



COTTON
MADE IN
AFRICA



Aggregated Verification & Implementation Report 2022

June 2023



INTRODUCTION	3
VERIFIED COTTON COMPANIES IN 2022 AND COTTON PRODUCTION IN THE 2021/22 SEASON	10
OVERVIEW OF VERIFICATION MISSIONS IN 2022	13
PERFORMANCE RESULTS 2022	15
FARMER TRAININGS PROVIDED BY CMIA COTTON COMPANIES	23
IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT BY ABTF	26



INTRODUCTION

About

Cotton made in Africa (CmiA) is a well-recognised standard that follows a **continuous improvement approach** for a sustainable development of the cotton sector in African countries south of the Sahara.

Compliance with the standard requirements is regularly monitored by **third-party verifiers** to give independent feedback to cotton companies on their performance and to ensure CmiA remains a **credible standard** that brands and retailers, and ultimately consumers can have confidence in. The verification process is a tool which at the same time checks if the cotton companies comply with the **standard minimum requirements**, and independently assesses the success in continuously improving the sustainability performance, thus motivating each company to further advance.

By comparing verification results across the certified cotton companies, the Aid by Trade Foundation (AbTF) can analyse remaining challenges and jointly act with all relevant stakeholders to overcome those hurdles.

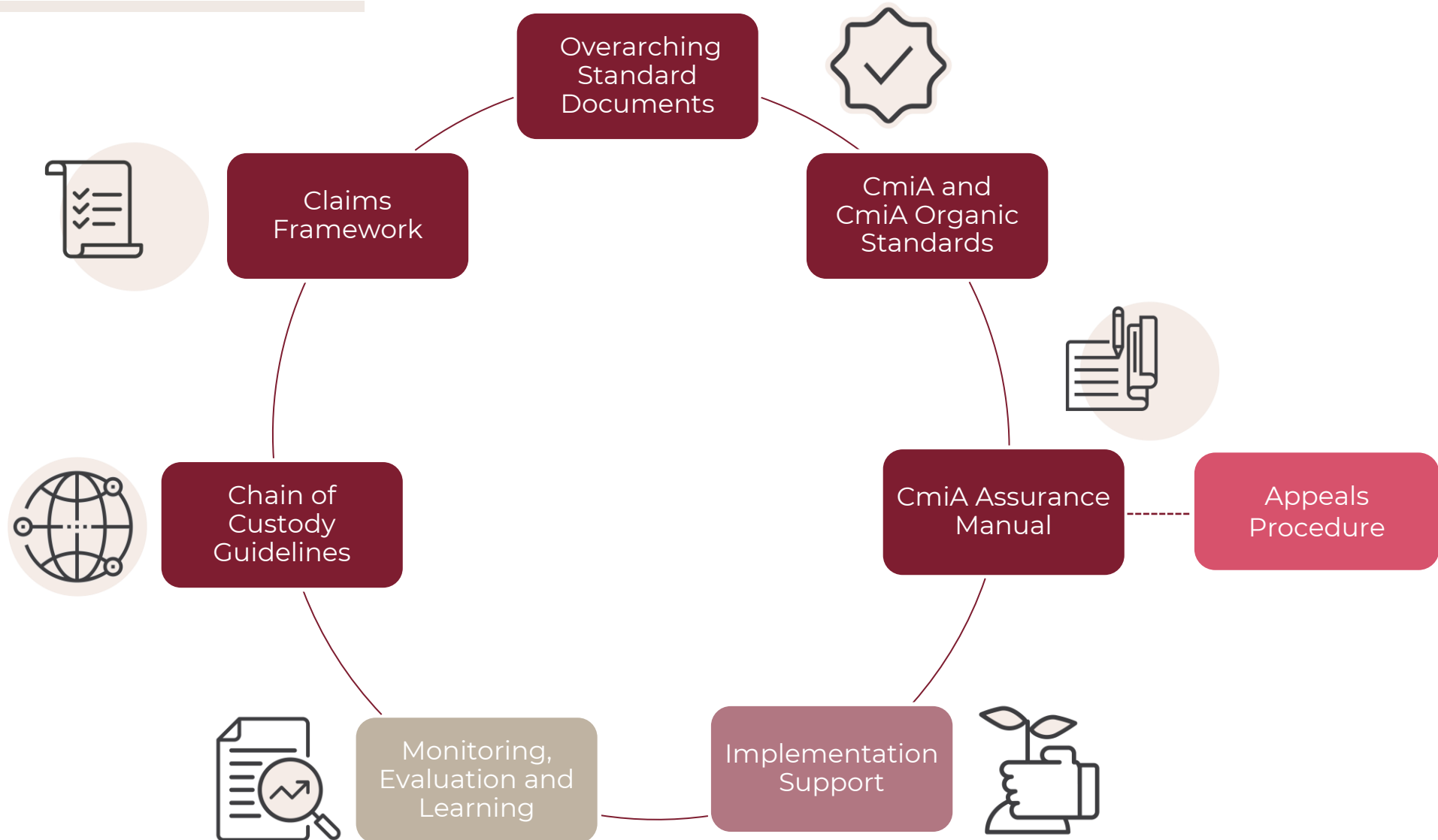


Independent and qualified third-party auditors regularly check the performance of cotton companies (“Managing Entities”) participating in CmiA, on farm level – i.e. related to the contracted small-holder farmers – and at the ginnery level – i.e. in one or more ginning factories – against the requirements of the Cotton made in Africa standards (CmiA and CmiA Organic).

The **annually published Aggregated Verification Report** provides information on the **results of last years’ verification missions**, serves as a reference to monitor future verifications, and helps to continuously revise and improve the work on farm and ginnery levels in line with the CmiA standards.

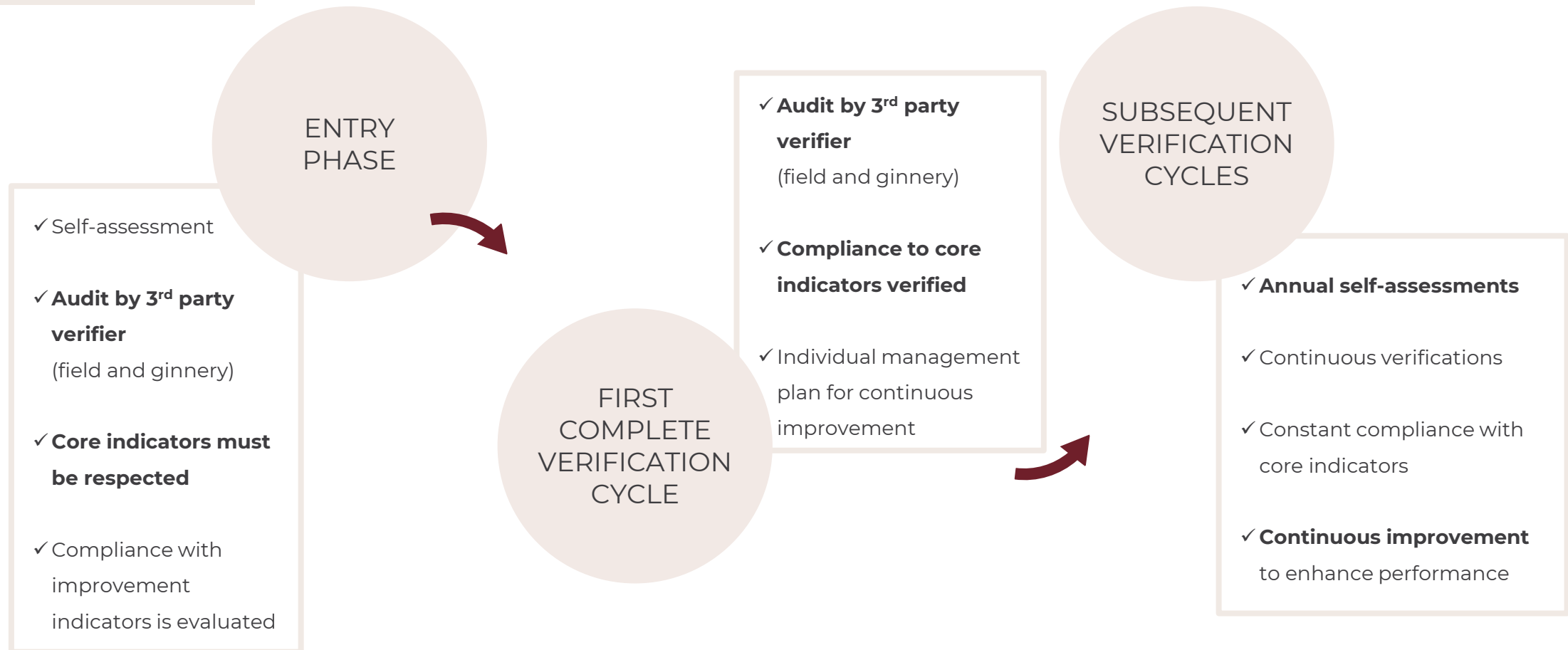
The following chapters comprise an **overview of the 2022 performance results** of verified cotton companies, the **verification management activities** conducted by AbTF as well as the **implementation support offered**.

Overview of the CmiA Standards System





The Cotton made in Africa Standards System works for continuous improvement, credibility and transparency and follows a defined procedure





The CmiA Standard covers the most significant aspects of cotton cultivation and ginning



MANAGEMENT

The Management Pillar

sets out the requirements related to responsible business conduct, the verification process, and commitment to CmiA values.



PEOPLE

The People Pillar

contains requirements intended to define CmiA's understanding of small-scale farmers and to ensure decent working conditions on ginning mill level, it specifically focuses on the empowerment and development of women and children.



PLANET

The Planet Pillar

aims to cover the most pressing environmental issues and to define how cotton can be cultivated in a way that mitigates negative impacts for nature while increasing the resilience of the agro-ecosystem and the environment of communities farming cotton in rural areas across Africa south of the Sahara.



PROSPERITY

The Prosperity Pillar

consists of requirements that enable cotton farmers to acquire fundamental business skills and to sustainably increase productivity and quality. On a broader scale, these requirements make it possible for communities to improve their livelihoods and resilience.

Principles of the CmiA Standard

The **principles represent the aspirational goals and expectations** that CmiA has with regard to the CmiA Managing Entities and farmers.

Each principle contains several criteria (in total 58). The criteria are **requirements that need to be met in order to fulfil a principle**. In addition to the principles and criteria, there are also **indicators**, which are **measurable aspects that enable verifiers to assess whether or not the corresponding criterion has been met**. At the indicator level, the CmiA standard Vol. 4 distinguishes between **core and improvement indicators**. Core indicators must be fulfilled for a verified Managing Entity to obtain or maintain a CmiA certificate. A **systemic non-compliance with a core indicator will lead to the denial or withdrawal of the Managing Entity's CmiA certificate**. Non-compliance with improvement indicators does not, in itself, prevent a Managing Entity from obtaining a CmiA certificate. The responsibility for ensuring compliance with the CmiA principles, criteria, and indicators lies with the Managing Entity.



In 2022, numerous Standard documents were published in revised form or as new versions



Standard Setting and Revision Procedure

specifies the procedure to be followed by AbTF when developing a new cotton standard and when substantive changes to existing cotton standards are required to be made.



Complaints Policy and Procedure

designed to find meaningful resolutions that address stakeholder concerns regarding CmiA and CmiA Organic.



CmiA Assurance Manual

describes responsibilities and processes for verification of the CmiA Standard requirements and replaces the previously produced "Verification Governance".



CmiA Appeals Procedure

defines how to file a formal appeal against the verification results and sets out the process of the appeals procedure.

CmiA Appeals Committee Guidelines

identify roles and responsibilities.

CmiA Appeals Submission Form

specifies the structure and content to be provided for the appeal.



Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning System Report

describes AbTF's approach to impact monitoring and how the results are integrated into further work.





VERIFIED COTTON COMPANIES IN 2022 AND COTTON PRODUCTION IN THE 2021/22 SEASON

In 2022, CmiA worked with 19 partnering cotton companies in 10 African countries south of the Sahara

1 CÔTE D'IVOIRE
CIDT
COIC
Ivoire Coton
SECO

2 BURKINA FASO
Faso Coton
SOFITEX

3 TOGO
NSCT

4 BENIN
OBEPAB
SODECO

5 NIGERIA
ArewaCotton

6 CHAD
Cotontchad

7 CAMEROON
SODECOTON

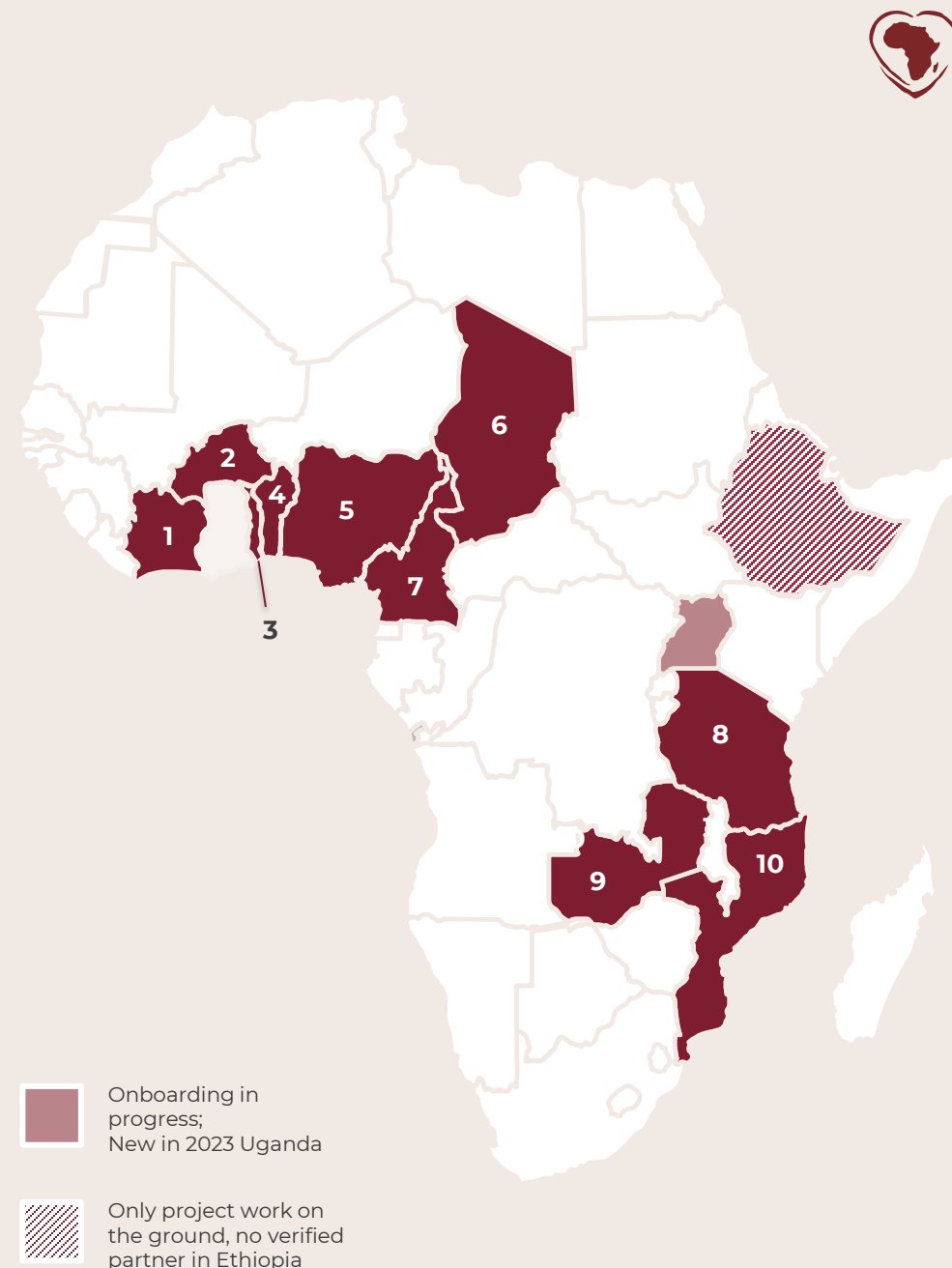
8 TANZANIA
Alliance
Biosustain

9 ZAMBIA
Alliance
Highland Cotton Trading
LDC Zambia
Parrogate Group: CGL

10 MOZAMBIQUE
SAN JFS

In total, the number of cotton companies verified according to CmiA and CmiA Organic was reduced to 19 at the end of 2022. With a total of five cotton companies, the partnership ended during the year. The cotton sector in Uganda was hit by numerous challenges, and so all three partners there discontinued their cotton business activities. Similarly, one cotton company in Zambia and another in Mozambique were affected.

At the same time, a cotton company in Togo and a non-governmental organisation in Benin successfully completed the first verification cycle and became new verified partners. In Uganda, a new company is in the onboarding process and has already successfully undergone verification at field level in 2022.



CmiA cotton production overview 2022



2022
Harvest 2021/22

Verified cotton companies
(as of 12/2022)



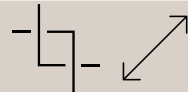
19

Farmers



901,798

Area (ha)



1,824,743

Seed cotton (mt)



1,720,673

Lint cotton (mt)



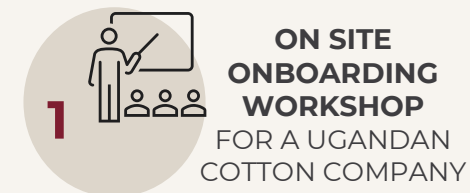
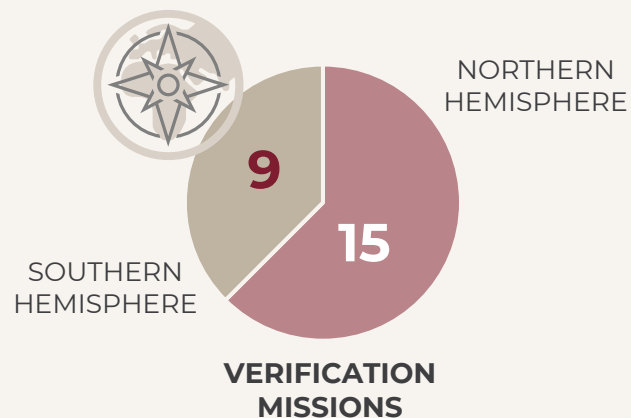
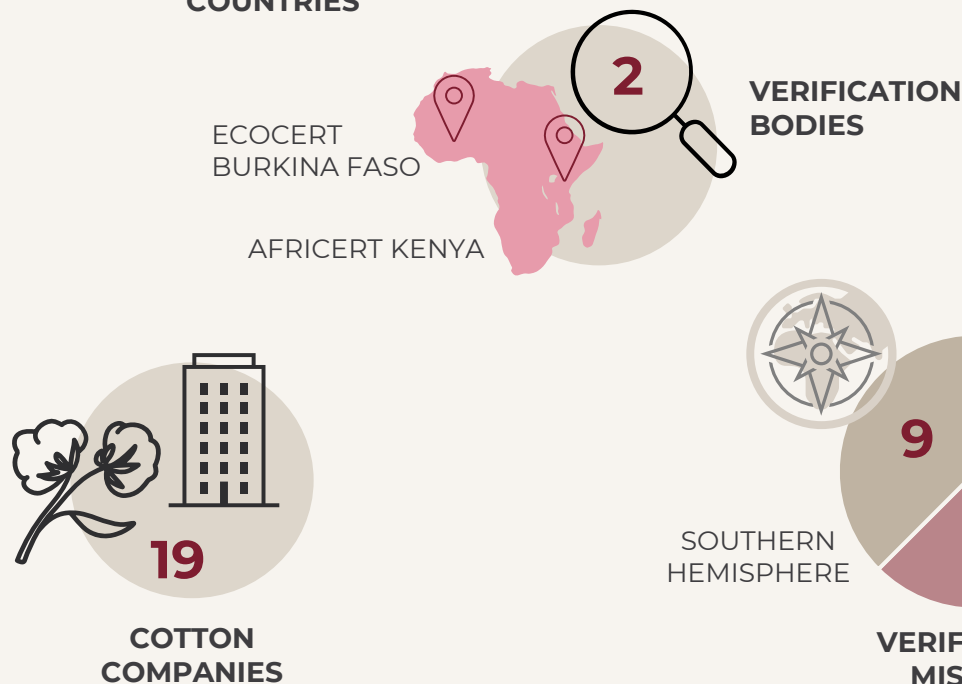
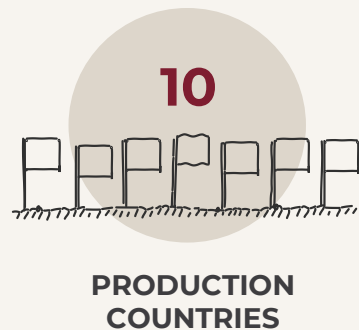
716,397

In 2022, about 900,000 smallholder families producing about 715,000 tonnes of lint cotton on an area of about 1.8 million hectares were verified under the CmiA and CmiA Organic standards.



OVERVIEW OF VERIFICATION MISSIONS IN 2022

Verification activities overview 2022





PERFORMANCE RESULTS 2022

Average ratings of 2022 verifications



Cotton made in Africa

In the following, performance levels in 2022 are presented on an aggregated level.

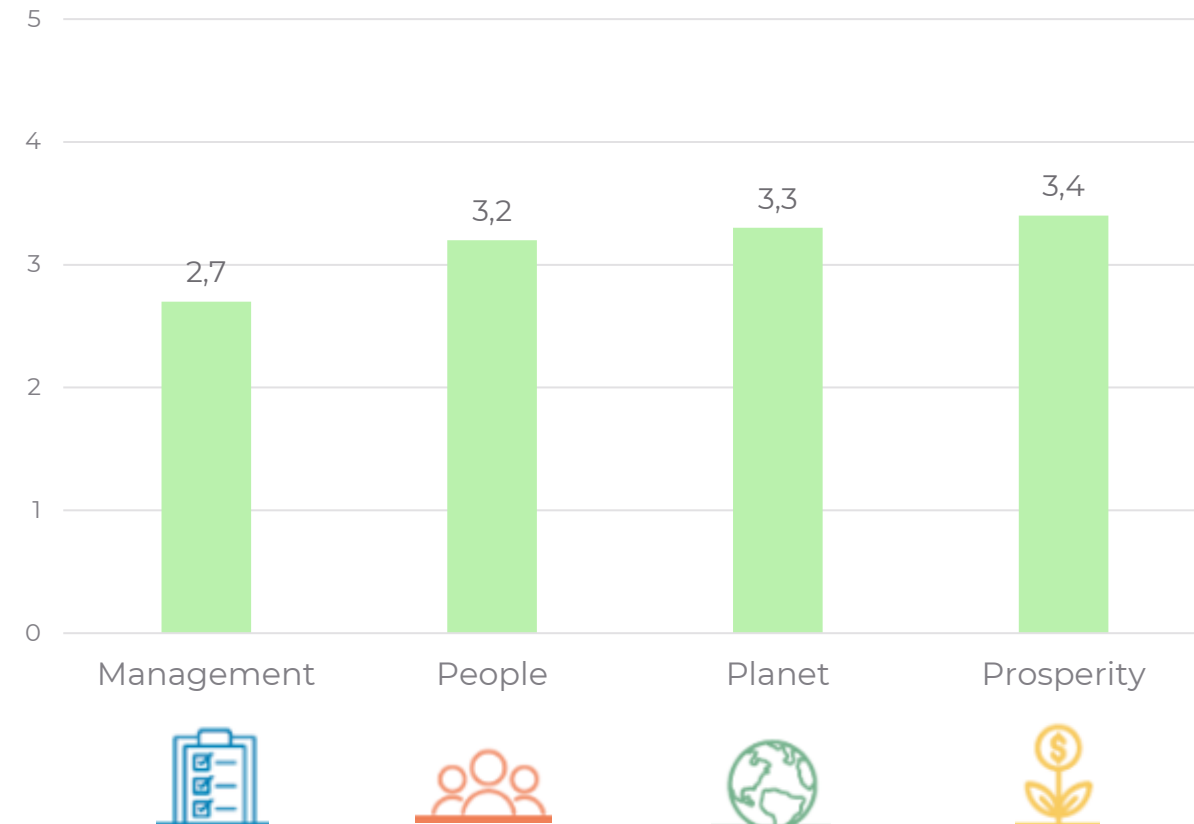
Overall, the findings of the 2022 verifications show that Managing Entities already demonstrate decent knowledge and implementation of indicators which were already valid in CmiA Vol. 3.1. For the new and additional indicators of Vol. 4, it is expected that Managing Entities will improve continuously.

Average results per Pillar



The verification results from 2022 show that, aggregated, the performance of the CmiA verified partners is homogeneous in all four pillars and they achieve overall good results.

The Prosperity pillar performs best, followed by Planet and People.



Average results per Principle



This graph shows a more detailed picture of the overall performance results of the 12 principles. The CmiA verified partners score excellent in principle 10 and three principles are rated very good. 6 principles are good, whereby the performance in principle 2 and 12 are still moderate.



Distribution of ratings among Criteria



The illustration shows that six criteria were rated excellent. The majority of criteria received very good (21) or good (16) ratings. Only one criterion is rated as sufficient and none of the criteria received poor ratings.

CRITERIA WITH EXCELLENT RATING



5.1 The Managing Entity guarantees free choice of employment and ensures that there is no forced or compulsory labour, which includes bonded or trafficked labour.



8.1 CmiA cotton is not genetically modified and no irrigation from surface or groundwater sources is used for its cultivation.



9.2 The Managing Entity only uses pesticides that are: (1) nationally registered and approved for use in cotton cultivation; and (2) labelled according to national standards in at least one of the national languages or an applicable official regional language.



9.4 By 2024, the Managing Entity must phase out the use of pesticides with active ingredients that are defined as carcinogenic, mutagenic, or reprotoxic (CMR) substances according to categories 1A and 1B of GHS.



9.5 The Managing Entity ensures that pesticides are only prepared and applied by persons who are: (a) healthy; (b) skilled and trained in the application of pesticides; (c) 18 years of age or older; and (d) not pregnant or nursing.



10.3 The Managing Entity offers pre-financing possibilities for inputs to interested CmiA-contracted farmers.

CRITERIA WITH SUFFICIENT RATING



2.4 The Managing Entity ensures subcontractor compliance with the CmiA standard.





Details at indicator level using the example of Criterion 8.3:

The Managing Entity and CmiA-contracted farmers nurture soil health and apply techniques for soil conservation

Verification results for core indicators on soil health and soil protection



Detailed results: Distribution of ratings among Indicators



CmiA aims at preserving human health and livelihoods as well as the natural environment. To reach these objectives, CmiA partners must not have a systemic non-compliance with core indicators. For all 19 Managing Entities verified in 2022, verifications proved that none were found with a systemic non-compliance of core indicators of the CmiA Standard.

The illustration shows the distribution of all 289 indicators based on the verification results of the 2022 audits. The majority of the indicator scores are in the excellent to good range. Few indicators score poor, and all of these are exclusively improvement indicators.

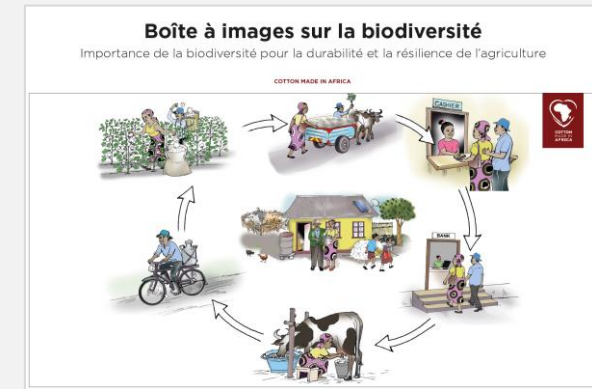
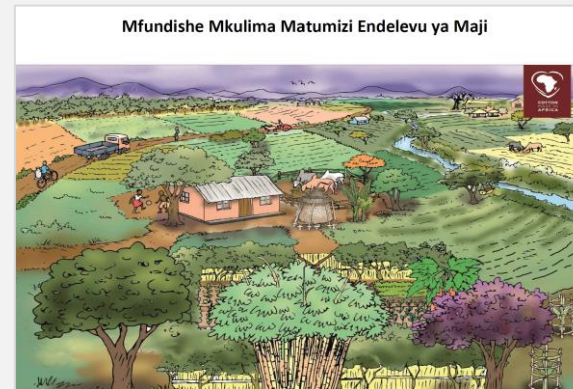


Measures derived from the verification results



To support CmiA partners to better implement the CmiA Vol. 4 standard, actions have been taken:

Development of **training materials** on **biodiversity and water stewardship** available in English, French, Portuguese and Kiswahili for all CmiA partners



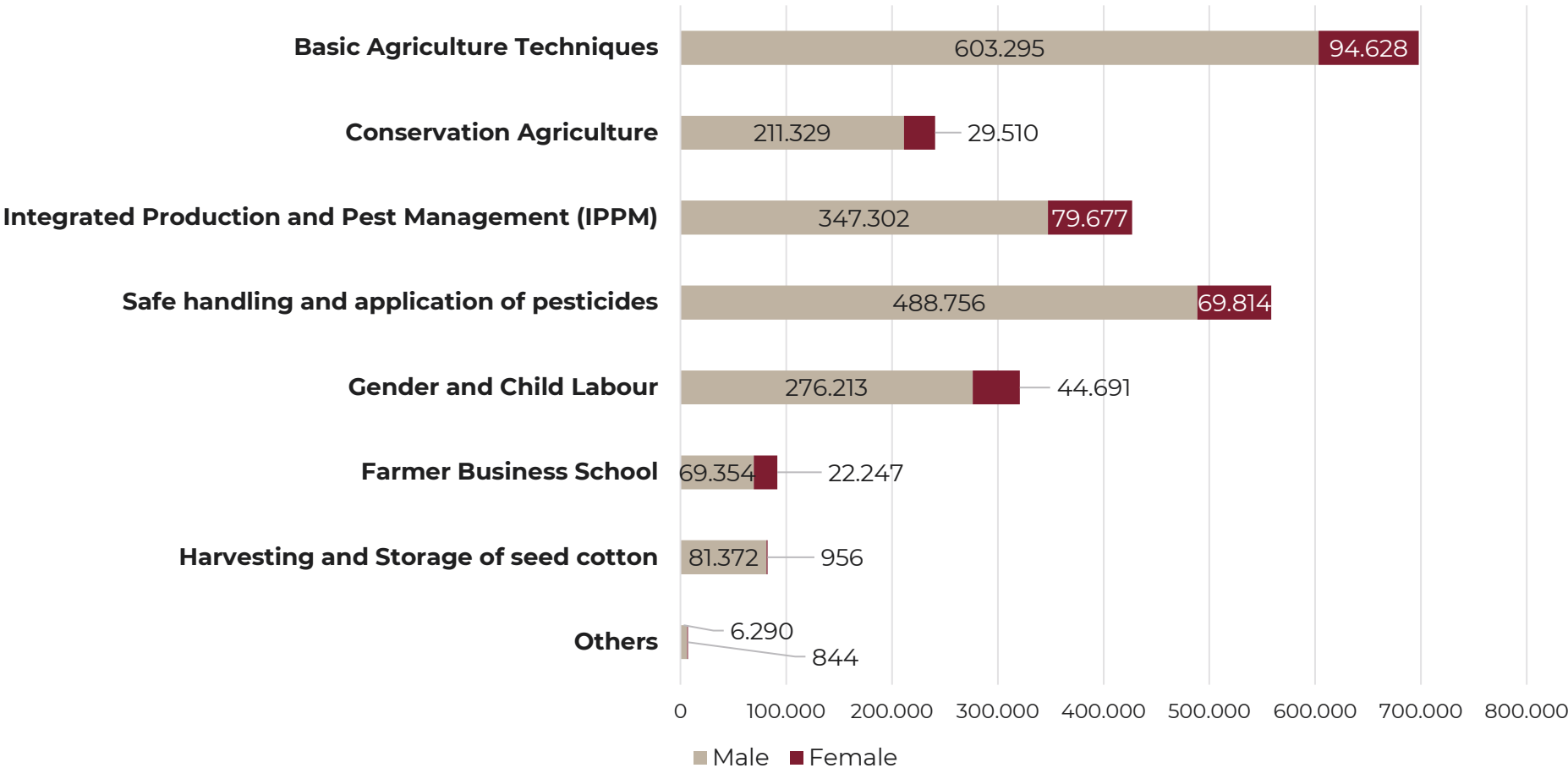
Trainings of trainers (ToT) on soil improvement measures such as **compost, biochar and bokashi**, e.g. for CAR-iSma project partners





FARMER TRAININGS PROVIDED BY CMIA COTTON COMPANIES

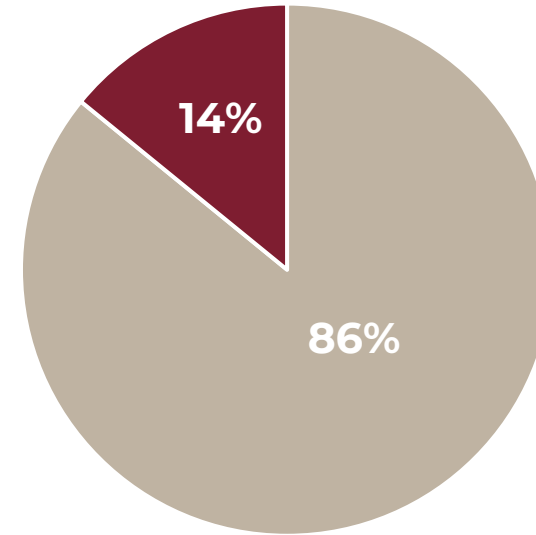
Attendees of farm level trainings by gender



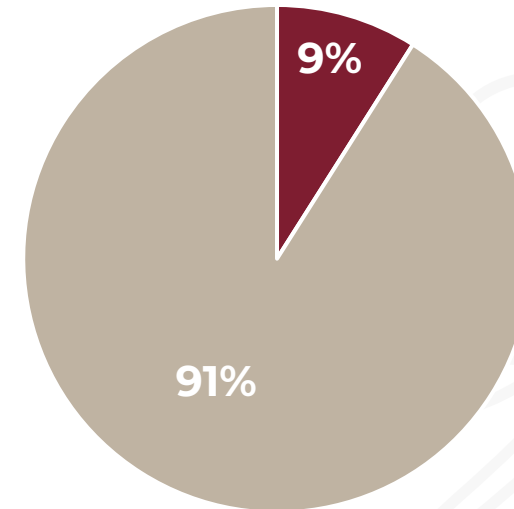
Training attendance by gender compared to CmiA farmers at market

In 2022, CmiA verified cotton companies conducted farm level trainings on various topics with a total participation of **14% female** and **86% male** smallholder farmers.

In comparison, 9% of all CmiA-contracted farmers were women in 2022.



Training attendance by gender 2022



CmiA-contracted farmers by gender 2022

■ Female ■ Male



IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT BY ABTF



Events for knowledge transfer and exchange

**REGIONAL WORKSHOP
FOR EAST AND SOUTH
AFRICAN PARTNERS IN
TANZANIA**

**JOINT WORKSHOP WITH
ACF IN KENYA**

**CMIA STAKEHOLDER
CONFERENCE IN
GERMANY**



Project funding for training and other implementation measures

CAR-ISMA PROJECT

**GROWING BENIN'S
ORGANIC COTTON
SECTOR PROJECT**

**COOPERATION
AGREEMENT BETWEEN
ACF AND ABTF**

**WATER STEWARDSHIP
PROJECT**



- AbTF invited two representatives of each certified cotton company from Tanzania, Zambia, Mozambique and Nigeria
- The three-day workshop included an exchange on standard requirements, newly developed training materials and reports about project activities of various partners
- A field trip to SJS Organic Farms to get to know their “One Acre Farm” concept and activities around composting, effective microorganisms and the use of bio-pesticides was organized



Regional workshop participants in Moshi (Tanzania)



- Three-day workshop with 26 participants
- Presentation of different approaches to improve soil health and agricultural techniques for integrated plant and pest management
- The workshop involved a field trip to a Kenyan company that produces a range of products for biological pest control including various microbes as well as pheromone and sticky traps



Workshop participants in Nairobi (Kenya)

CMiA STAKEHOLDER CONFERENCE IN BREMEN, GERMANY

Cotton made in Africa

- AbTF invited one representative of each certified cotton company to the two-day event
- Topics included expert presentations on regenerative agriculture, digital applications to support smallholder families, panel discussions on innovation and transparency in the supply chain
- The third day, a field trip for CmiA partners was organized to a farm which implements measures to protect biodiversity and improve soil fertility in a scientifically accompanied project



Spotlight on innovations for cotton, Africa and global supply chains at the CmiA Stakeholder Conference in Bremen





- Launched in 2021, the project aims to improve the livelihoods of around 100,000 smallholder cotton farmers through sustainable production methods for soil management
- Three cotton companies are local project partners (in Côte d'Ivoire, Mozambique, Zambia) and the consortium is completed by a Swiss cotton trader
- In 2022, tailored approaches with a focus on soil health were developed for each partner in collaboration with the external soil consultancy Soil&More Impacts



Soil expert during a compost training in Côte d'Ivoire

GROWING BENIN'S ORGANIC COTTON SECTOR

Cotton made in Africa

- A project coordinated by PAN UK and implemented by the non-governmental organization OBEPAB
- The goals of the project are that at the end of the three-year term (2021-2023), a total of 9,000 farmers will be CmiA Organic certified, their living conditions will be improved and long-term investments in the organic cotton sector in Benin will be ensured through expanded market access via CmiA stakeholder networks
- AbTF supports the project financially, through direct engagement and with access to its network of brands and retailers

Project funding for training and other implementation measures



Coordinator and founder of OBEPAB and the ICS and gender officer

COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN ACF AND ABTF

Cotton made in Africa

Project funding for training and other implementation measures



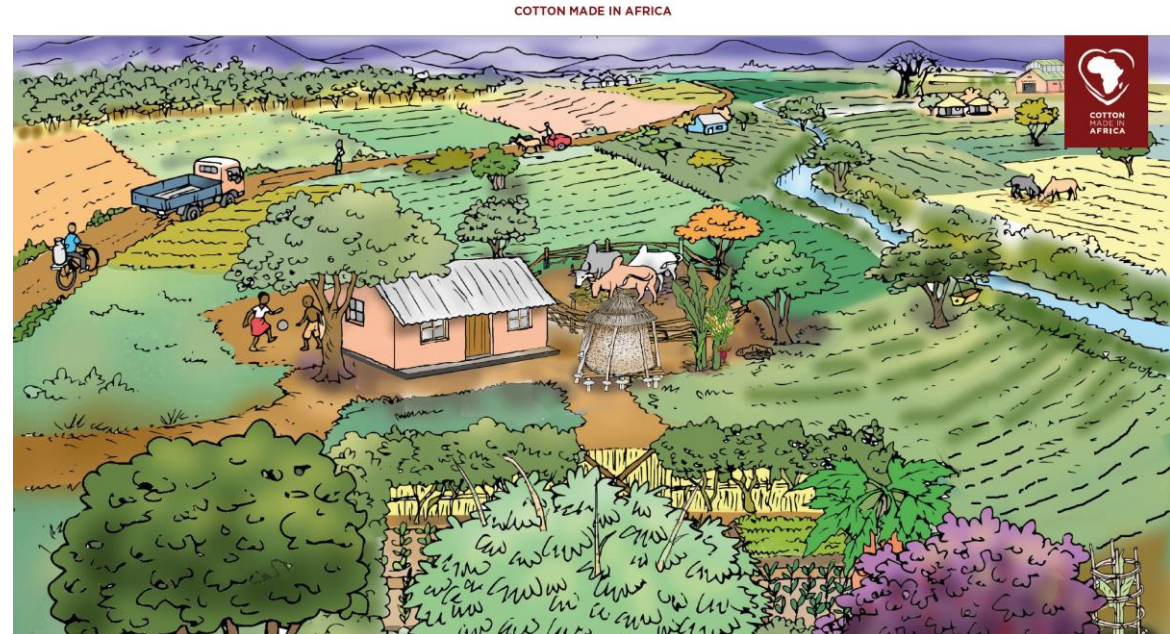
- Most members of the African Cotton Foundation (ACF) are partners of the AbTF and verified according to CmiA standards
- ACF bundled and screened project proposals from its members and provided the partners with grant contracts
- Main topics for the projects that serve to successfully implement the CmiA standard criteria are integrated production and plant management as well as soil health/soil fertility
- By the end of 2022, a total of four projects have been launched under ACF coordination





- Co-funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), AbTF is involved in the workstream that focused on Ethiopia
- The aim of the project is to combat water pollution from the textile and garment sector by engaging stakeholder groups across the value chain in responsible water resource management
- In the last year of the project, training material on water management in cotton production was revised and adapted
- During a closing workshop in Addis Ababa, various stakeholder, including representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture agreed on final versions of training materials

Coach the Farmer in Sustainable Water Use Practices



Cover illustration of the newly developed training material on sustainable water use practices



AID BY TRADE FOUNDATION

The Aid by Trade Foundation (AbTF) was founded in 2005 by Prof. Dr Michael Otto, an entrepreneur from Hamburg, Germany. The aim of the foundation, which operates independently of the Otto Group, is to help people to help themselves through trade, thereby preserving vital natural resources and securing the livelihoods of future generations.

Cotton made in Africa® is an internationally recognised standard for sustainably produced cotton from Africa, connecting African small-scale farmers with trading companies and fashion brands throughout the global textile value chain. The initiative's objective is to employ trade rather than donations to offer help for self-help in order to improve the living conditions of around one million cotton farmers and their families in Africa south of the Sahara while protecting the environment. The small-scale farmers benefit from training and better working conditions, and additional social projects enable their children to attend school. Female small-scale farmers are supported in pursuing professional and social independence.

CONTACT

Aid by Trade Foundation
Gurlittstraße 14 · 20099 Hamburg · Germany

Telephone: +49 40 25 76 75 50
Email: info@abt-foundation.org

www.cottonmadeinafrica.org
www.thegoodcashmerestandard.org
www.aidbytrade.org

