

# Request for Proposals

## Sustainable Crop Protection for Cotton Production

**RFP n#:** 2025-12-PR-CIPIM

**Location:** Uzbekistan

**Start date:** 26<sup>th</sup> January 2026

**End date:** 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026

**Technical Team:** Assurance Team



All applications must be submitted via this [form](#).

You may submit questions to [tender@bettercotton.org](mailto:tender@bettercotton.org) – RFP n# 2025-12-PR-CIPIM” until 4<sup>th</sup> January 2026, noting that the **final submission deadline for bids is the 11<sup>th</sup> January 2026**.

**Please note that the responses over the Christmas and new year period may be delayed, however we will endeavour to work on these as quickly as possible.**

Questions, requests and applications sent after the deadline will only be considered in exceptional circumstances.

### **Important Submission Process Information:**

After submitting your details through the [form](#), you will receive a separate email to upload your supporting documents to a secure platform.

## Description

The Better Cotton Initiative (BCI) is the world’s largest cotton sustainability programme. Our mission: to help cotton communities survive and thrive, while protecting and restoring the environment. Through our network of field-level partners, we have provided training on more sustainable farming practices to more than 2.9 million cotton farmers in 26 countries. More than a fifth of the world’s cotton is now grown under the BCI Standard, and our membership network includes more than 2,400 members.

A critical component of the Better Cotton Standard System is the Better Cotton Initiative's Principles and Criteria (P&C), which lay out the global definition of Better Cotton Initiative through six guiding principles and 2 cross-cutting priorities. By following these principles, BCI farmers produce cotton in a way that is better for themselves, their communities and the environment.

The 6 principles are: Management, Natural Resources, Crop Protection, Fibre Quality, Decent Work and Sustainable Livelihoods. The 2 cross-cutting priorities are: Gender Equality and Climate Change.

BCI's certification programme verifies that producers have met the P&C Indicators of the Better Cotton Initiative Principles and Criteria before they are certified to sell BCI Cotton. Further, once certified, producers are supported to continue to make progress against their continuous improvement priorities and receive adequate capacity strengthening support.

BCI Uzbekistan branch is committed to promoting sustainable agricultural practices, including responsible crop protection, which is central to Principle 3 of the Better Cotton Initiative Principles and Criteria (P&C v3.1). This principle emphasizes minimizing harm from crop protection practices to human health and the environment, while ensuring effective pest management

More information about BCI can be found on our website: [www.bettercotton.org](http://www.bettercotton.org)

## Background

Uzbekistan is one of the world's largest cotton producers, with a vital cotton sector that plays a key role in the country's economy. In recent years, the Uzbek Government has made significant efforts to transform the cotton industry, addressing long-standing issues such as forced and child labour, while focusing on improving agricultural practices and increasing productivity. These reforms have been supported by key international organizations, including the International Labour Organization (ILO) and Better Cotton Initiative, alongside local stakeholders, all of whom are working to ensure that cotton production in Uzbekistan is more sustainable, ethical, and productive.

Better Cotton Initiative launched its formal program in Uzbekistan in 2022, following the country's commitment to labour reforms, and established a branch in Tashkent in May 2023. Since its inception, Better Cotton Initiative has contributed to the advancement of environmental, social, and economic sustainability within the cotton sector, aligning its efforts with the global mission to make all cotton production more sustainable. As Uzbekistan is the sixth-largest cotton producer in the world, Better Cotton Initiative sees an opportunity to drive meaningful improvements in the cotton sector by promoting better farming practices and working conditions.

Increasing the uptake of more sustainable practices is a key priority for Better Cotton Initiative in Uzbekistan. Improving farming practices through environmentally responsible methods is essential for the continued growth of the sector. This involves promoting sustainable practices that enhance soil health, optimize water use, reduce the environmental footprint of cotton farming, and incorporate more efficient farming techniques. Central to this approach is the adaptation of a set of sustainable crop protection practices that fit into national and traditional crop protection methods.

The ultimate goal is to improve cotton production in a way that is economically viable, socially responsible, and environmentally sustainable. While Uzbekistan has made significant strides in

improving labour conditions and introducing sustainable practices, the need to continue these advances remains central to ensuring the long-term sustainability of the sector. Better Cotton Initiative's focus is on supporting cotton clusters in Uzbekistan to implement innovative farming practices that drive sustainability improvements, ensuring that cotton farmers and workers benefit from these advancements in a way that supports both local livelihoods and the environment.

We are seeking proposals from skilled individuals or organisations interested in developing training and guidance materials that support cotton clusters and farmers in Uzbekistan to adopt and implement sustainable crop protection strategies. These materials will align with Better Cotton Initiative's standards and national legislation and will be tailored to the local context.

## Scope of Work

The expected output will be Training and Guidance Materials Development, such as:

- Stakeholder Consultations

Engage with cotton clusters, Ministry of Agriculture, research institutions, and other stakeholders to:

- Assess current crop protection practices and identify gaps in knowledge, motivation, and structural barriers (COM-B model).
- Build an inventory of existing Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices.
- Determine preferred training formats (e.g., virtual or a combination of these: face-to-face, practical field visits).
- Identify supporting resources needed (e.g., brochures, manuals, legislative summaries).

- Training Content Development

Develop training materials covering Principle 3 of the Better Cotton Initiative P&C v3.1, including:

- IPM strategies and ecological pest control methods.
- Crop monitoring and decision-making tools
- Safe handling, storage, and disposal of pesticides.
- Use of PPE
- Use of biological alternatives.
- Compliance with national crop protection legislation.

- Prepare: Supporting Documents

- Implementation Manual for Sustainable Crop Protection.
- Summary of national crop protection legislation.
- Brochure of best practices and sustainability recommendations.

- Audience-Specific Tailoring

- Materials should be adapted for cluster managers and field staff.
- Recommendations for addressing barriers to implementation, including structural, knowledge, and motivational factors.

- Content Requirements

The training materials and accompanying guidance documents must adhere to the following specifications to ensure clarity, accessibility, and compliance with relevant criteria:

#### 1. Format and Volume

- All materials should be prepared in Uzbek Cyrillic and Russian languages, and English technical translation is acceptable
- Training materials must be developed in Microsoft PowerPoint (PPT) format, shared by the BCI Uzbekistan team, with a maximum of 35 slides to ensure concise and compelling delivery;
- Supporting materials must include an implementation manual and a summary of relevant national legislation. These documents should present best practices, policy recommendations, and practical examples of regenerative agriculture approaches. The materials should aim not only to inform but also to support potential policy uptake and wider adoption of regenerative practices.
- Accompanying guidance documents should include essential policy and regulatory information (e.g., national standards, compliance requirements) and must not exceed 10 pages per document.

In addition to skills, competencies and expertise, we will consider value for money and demonstrable commitment to the sustainability field to evaluate applications.

## High-level Timeline

<b>4<sup>th</sup> January 2026</b>	Questions deadline  All questions must be sent only to <a href="mailto:tender@bettercotton.org">tender@bettercotton.org</a> with the RFP Reference in the Subject line.
<b>11<sup>th</sup> January 2026</b>	<b>Applications deadline</b> All applications must be submitted via this <a href="#">form</a> .
<b>11<sup>th</sup> January 2026 – 18<sup>th</sup> January 2026</b>	Applications review & shortlisting / Interviews
<b>By 19<sup>th</sup> January 2026</b>	The successful applicant will be notified Unsuccessful shortlisted applicants will also be notified
<b>26<sup>th</sup> January 2026</b>	<b>Start of the consultancy</b>
<b>By 16<sup>th</sup> February 2026</b>	Submission of consultation report and draft materials
<b>By 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026</b>	Submission of revised materials
<b>By 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026</b>	Final delivery of training and guidance materials

## Required Skills & Knowledge

Skills, Knowledge and Experience
<b>Essential</b>
Proven technical expertise in integrated pest management (IPM), ecological crop protection methods, and safe pesticide handling practices.
Strong understanding of <b>national crop protection</b> legislation and international sustainability standards, including Better Cotton Initiative Principles and Criteria (Principle 3).
Experience in developing <b>training and guidance materials</b> tailored for diverse audiences (e.g., cluster managers, field staff), ensuring clarity and practical applicability.
Familiarity with <b>Uzbekistan's irrigated cotton systems</b> , including pest dynamics, climatic conditions, and local agricultural practices.
Competence in creating <b>multilingual resources</b> (Uzbek, Russian, English) that are accessible and culturally appropriate.
Demonstrable commitment to <b>sustainable agriculture</b> and reducing reliance on hazardous pesticides through IPM and biological alternatives.
All deliverables are required to be submitted in Uzbek, Russian, and English languages

## Application Requirements

Please note that we have changed our RFP submission protocol, and this is now in two phases;

- **Phase 1: Initial details will be submitted on the form found in this [link](#).**
- **Phase 2: You will receive an email with live links to upload relevant documents (please check your Spam and Junk folders)**

Proposals responding to this Request for Proposals should be a maximum of 10 pages (excluding CVs), and include the following:

- Overview of relevant experience
- Proposed methodology and timeline
- Detailed and transparent budget, in EUROS, including time allocation and day rates

We thank all applicants for their interest; however, only shortlisted applicants will be contacted.

BCI is committed to good practice and transparency in the management of natural, human and financial resources. All applications will be reviewed under the principles and subject to BCI's policies on equal opportunity, non-discrimination, anti-bribery & corruption and conflict of interest.

# Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

## Technical Evaluation Criteria

- Demonstrated understanding of this RFP
- Quality and clarity of the proposed approach and methodology
- Feasibility of the proposed activity plan and timeline, and appropriateness of time allocated to delivering each task
- Relevant professional experience of the proposed consultant(s)
- Quality and relevance of the sample work submitted

## Financial Evaluation Criteria

- Quality and clarity of budget provided, and level of detail included
- Alignment of the budget to the activity timeline detailed in the technical proposal
- Value for money
- Adherence to the available budget