

Terms of Reference for the Verification of Seasonal Data (Farmer's List) under BCI Program

1. Background

1.1 About IDH

IDH the Sustainable Trade Initiative (“IDH”) accelerates and up-scales sustainable trade by building impact-oriented coalitions of front running companies, civil society, governments, knowledge institutions and other stakeholders in several commodity sectors. We convene the interests, strengths and knowledge of public and private partners in sustainability commodity programs that aim to mainstream international and domestic commodity markets. We jointly formulate strategic intervention plans with public and private partners, and we co-invest with partners in activities that towards establishing a business case for public good.

1.2 About BCGIF

The Better Cotton Growth and Innovation Fund (BC GIF) is a global programme designed to support Better Cotton Initiative in its aim. The fund identifies, supports and invests in field-level programmes and innovation while fostering adoption of the Better Cotton Standard System by governments, trade associations and other national-scale entities.

The Better Cotton GIF is governed by the BCI Council in partnership with BCI Retailer and Brand Members, BCI Civil Society Members, and Government Bodies. IDH, the Sustainable Trade Initiative, is the official Fund Manager along with being an important funder.

1.3 About BCI

The Better Cotton Initiative (BCI) is a global not-for-profit organisation and the largest cotton sustainability programme in the world. BCI exists to make global cotton production better for the people who produce it, better for the environment it grows in and better for the sector's future. In less than 10 years, the Better Cotton Initiative and its Partners have supported over 2.3 million farmers in 23 countries in adopting more sustainable agricultural practices. Thanks to these efforts, Better Cotton accounts for around 22% of global cotton production. We are truly a joint effort, encompassing stakeholders all the way from farms to fashion brands and civil society organisations, driving the cotton sector toward sustainability. BCI aims to transform cotton production worldwide by developing Better Cotton as a sustainable mainstream commodity. BCI works closely with stakeholders all the way from farms to fashion brands and civil society organisations, driving the cotton sector toward sustainability.

The Better Cotton Standard System (BCSS) is at the heart of BCI's approach and includes six main components: the Better Cotton Principles & Criteria, assurance programme, capacity building, chain of custody, monitoring and evaluation, and the Claims Framework.

1.4 Program Information

The Better Cotton Initiative programme is delivered through a network of Implementing Partners' (IPs), who may be civil society partners/cotton supply chain partners/ NGO's etc. The Implementing

partners are a critical part of BCI's operating model and the key touchpoint between the BCSS and cotton farmers.

This assignment aims to conduct an independent verification of farmer's data submitted by a project. The farmers are grouped into Producer Units (PUs). A Producer Unit is a group farmers who participate in the BCI programme through a group assurance model. Each PU is overseen by a dedicated PU Manager, who is responsible for implementing an internal management system to support, train, and monitor farmers across the PU with the assistance of IP Management. The size of a PU depends on local circumstances in terms of area, number of villages etc., although the optimal size is between 3,500 to 4,000 farmers. Farmers in a Smallholder PU are further divided into Learning Groups (LGs).

2. Detail of Assignment

2.1 Scope of Work

The purpose of this ToR is to identify a consultant (individual, firm, or group) to conduct an independent review of the seasonal data submitted by a project (group of Producer units) in Maharashtra. BCI Collects the seasonal data from all the participating farmers through the field staff of the producer unit during the start, in between and end of the season.

The means of verification should be remote considering the prevailing pandemic situation. All the parameters in the seasonal data needs to be checked, including the area, farmer details and needs to be perfectly noted for accuracy and discrepancies (if any). The details on parameters will be shared with the consultant.

The consultant will be responsible for the following tasks:

- Define sample size and methodology based on information provided by BCI team.
- Conduct remote verification (telephonic call) for the selected farmers in Marathi language.
- Submission of final report.

2.2 Assignment Duration

Assignment will be completed over a 4-5 week period with final report to be submitted by the end of August 2021.

Timeline	Date
Last date for proposals submission	20 July 2021
Selection of Consultant	27 July 2021
Assignment implementation to be start on	28 th July 2021
Final Report submission	31 August 2021

3. Process & selection criteria:

Interested consultants can submit a brief overview of relevant experience, and a short proposal including a proposed work plan with due dates and final deliverables, and financial proposal before 20th July 2021 to Ms. Shalini Raghav raghav@idhtrade.org.

The consultant (individual, firm, or group) should have:

- A track record of similar work and previous working experience.
- Capacity to conduct the assignment within the defined time frame.

Relevant background material:

The following links are attached to this ToR to provide additional background information:

- <https://bettercotton.org/>
- <https://bettercotton.org/get-involved/growth-and-innovation-fund/>
- <https://www.idhsustainabletrade.com/sectors/cotton/>