



Meeting Agenda

Programme Partner Meeting 2026
21 - 22 January | 11 - 12 February

Wednesday 21 January 2026

Day 1: FOUNDATIONS OF PARTNERSHIPS

07:00-10:00 GMT | Zoom Events

Objectives:

1. Celebrate Partner achievements and innovations.
2. Share progress since the Malaysia Programme Partner Meeting.
3. Ensure Partners are clear on how certification is operating and understand the certified producer monitoring process being introduced by BCI.
4. Ensure Partners understand the v3.2 regen requirements and the guidance and support that will be available to them.

Time	Topic	Presenter	Description
07:00 – 07:10	Welcome	Abdoul Aziz Yanogo Regional Manager, West Africa	Welcome to the Programme Partner Meeting 2026!
07:10– 07:20	Opening Address	Nick Weatherill , Chief Executive Officer	Hear from the Better Cotton Initiative CEO.
07:20– 07:25	Programme Overview	Iveta Ouvry , Senior Director of Programmes & Country Operations	Presenting programme highlights.
07:25 – 07:35	Participant introductions	Abdoul Aziz Yanogo	Interactive Menti poll
07:35 – 07:55	Commitments to Action	Graham Bruford , Global Knowledge Manager	Sharing Partner updates on the progress since the Malaysia Programme Partner Meeting.
07:55 – 08:10	Celebrating Success	Abdoul Aziz Yanogo	Programme Partner Innovation videos.
08:10 – 08:45	Certification and Monitoring	Tom Owen , Head of Certification	Hear the latest updates on Certification followed by an open Question & Answer

			session.
08:45 – 08:55	Celebrating Success – Field Staff of the Year nominations	Abdoul Aziz Yanogo	Let's celebrate the Field Staff of the Year nominations.
08:55 – 09:45	Partnering on Regenerative Practices	Fakhar Zaman , Regenerative Agriculture Manager Jeanne Schutz , Standards Manager	Learn more about the impact pathways and indicators on regenerative practices and hear a reminder about the new indicators and guidance. An opportunity to ask questions and clarify details about BCI's approach.
09:45 – 10:00	Closing Remarks	Rashida Bhaiji , Director of Farm Programmes Quality and Partnerships	Closing remarks and key takeaways from Day 1 of the Programme Partner Meeting.

Thursday 22 January 2026

DAY 2: CHANGES WE WISH TO SEE IN THE LIVES OF FARMERS

07:00-10:00 GMT | Zoom Events

Objectives:

1. Introduce Better Cotton's Impact priorities and focus.
2. Share Partner experiences of implementing cross-cutting approaches to increase field level impact.

Time	Topic	Presenter	Description
07:00 – 07:15	Welcome and Participant Networking	Amelia Sidumo , Senior Country Coordinator, Mozambique	Day 1 reflections and looking forward to Day 2.
07:15– 07:25	Objectives of the Day	Iain Gardiner , Senior Director of Impact and Development	Overview of Day 2 Objectives

07:25 - 08:15	Keynote Presentation	Ben Ramalingam , Author of 'Aid on the Edge of Chaos'	Keynote address - The Living Thread: Navigating Complexity in Sustainable Cotton through Adaptive Leadership, followed by a Question & Answer session.
08:15 - 08:25	Celebrating Success	Amelia Sidumo	Programme Partner Innovation videos.
08:25 - 08:30	Breakout Session Overview	Yrene Coli Rivera , Senior Gender Equality Coordinator	Participants will learn about the different breakout options and join one of four topical sessions
08:35 - 09:10	Breakout 1	Fakhar Zaman Nini Mehrota , Gender Equality Senior Manager Medhavinee Namjoshi , Senior Manager Gender Initiatives, Ambuja Foundation Dr. Sabyan Faris Honey , Regional Director, CABI Shahzad Ahmed , Project Coordinator, WWF	Strengthening Capacity for Impact: Gender responsive regenerative agriculture English, Urdu
08:35 - 09:10	Breakout 2	Karishma Chand , Regenerative Project Senior Officer Freddie Catlow , CEO, Planboo Kishorkumar Kore , Coordinator (Climate Change), Ambuja Foundation	Unlocking Finance through Biochar English, French, Hindi, Portuguese

08:35 – 09:10	Breakout 3	<p>Ashok Krishna, Sustainable Livelihoods Senior Coordinator</p> <p>Vamshi Krishna, Associate Director, WWF</p> <p>Nyamien Josia, Sustainability Manager, Olam Agri</p> <p>Sahiti Kachroo, Manager Social Compliance and Risk Management, Fairtrade NAPP</p>	<p>Re-centring Farmers: Exploring Collective Leadership Models</p> <p>English</p>
08:35 – 09:10	Breakout 4	<p>Idrees Haider, Climate Change and Regenerative Coordinator</p> <p>Riazuddin Kaswar, CEO, Spacenus</p> <p>Dr. Muzammil Farooq, Project Support Manager, CABI</p>	<p>Transforming Digital Pathways: Access to Information through Technology</p> <p>English, Mandarin Chinese, Turkish, Uzbek</p>
09:15 – 09:45	Plenary and reflections	Amelia Sidumo	Share back and discuss breakout sessions as a group.
09:45–09:55	Celebrating Success – Field Staff of the Year nominations	Amelia Sidumo	Let’s celebrate the Field Staff of the Year nominations.
09:55 – 10:00	Closing remarks	Iain Gardiner	Closing remarks and key takeaways from Day 2 of the Programme Partner Meeting.

Keynote Speaker



Ben Ramalingam
Author of 'Aid on the Edge of Chaos'

Ben Ramalingam is a global leader in strategy, innovation, and adaptation, currently leading the United Nations Strategic Review of Child Rights. With over two decades of experience across sustainable development, global health, and humanitarian response, he has shaped high-impact strategies and partnerships at UNICEF UK, the British Red Cross, OECD, UKRI, FCDO, and beyond. As an author and scientist, Ben is known for advancing systems approaches that help institutions and individuals adapt, innovate, and perform under conditions of complexity and crisis.

Speakers



Shahzad Ahmed
Project Coordinator, WWF

Shahzad Ahmed is a Project Coordinator at WWF Pakistan and holds a Master's degree in Agricultural Entomology. He is the focal point at WWF for crop protection theme in BCI project and has been associated with the Better Cotton Programme since 2015. Shahzad has extensive hands-on experience working across major cotton-growing regions of Punjab, where he has supported the adoption of crop protection practices. His work focuses on integrated pest management, capacity building of farmers on regenerative practices, and promoting environmentally responsible cotton production in line with Better Cotton standard.



Dr. Sabyan Faris Honey
Regional Director, CABI

Dr. Sabyan is Regional Director at CABI Central and West Asia with demonstrated experience in research and developmental in the field of agriculture. His recent experiences include working with the government at the federal and provincial level, the US Department of Agriculture, USAID and key agriculture associations. He has been trained in project management and implementation through the 'CABI Future Leader Program' and 'Strategic Account Management.' In recent years, he has been involved in the management and delivery of projects related to biological control for pests of commercial interests, food safety, SPS compliance, and supply chain development. His current portfolio involves developing partnerships with

departments, organizations and funding agencies. He has taken up a challenge to promote sustainable farming in the agriculture sector with the conservation of natural ecosystems through biocontrol techniques and safer use of plant protection products which will hope to improve food access, sustainable income and social benefits for the agro-food chain.



Medhavinee Namjoshi
Senior Manager Gender Initiatives, Ambuja Foundation

Medhavinee Namjoshi is a development consultant specializing in gender equity, agency-building, and inclusive development. She brings over two decades of experience in nonprofit management, strategic planning, program evaluation, and advocacy. Her work sits at the intersection of gender, policy, and community empowerment, where she integrates a strong gender lens to enhance the agency of marginalized groups, particularly youth, women, and girls.



Freddie Catlow
CEO and Co-founder

Freddie is the CEO and co-founder of Planboo, with five years of experience developing biochar carbon removal projects across the tropics. He brings deep biochar industry knowledge and has built partnerships to deliver projects operating across nine countries, securing multi-year carbon offtakes with leading buyers including Shopify, Workday, and Oliver Wyman.



Kishorkumar Kore Coordinator
Climate Change, Ambuja Foundation

Kishorkumar Kore works as the Coordinator, Climate Change at the Ambuja Foundation. In this role, he has supported more than one lakh cotton farmers across Maharashtra by promoting climate-resilient and regenerative agriculture practices. He leads capacity strengthening and technical training for a field team of over 300 staff and supports field-level implementation with a focus on biochar production, soil health improvement, biomass utilization, and carbon sequestration. He also leads the implementation of innovative community-led and entrepreneur-driven biochar models, contributing to climate change mitigation, sustainable livelihoods, and enhanced farm resilience.



Josia Nyamien Epse Coulibaly
Corporate Responsibility & Sustainability Manager, Olam Agri
Côte d'Ivoire Cotton (SECO)

Josia Nyamien Epse Coulibaly is the Corporate Responsibility & Sustainability Manager at Olam Agri Côte d'Ivoire Cotton (SECO). An agronomist specialized in agro-economics, she brings over 15 years of experience across sustainable cotton value chains in West Africa. She has led and overseen climate-resilient and certified agricultural programmes supporting more than 20,000 smallholder farmers, with a strong focus on gender equity and women's empowerment in rural communities.

Her work also covers integrated community development initiatives aimed at improving household livelihoods through capacity building, access to essential services, promotion of decent work, and strengthened economic resilience. Josia serves as the focal point for major sustainability and certification standards including Better Cotton, Cotton made in Africa (CmiA), Regenagri, and Organic, playing a key role in compliance, impact measurement, and continuous improvement across certified cotton projects.



Sahiti Kachroo
Manager Social Compliance and Risk Management, Fairtrade
NAPP

Sahiti Kachroo is a lawyer and criminologist dedicated to advancing social justice at the grassroots level. As the Social Compliance and Risk Mitigation Manager at Fairtrade NAPP, she focuses on empowering farmer collectives across the Asia-Pacific region to adopt ethical and sustainable practices. Sahiti specializes in translating complex rights-based frameworks into practical, community-led solutions for Farmer Producer Organizations. By integrating risk mitigation and remediation with inclusive training and programs, she ensures that farmer-led enterprises remain resilient, compliant, and central to a fairer global trade system.



Vamshi Krishna
Associate Director of the Sustainable Agriculture
Programme, WWF

Vamshi Krishna is Associate Director of the Sustainable Agriculture Programme at WWF-India, with over 20 years of leadership experience in sustainable agriculture and multi-stakeholder partnerships. He has led the

design and scaling of large initiatives promoting regenerative agriculture, climate-smart practices, and sustainable supply chains across India.

Vamshi was part of the initial core team that helped develop the Better Cotton Initiative from its early programme stage in 2005, contributing to its conceptualisation, pilot field models, and testing of sustainable cotton practices between 2005 and 2010. His work spans cotton and multiple commodity value chains, strategic collaborations with governments, corporates, and farmer institutions, and adapting global sustainability standards to local contexts to deliver measurable environmental and social outcomes. He has also developed landscape-level agroforestry and wildlife-friendly farming models that integrate nature conservation with smallholder livelihoods.

Vamshi holds a postgraduate degree in Agriculture along with certifications in leadership and senior management.



Dr. Muzammil Farooq
Programme Support Manager, CAB International

Dr. Muzammil Farooq is an Integrated Pest Management (IPM), SPS value chain, and sustainability standards expert with over 10 years of experience in advancing sustainable and climate-smart agriculture. At CABI, he leads initiatives on digital farmer advisory systems, biopesticide integration, and sustainable cotton value chains, with a growing focus on pest risk modelling and AI-enabled decision support in Pakistan.

Dr. Farooq works closely with government institutions, development partners, and farming communities to strengthen biopesticide regulatory frameworks, expand digital access to timely and actionable agricultural information, and enhance farmer compliance with sustainability standards. His work contributes to building resilient, inclusive, and scalable digital pathways that support safer crop protection and informed decision-making.



Riazuddin Kawsar
CEO, Spacenus GmbH

Riazuddin Kawsar is the CEO of Spacenus GmbH, a geospatial intelligence company using Earth observation and AI to support sustainable development. He leads Project ReCotton, developed with Better Cotton Initiative, which applies digital and space-based tools to enable regenerative cotton practices verification, and evidence-based ESG decision-making.