



Newsletter

July 09

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- Membership: principles of participation and fees – *please comment by 31 July*
- Global Stakeholder Workshop – summary report
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Woman picking cotton, in Aurangabad, India, © BCI

Latest publications

- Statutes of BCI Association

Coming soon on bettercotton.org

- Final Report: 2nd Pakistan Regional Working Group Meeting
- Final BCI Production Principles and Criteria 2.0
- BCI Production Principles and Criteria 2.0 EXPLAINED

Latest Better Cotton Partners:

- Migros
- Ecom Agroindustrial Ltd.

Formation of BCI Membership Association

On July 1st 2009 BCI Steering Committee members, Better Cotton Partners and Producer Organisations convened to inaugurate the not-for-profit Membership Association.

The following organisations adopted by consensus the Statutes of the Association: ABRAPA (Brazilian Association of Cotton Producers), adidas, AProCA (African Cotton Producers Association), ASDA, Ecom Agroindustrial, Farmers Associate of Pakistan, Federation of Farmers Associations (India), Gap Inc., H&M, Hemtex, Interchurch Organisation for Development Co-operation (ICCO), International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP), International Finance Corporation (IFC), IKEA, Levi Strauss & Co., Marks & Spencer, Migros, Pesticide Action Network UK (PAN-UK), Solidaridad, WWF.



July 1st 2009, participants of the Association formation meeting and the BCI support team

The participants elected the following organisations to the Council of the Association:

Civil Society:

Pesticide Action Network UK
Solidaridad
WWF

Producers:

ABRAPA
Federation of Farmers Associations
International Federation of Agricultural Producers

Retailers & Brands:

H&M
IKEA
Levi Strauss & Co.

Suppliers & Manufacturers:

Ecom Agroindustrial Ltd.

Following its formation, the Council elected a:

- Chair: Guido Verijke (IKEA), chair@bettercotton.org
- Vice-chair: Walter Wagner (WWF), vice-chair@bettercotton.org
- Treasurer: Damien Sanfilippo (PAN-UK)
- Secretary: Janet Mensink (Solidaridad), secretary@bettercotton.org

BCI

Better Cotton Initiative



The Better Cotton Initiative sincerely thanks its founding members for their leadership and commitment in bringing the BCI to its inauguration. The founding members are adidas, Gap Inc., H&M, ICCO, IFAP, IFC, IKEA, Organic Exchange, Oxfam, PAN UK, and WWF.



Group discussions at the global stakeholder workshop, © BCI

Consultation: membership principles of participation and fees

In order to achieve its mission and long-term objectives, BCI needs to define the commitments all members will make in becoming members. To this end, BCI has contracted Ergon Associates, an independent consultancy, to develop principles of participation for BCI members. These principles of participation are now under public consultation until the end of July 2009.

Organisations admitted as members will be expected to apply these principles in their activities. BCI recognises that its members are at different positions within the cotton value chain, and have different capacities to undertake activities. Therefore, within some principles, BCI has developed obligations that apply to different types of members.

The principles of participation are under consultation until 31 July 2009. It is intended that they are approved by the Council in September 2009, before coming into effect in January 2010. The current framework and fees for involvement in BCI remains valid until the end of 2009, with an Advisory committee, Better Cotton Partners, Experts and Friends.

The final draft membership principles of participation and fees are available to download at www.bettercotton.org

2009 global stakeholder workshop

On 30 June 2009, BCI held its 2009 Global Stakeholder Workshop in Zurich.

The focus of the discussions was around:

- The Better Cotton system;
- The Final Production Principles and Criteria;
- The Membership Principles of Participation and Fees;
- Supply Chain: from the field to the bale and from the bale to the shelves;
- Plans for the implementation of the Better Cotton System.

Some 40 organisations ranging from producer organisations to retailers, civil society and international organisations participated in making this meeting an important step in the finalisation of the Better Cotton System.

Regional Working Groups Reports

Over the past 2 years the BCI has been consulting with stakeholders in its 4 focus regions to develop a globally applicable system to grow Better Cotton that also takes into account local conditions and circumstances. The reports of the two meetings with each Regional Working Group are all available on BCI's website:

- Brazil: <http://bettercotton.org/index/34/brazil.html>
- India: <http://bettercotton.org/index/33/india.html>
- Pakistan: <http://bettercotton.org/index/32/pakistan.html>
- West and Central Africa: http://bettercotton.org/index/35/west_&_central_africa.html