudi county, near the east coast of China. Through demonstrating integrated pest management and soil health improvement techniques on her own farm and participating enthusiastically with the project, Wu managed to encourage other cotton farmers to carry out activities such as reducing the amount of synthetic fertilisers and pesticides, returning plant remains to the field to improve soil quality and avoid them being burnt, and recovering and reusing plastic that is used as a mulch.

For the last two years, Wu has also participated in Nongxi's initiative of rotating mushrooms and cotton. Instead of leaving the land fallow between cotton crops, a new type of mushroom called 'thick leg mushroom' is grown. Once the cotton is harvested, the cotton branches and leftover bolls are crushed, fermented, and used to line trenches, which are then planted with mushroom spores. This not only increases soil organic matter for the next cotton crop, but also increases cotton farmers' income by approximately 70% per hectare.

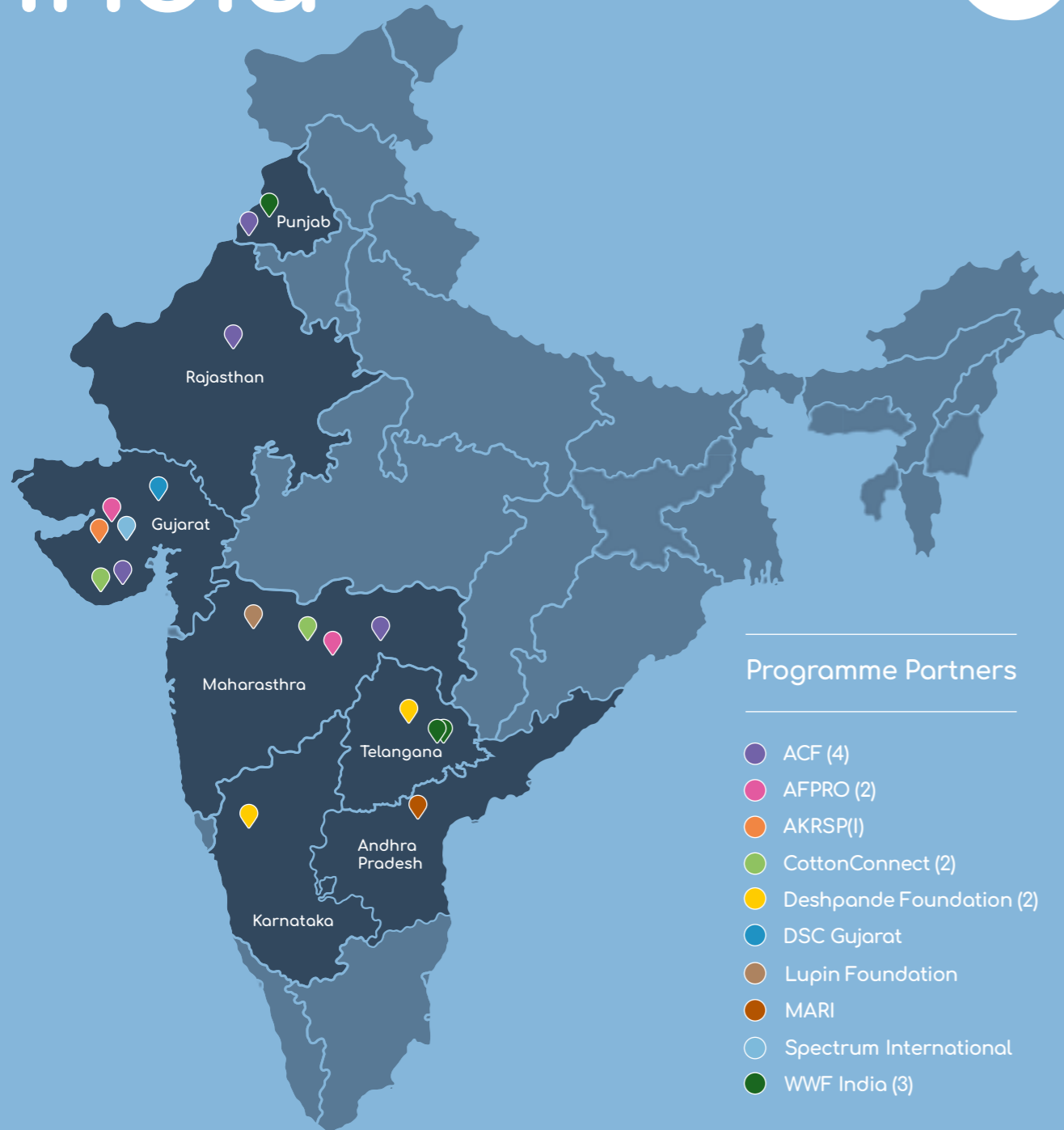
Wu's use of synthetic fertilisers and pesticides decreased by 7.4% and 6.5% respectively in 2023-24, compared to the same period last year, while cotton production increased by 6.3%, effectively showcasing the benefits of more environmentally conscious cotton planting to her learning group and in the local area.

**Photo:** Cotton farmers are getting ready to spread mushroom spores after stacking the decomposed cotton stalk remains into ridge. ©Nongxi



# India

18  
Projects



## Programme results 2023-24



GIF supported 10 partners and 18 projects in India in the 2023-24 season. Many projects increased their engagement with women farmers by making technical trainings more accessible to women, by involving them more effectively in natural resource management and by including them in livelihood activities.

Regenerative agriculture, natural resource management and social impact were the major themes on which partners' capacities were strengthened. To address accessibility to quality bio-inputs and generate additional income sources for rural communities, especially women, the GIF supported partners in setting up bio-input centres. The Better Cotton India Programmes team also promoted convergence and engagement with various stakeholders including local government, civil society, and agro-input dealers<sup>4</sup> to deepen impact.

### ● Spotlight: WWF India Telangana, Warangal Gold

This year WWF India collaborated with the Greater Warangal Municipal Corporation in Telangana on a composting project, giving WWF's partner, the Prajwal Farmer Producer Company (FPC), access to fruit and vegetable market waste in Warangal city. The Prajwal FPC supported a women's self-help group (SHG) to create rich, high-quality compost branded as *Warangal Super Gold*. 521 bags were sold this season, securing Rs.234,450 in income for the women.

Prajwal's success with the market waste motivated the municipal authorities to give all the town food waste to the project as 'raw' compost. This compost is sieved, enriched with Trichoderma,<sup>5</sup> and sold as *Warangal Gold*. Women are given Rs.500 for every 20 bags of sieved compost (a half day job) they produce. Around 330 women worked on the compost this season. Over 13,000 bags were sold, making nearly Rs.1.7 million. Additionally, compost units were set up in nine villages, and government recycling and waste units in 48 villages were revamped. Seeing the compost produced in their local vicinity further encouraged farmer adoption.

Farmers' demand for the compost encouraged Prajwal FPC to produce other bio inputs: vermiwash (liquid extract from vermicompost), fish amino acid, and waste decomposer. These products have also been popular.

**Photo:** Packing Warangal Gold city compost. © Prajwal Farmer Producers Company



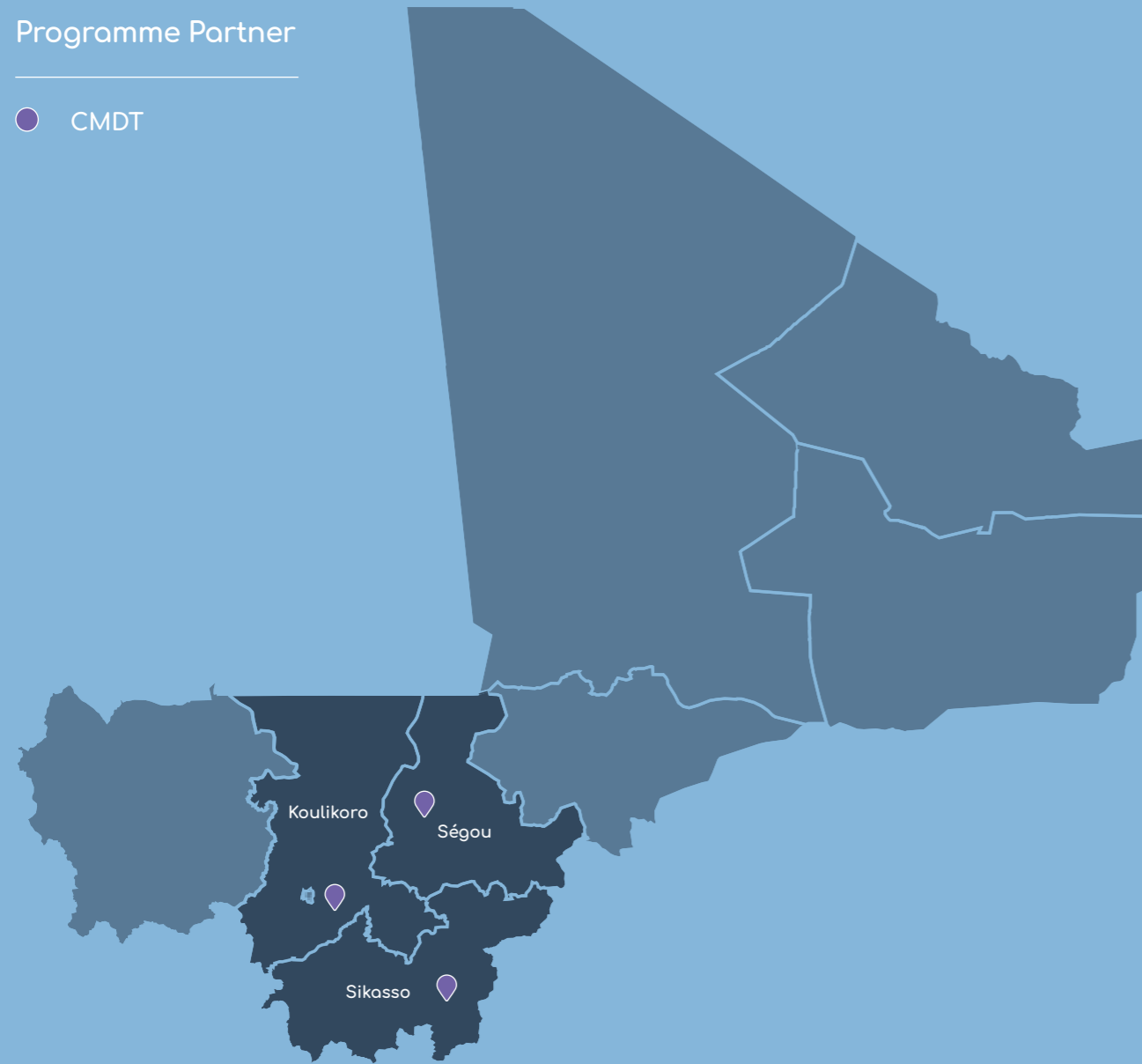
4. This includes encouragement to stock bio-products and training on HHPs, etc.  
 5. A natural fungicide and growth stimulator.

# Mali

1  
Project

Programme Partner

● CMDT



Programme results 2023–24



GIF works with one Programme Partner, CMDT, in Mali, which implements one project. It has been a challenging year, with CMDT undergoing internal changes which have resulted in fewer participating farmers than planned and a lower level of activity.

One highlight from the 2023-24 season, however, was the training of 22 PU managers and five field facilitators on the pilot of compost tea and green compost. Looking forward to next season, 28 demonstration plots will be established within learning groups to showcase these methods.

● **Spotlight: CMDT, Badeya de N'Tiesso cooperative**

In April 2023, 19 women from the Badeya de N'Tiesso cooperative received training in animal production and were given two ewes and one ram. Each year the women will breed the sheep.

As part of the project, the first two lambs bred will be collected by CMDT and will be given to more women, expanding the project further. In the upcoming season, the goal is to include six more women in the project, depending on availability of the lambs. If the women breed more than two lambs, the remainder of the lambs are theirs to keep or sell.

Sheep breeding not only generates significant income from sales, up to €80 per year for each woman, it contributes to the nutrition of the household. Sheep also provide high quality organic manure, reducing the need for synthetic fertilisers. The breeds of sheep are adapted to local agroecological conditions and veterinary support is provided.

After the success of the first season, the members of the cooperative intend to continue the initiative. These income-generating activities give women some financial independence and money to contribute to their family.

**Photo:** Sheep distribution ceremony for the women of Badenya cooperative of N'Tiesso as part of the CMDT GIF animal production project. © Ousmane Sanogo, CMDT



# Mozambique

3  
Projects

## Programme Partner

- SAM Mutualli
- SANAM
- SanJFS



Programme results 2023–24\*



\* Due to seasonal differences, the figures presented are based on mid-season reports and the grant amount is the contracted amount.

GIF supports three partners in Mozambique, each implementing one project. In some regions this season, farmers have shifted to growing other crops due to the low market price of cotton; however, in other regions farmers moved to cotton cultivation after excessive rain destroyed other crops.

Partners have begun to focus on livelihoods, with one partner introducing fishponds and animal husbandry, and another exploring carbon markets for cotton growers. A GIF ‘knowledge partner’ is also training partner staff to work with community savings and credit groups and with farmers to diversify their income, including by growing a better variety of crops with higher quality seeds.

Partners increased their use of technology to help improve data collection and management. CommCare, a digital data collection tool used by many partners in Pakistan, was trialed this season, and the distribution of smartphones has helped with data collection and accuracy.

### ● Spotlight: Paulino Alberto Boque, a Sam Mutuali farmer

Paulino Alberto Boque has been a Better Cotton farmer for two years, and his skills and activities have been an inspiration for his community. In these two years, Paulino has used strip cultivation and crop rotation and thinned his cotton plants to allow better growth. Most notably, however, is Paulino’s role as a leader in pest monitoring and using that data to inform his pesticide use. Paulino observes 24 different plants per hectare per week, taking note of the pests and damage. He then uses monitoring boards to determine which type and quantity of pesticides are needed.

Thanks to these practices, Paulino’s seed cotton production jumped from 400 kg/ha to an impressive 1,300 kg/ha. With the additional income, Paulino bought two motorbikes, two bicycles and zinc sheets to improve the roofing of his house. He has also reduced the number of pesticide sprays from seven sprays per hectare to four sprays throughout the season.

Other local farmers have learnt about Paulino’s practices through visits, learning exchanges and word of mouth, and his success has inspired many to adopt his techniques. Paulino has emerged as a model of good agricultural practices, contributing to improving agricultural sustainability in his community.

**Photo left:** A cotton farmer demonstrating a monitoring board similar to the one used by Paulino. © Emma Dennis, Better Cotton Initiative. **Photo right:** Paulino in his field. © Sam Mutuali





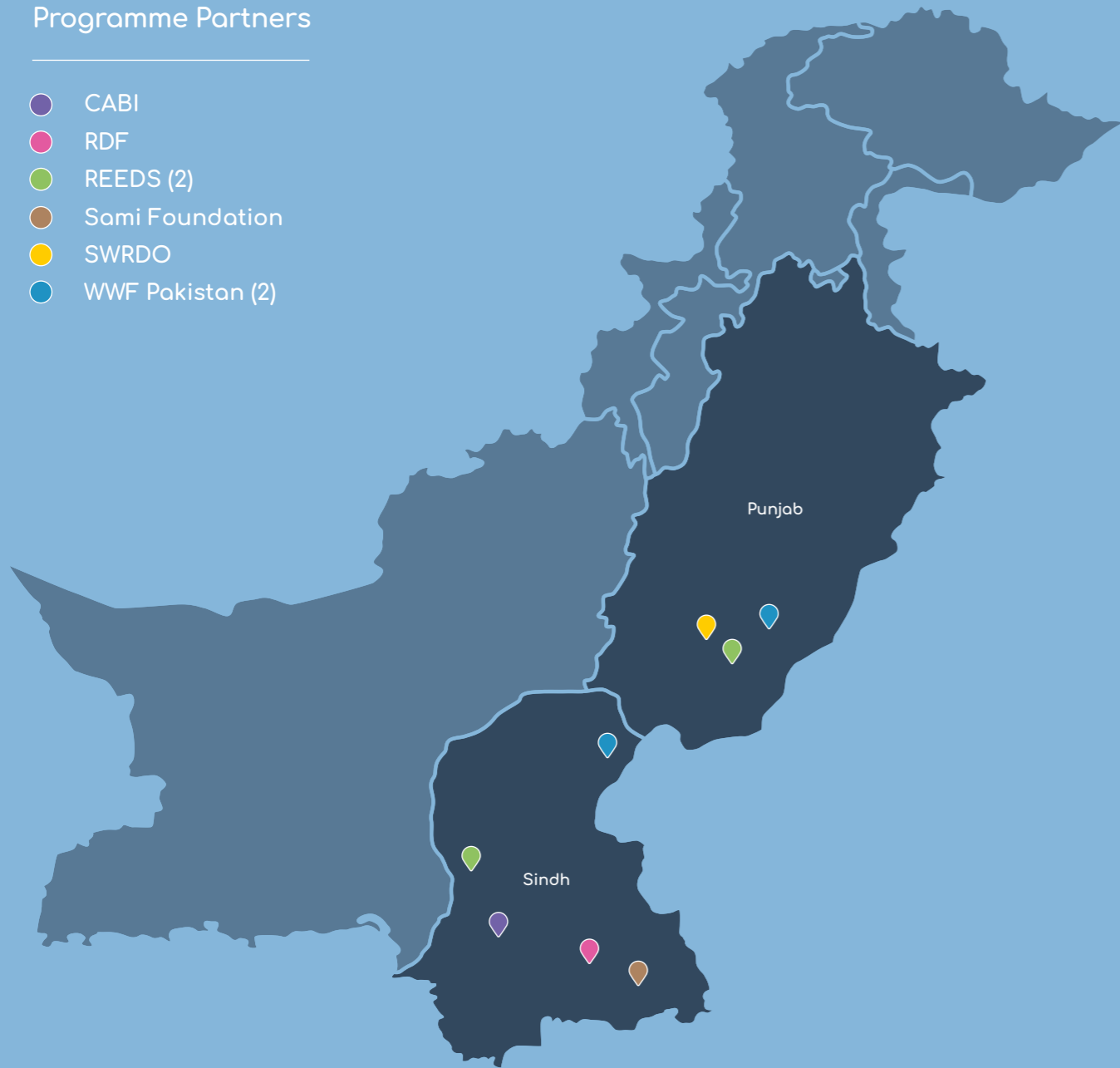
# Pakistan

8

Projects

## Programme Partners

- CABI
- RDF
- REEDS (2)
- Sami Foundation
- SWRDO
- WWF Pakistan (2)



## Programme results 2023-24



In the 2023-24 season, the Fund supported six Programme Partners delivering eight projects in Pakistan, including two new partners: the Research and Development Foundation and Sami Foundation.

Farmers in Sindh are still recovering from the 2022-23 flooding. Many irrigation channels were damaged in the floods and were not repaired in time for cotton sowing. On top of this, many farmers switched to sugarcane and other crops due to a lack of financial resources to level and desilt their land before sowing.

Despite the challenging context, partners increased their focus on practical training and demonstration plots to promote the adoption of better practices among farmers. Another positive development was the proportion of women field staff increasing from 14% in 2022-23 season to 20% in 2023-24.

### ● Spotlight: Sangtani Women's Rural Development Organisation, water stewardship

This year, the Sangtani Women's Rural Development Organisation (SWRDO) partnered with the On-Farm Water Management Department and the Agriculture Extension Department to rehabilitate 2,750 meters of water irrigation channels, benefiting around 250 farmers. This has significantly decreased water waste and theft.<sup>6</sup> Moreover, as water from the irrigation channels was previously unreliable, they had to supplement it using expensive fuel-powered tube well pumps. Now, with access to this free water source, farmers can save up to €200 per hectare.

Additionally, SWRDO facilitated the installation of solar-powered tube well pumps, benefiting 65 farmers and reducing fuel use by 90 litres per hectare. This success inspired another 1,778 farmers to buy solar pumps, greatly reducing the environmental impact of irrigation. SWRDO also organised training sessions on water management practices, including shallow hoeing to minimise evaporation, compost use, water stewardship, and channel maintenance. Farmers now optimise irrigation by basing it on local weather updates, enhancing water use efficiency.

**Photo:** Solar tube well installation in Better Cotton farming communities to minimize issues like water scarcity, electricity and GHS emission from fuel burning. © SWRDO



6. Without the renovated concrete and steel structure in the channels, they are easy to break into and steal water.

# Turkey

3  
Projects

## Programme Partners

- Canbel
- UNDP GAP
- WWF Turkey



## Programme results 2023-24



In 2023-24, Better Cotton GIF, together with its strategic partner, Good Cotton Practices Association (IPUD), worked with three Programme Partners on three projects in Turkey.

In the Aegean region, excessive rainfall in April and May damaged cotton fields. In some, cotton seeds did not germinate, in others, the young cotton roots rotted. Partners in the south-eastern region suffered from a white fly infestation. All partners faced unseasonably high temperatures in July and August. These factors led to a significant reduction in yields. Farmers' input costs also increased due to extreme inflation, which, combined with the lower cotton price and reduced government subsidies for fuel and fertiliser, resulted in fewer farmers cultivating cotton.

Despite these challenges, farmers in the Aegean region have decreased the number of pesticide sprays from nine to seven this season. Another positive change has been the farmers' frequent consultation of partner field staff and their checking for pests before making pest control decisions.

### ● Spotlight: GAP RDA, organic bacteria

This season, farmers received training on how to apply organic bacteria to cotton seeds before planting to protect soil health and increase soil fertility. Originally four farmers established trial areas, mixing sugar, water and organic bacteria, and applying this to seeds which were planted the following day. After sowing, plants from these seeds were checked monthly and their roots compared with the roots of cotton plants randomly taken from the field.

The adoption of this practice led to better results in cotton emergence, improved and consistent quality of cotton at harvest time, and enhanced root development. Due to these promising results, the practice has been expanded to include twelve more farmers. During farmer visits, the positive results of the application of organic bacteria were shared and recommended to all farmers, which will hopefully lead to further adoption of the practice in seasons to come.

**Photo:** Farmers calculating the planting of seeds based on the size of the land. © GAP RDA





# Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL)

In 2023-24 the GIF's MEL continued to develop with more guidance on MEL given to partners, improvements in the tracking of adoption of key farming practices and commissioning of evaluations to provide in-depth independent insights.

## MEL support to funded partners

In 2023-24 the GIF introduced additional support to Small Farm Fund partners to help them develop MEL plans. These plans helped partners to clarify what data they needed to collect and how to collect it in relation to the number of farmers trained, changes in farmers' knowledge levels, farmers' adoption levels and the status of key indicators such as soil organic carbon and the toxic load<sup>7</sup> of pesticides used. This support will help partners to have accurate data to guide their own decisions and will help improve the quality of data that partners report to GIF.

## Adoption of better practices

The adoption of sustainable farming practices is a necessary step towards achieving changes in soil health, crop protection, climate change mitigation, women's empowerment and sustainable livelihoods. Programme Partners have promoted a wide array of practices to farmers in the 2023-24 season and have seen an increase in the adoption rates for over 80% of these practices.

The most commonly promoted practices are those which contribute to enhanced soil health. A highlight is the increase in the use of bio-fertilisers which have now been adopted by over 45% of farmers in both India and China. Other soil health practices that have seen the most adoption over the past season are crop rotation and the incorporation of crop residues back into the soil. The second set of most frequently promoted practices are those related to crop protection with using bio-pesticides as a partial or complete replacement of synthetic pesticides, and the wearing of protective equipment seeing the highest increase in adoption in the 2023-24 season. Complementing the uptake of these practices has been a reduction in the percentage of farmers using highly hazardous pesticides with notable reductions seen in Pakistan and China, whilst usage in India is now well under 10%.

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**Photo left:** Better Cotton Field Facilitator, Ujiben Parmer, amongst a variety of crops planted at the Agricultural Science Centre in Ambujanagar, Gujarat, India. © Better Cotton/Joe Woodruff.

7. Toxic load is the level of toxicity of a pesticide based on its negative effects on humans, mammals, other animals in the immediate and longer term.



The practices that have seen the most frequent increases are those in the climate impact area (mainly water conservation methods) and the women's empowerment impact area (a combination of women's increased involvement in decisions on cotton, access to savings and credit, and uptake of kitchen gardens).

## Centralised evaluations

The GIF team has been working to enhance the MEL capacities of funded partners and there has been an increase in the amount of time MEL staff dedicate to the GIF. GIF has also introduced centralised evaluations of the Small Farm Fund projects with three-year grants, starting with four projects in 2022-23.

This year, another four baselines were commissioned and undertaken. These were of two World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) projects in Telangana, India, another WWF project in Punjab, Pakistan, and a project of Ambuja Cement Foundation (ACF) which straddles Punjab and Rajasthan, India. The baselines identified some lessons which partners are already starting to use to strengthen their projects. For example, the farmers that WWF Pakistan work with said that a major barrier to them implementing a new practice was that they did not clearly understand how to implement the practice and were not convinced the new practice would be effective. In response, WWF Pakistan increased the number of their project's demonstration plots from 17 to 147 so they could address both barriers.

Other examples include Action for Food Production (AFPRO) introducing training on the production of biochar and training for women on the production of bio-cultures in their project in Gujarat. These activities were to respond to findings of low soil organic carbon levels and a limited supply of bio-inputs, and to facilitate women's engagement with, and influence over, cotton cultivation activities. Both Sangtani Women's Rural Development Organisation

(SWRDO) and CABI, partners in Pakistan, have introduced more demonstration plots and increased the frequency of their engagement with farmers to show how practices are implemented, prove their effectiveness, and support farmers with the process of adoption.

The completion of the 2023-24 independent baselines has enabled GIF to look for common learning across the eight baselines so far completed. These findings have been shared with country programme teams to inform their support to partners.

## Looking forward

The GIF's capacity strengthening on MEL will continue and further insights and results reporting will be incorporated into the next annual report. Additionally, in 2024-25 MEL support will be expanded to partners of the other GIF sub-funds.

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**Photo above, left:** Farm-worker Ruksana Kausar (wife of Better Cotton Farmer) with her tree nursery. © Better Cotton/Khaula Jamil.  
**Photo above, center:** Wang Meishuang, Better Cotton Farmer (and Field Facilitator), is preparing to deliver a Better Cotton training session. © Better Cotton/Yuyang Liu.  
**Photo above, right:** Better Cotton Farmers Abdullah Karakuş (left) and İbrahim Karakuş (right) wearing personal protective equipment during a Health & Safety Training. © Better Cotton/Eugénie Bacher.

# Other funds

In addition to the Small Farm Fund, where most GIF funding is allocated, there are three other sub-funds:

## Knowledge Partner Fund

€157,496

## Large Farm Fund

€116,198

## Innovation & Learning Fund

€172,032

Photo: Cotton fields, Weixian, Hebei, China. © Better Cotton/Yuyang Liu.

# Knowledge Partner Fund

ETO: Turkey Search for Justice: Pakistan

Ophavela: Mozambique PAN India: India

Pilio / SAMA^Verte: Pakistan

The Knowledge Partner Fund was set up to fund organisations to support Programme Partners in thematic areas that have been identified as challenging by the partners, by country teams, and/or by the GIF. These organisations must be able to strengthen the capacity of Programme Partners in those areas through direct transfer of knowledge or skills. In 2023-24, five projects were approved for funding.

### Project spotlight: Pilio

Pilio, an organisation providing energy, environment and climate software to private sector and government actors, and SAMA^Verte, a social enterprise providing environment, climate change and clean energy consultancy, collaborated to support WWF Pakistan Punjab with its work on biodiversity.

The project, spanning three years, aims to address biodiversity loss by working with communities to identify, map and understand the importance of biodiversity, and then to develop and implement village-specific biodiversity enhancement plans. The format can be replicated by other Better Cotton partners.

Photo: Pilio's field assistant, Rubina, doing a tree/habitat survey. © Pilio and SAMA^Verte.



# Large Farm Fund

Embrapa: Brazil

Isreal Cotton Board: Isreal

Cotton Australia: Australia

University of Arizona: USA

The Large Farm Fund was launched in recognition of the enormous potential contribution of large farms to the progress of the strategy. The Fund is dedicated to funding research or on-farm trials that will support large farm partners to adopt agronomic practices that will directly contribute to the 2030 targets. In the 2023-24 season, four projects were approved for funding.

## Project spotlight: University of Arizona

The goal of the University of Arizona project was to address synthetic pesticide use in US cotton with a special focus on eliminating highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs) and broad-spectrum pesticides that erode key ecosystem services.

During this one-year project, the team analysed region-specific pest challenges and alternatives to HHPs to better guide farm transitions to more eco-friendly practices. They examined and evaluated pesticide-use data collected by Better Cotton from licensed growers to develop insights for understanding, assessing and measuring progress in pest management.

Further, University of Arizona conducted on-farm research, demonstration and education in sustainable integrated pest management (IPM) practices. They were particularly interested in conservation biological control, which involves practices that maintain and enhance the reproduction, survival, and effectiveness of natural enemies.

**Photo:** Field day participant checking for whitefly nymphs on the cotton leaf. © Jack Dalten Creative.



# Innovation and Learning Fund

IPUD: Turkey

ODI: Mali and India

The Innovation and Learning Fund exists to support projects which address gaps or challenges within the implementation of Better Cotton projects. These solutions should inform, or be replicable across, Better Cotton projects. In the 2023-24 season, two projects were approved for funding.

## Project spotlight: ODI

ODI has begun to examine various livelihood activities common in farming households and what impact those activities have. The team is using a life history approach which involves respondents participating in in-depth interviews, exploring key events during their lives. This methodology will be complemented with household surveys designed according to the results of the interviews.

ODI's research explores which activities farming households undertake; what conditions facilitate or hinder these activities for different household members; if diversified income sources result in more environmentally friendly cotton growing practices and if so, if they enable farmers to adapt to or mitigate climate change; and what programmes or investments would allow for farming households to more readily take up different livelihoods activities.

Finally, ODI will produce knowledge products, potentially including curricula for training farmers, reports, briefs, and other appropriate media, such as short YouTube videos.

**Photo:** Photo of the start of the Focus Group Discussion session in N'goukan/Koutiala. © Kene Conseil ODI.



# Finance breakdown

	2022-23 in '000s Euros	2023-24 in '000s Euros
<b>Total income</b>	<b>25,200</b>	<b>29,901</b>
Grants	(12,713)	(15,060)
Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning	-	(125)
Fund Management	(287)	(345)
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>(13,000)</b>	<b>(15,530)</b>
Balance <sup>8</sup>	12,200	14,371
Contribution to reserves	199	247

Please find Better Cotton GIF's most recent finance statements in the [FAQ section of the website](#).

## GIF composition

The GIF Governance: In season 2023-24 the GIF Board was made up of three members: the Better Cotton CEO, COO and the Senior Director of Programmes. There are also two multi-stakeholder committees that support and approve the Fund's grants: the Buyer and Investor Committee (BIC),<sup>9</sup> which agrees key strategic points, and the Field and Innovation Impact Committee (FIIC),<sup>10</sup> which discusses and agrees grant allocation.

GIF's primary source of income is derived from a volume based fee (VBF) paid by retailers and brands. A smaller portion of the revenue comes from donors, which, in 2023-2024, were Laudes Foundation, H&M Group and IDH.

<sup>8</sup> This figure includes the amount committed for ongoing multi-year grants.

<sup>9</sup> In season 2023-24, BIC members are: Target, Laudes Foundation, IKEA, H&M, GAP Inc., Fast Retailing, C&A, American Eagle, Action BV, The Children's Place, Better Cotton and IDH.

<sup>10</sup> FIIC members included representatives from the following organisations in the 2023-24 season: IDH, Better Cotton, Gap Inc., C&A, H&M\*, IKEA, PAN UK, Laudes Foundation\*\*

\* C&A completed their term as FIIC member in November 2023 and were replaced by H&M.

\*\* Laudes Foundation completed their term in September 2023.

A huge thank you to all who contributed to the GIF and its four funds in 2023-24.

**Photo:** Farm-worker Shahida Parveen in her tree nursery. Shahida Parveen, 24, is one of 17 women in the district to be involved in a tree nursery project developed by Better Cotton and their Implementing Partner, WWF, Pakistan. © Better Cotton/Khaura Jamil.

## Annexure 1: Better Cotton GIF summary 2023-24

Countries	Number of PPs	Number of Projects
China*	2	2
India	10	18
Mali	1	1
Mozambique	3	3
Pakistan	6	8
Turkey	3	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>35</b>

\*All the projects in China are funded directly through Better Cotton.

## Annexure 2: Better Cotton GIF Project-wide summary 2023-24

China						
Project	Farmers (W)	Farmers (M)	Workers (W)	Workers (M)	Ha	MT
Huangmei	5,971	11,900	10,084	5,382	2,356	3,559
Nongxi	24,875	7,139	7,538	618	50,020	79,351
<b>Total</b>	<b>30,846</b>	<b>19,039</b>	<b>17,622</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>52,376</b>	<b>82,910</b>

India						
Project	Farmers (W)	Farmers (M)	Workers (W)	Workers (M)	Ha	MT
ACF Gujarat	1,862	42,561	10,854	12,570	75,504	54,240
ACF Maharashtra	9,628	90,490	14,373	17,055	155,188	84,705
ACF Punjab & Rajasthan	654	56,158	8,792	14,309	97,466	47,468
ACF Rajasthan	783	11,637	2,651	1,791	24,753	14,852
AFPRO Gujarat	2,180	69,359	88,724	65,630	139,631	108,861
AFPRO Maharashtra	6,060	55,516	62,358	47,838	86,722	53,922
AKRSPI	2,597	20,403	852	1,442	25,021	18,747
CottonConnect Gujarat	7,219	32,572	3,566	5,993	55,541	49,111
CottonConnect Maharashtra	19,097	71,003	7,986	11,160	147,567	103,442
Deshpande Karnataka	98	6,619	4,878	2,966	1,704	480
Deshpande Telangana	2,523	47,618	32,703	12,447	56,725	29,710
Development Support Centre	500	13,792	500	1,999	8,520	3,853
Lupin	11,284	83,872	7,852	9,855	105,557	38,748
MARI	3,000	14,000	21,548	22,876	9,000	-
Spectrum	26	19,746	386	2,347	45,465	40,296
WWF India Punjab	128	19,683	7,576	4,824	25,010	13,255
WWF India Telangana	369	17,290	6,809	2,890	11,478	8,513
WWF India Telangana H&M	723	7,352	2,592	892	5,424	3,631
<b>Total</b>	<b>68,731</b>	<b>679,671</b>	<b>285,000</b>	<b>238,884</b>	<b>1,076,276</b>	<b>673,835</b>

Mali						
Project	Farmers (W)	Farmers (M)	Workers (W)	Workers (M)	Ha	MT
CMDT	502	140,428	502	421,284	474,119	170,781
<b>Total</b>	<b>502</b>	<b>140,428</b>	<b>502</b>	<b>421,284</b>	<b>474,119</b>	<b>170,781</b>

Mozambique*						
Project	Farmers (W)	Farmers (M)	Workers (W)	Workers (M)	Ha	MT
SANAM	4,012	26,960	3,102	11,542	21,000	4,680
SanJFS	12,900	28,800	48,900	96,700	20,700	9,500
Sam Mutuali	1,966	6,661	1,966	6,661	8,246	2,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,878</b>	<b>62,421</b>	<b>53,968</b>	<b>114,903</b>	<b>49,946</b>	<b>16,680</b>

\*Due to seasonal differences, Mozambique contributions to these figures are based on contracted grant figures and mid-season report data

Pakistan						
Project	Farmers (W)	Farmers (M)	Workers (W)	Workers (M)	Ha	MT
CABI Sindh	8	30,578	73,930	27,417	81,468	68,278
RDF	400	2,100	269	911	3,984	-
REEDS Punjab	164	87,659	12,828	5,271	175,534	96,100
REEDS Sindh	4	16,601	2,173	907	16,498	10,188
SAMI Foundation	241	2,781	440	373	5,185	-
SWRDO	9	32,108	12,914	4,808	58,034	30,571
WWF Pakistan Punjab	0	78,641	29,611	11,157	132,681	79,333
WWF Pakistan Sindh	1	35,644	10,896	7,124	118,156	98,290
<b>Total</b>	<b>827</b>	<b>286,112</b>	<b>143,061</b>	<b>57,968</b>	<b>591,541</b>	<b>382,760</b>

Turkey						
Project	Farmers (W)	Farmers (M)	Workers (W)	Workers (M)	Ha	MT
Canbel	46	738	700	577	4,965	12,678
UNDP - GAP RDA	211	1,616	1,132	833	35,200	71,958
WWF Turkey	42	177	162	816	5,373	8,187
<b>Total</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>2,531</b>	<b>1,994</b>	<b>2,226</b>	<b>45,538</b>	<b>92,823</b>



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**Front cover photo:** Bioinput training by ACF in Fulka, Gujarat, India.  
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**Photo below:** Better Cotton Farmer Zhao Huaquan, 57, stands in his  
cotton field. © Better Cotton/Yuyang Liu.

