

Member Code of Practice

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

Better Cotton Initiative'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

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

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

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

Code of Practice

Better Cotton Initiative Members are expected to act with integrity and not partake in any activity that could negatively impact the credibility of Better Cotton Initiative. This Code of Practice outlines areas in which internationally recognised best practice is expected. The Better Cotton Initiative 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 Better Cotton Initiative Statutes and the Better Cotton Initiative Terms of Membership.

Commitment and Conduct

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

Business Integrity

Better Cotton Initiative 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

Better Cotton Initiative 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

Better Cotton Initiative 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 Initiative or of the impact associated with it. They do not communicate on behalf of Better Cotton Initiative.

Sourcing

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

Environmental compliance

Better Cotton Initiative 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 Better Cotton Initiative 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 Better Cotton Initiative Council deem that a particular entity, for whatever reason, poses a risk to credibility and/or reputation, Better Cotton Initiative reserves the right to protect the reputation of the association for purposes of supporting its mission.

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