



Cotton made in Africa

Aggregated Verification Report 2020

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Introduction

Cotton made in Africa (CmiA) is a well-recognised standard of the Aid by Trade Foundation (AbTF) that follows a continuous improvement approach for a sustainable development of the cotton sector in Sub-Saharan African countries. 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 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 the individual companies to further advance. By comparing verification results across the certified cotton companies, the Aid by Trade Foundation 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 Entity”) 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). They check full compliance with all *CmiA Exclusion Criteria* and monitor continuous improvement concerning the implementation of the *CmiA Sustainability Criteria*. Every cotton company must complete one full verification cycle. According to the CmiA verification system, a verification cycle consists of two separate missions – one farm level verification, to verify if the farmers contracted by the respective cotton company respect the Exclusion Criteria and adhere to the CmiA Sustainability Criteria on farm level, and one ginnery level verification, to verify if the work in the respective cotton company’s ginneries are compliant with the CmiA exclusion and Sustainability Criteria outlined for the ginnery level. That means to obtain a CmiA certificate, two necessary verification missions are carried out, usually in two different calendar years.

This process ensures that CmiA's value proposition is observed: supporting African smallholder farmers achieve better living conditions for themselves and their families and continuously improve performance according to the CmiA Sustainability Criteria. The CmiA verified cotton companies offer different trainings to smallholder farmers to continuously improve their cultivation methods in a sustainable way, to enhance their social conditions and to advance the capacity as an important economic actor (people, planet, prosperity).

The annually published *Aggregated Verification Report* provides information on the results of the 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 level according to the Sustainability Criteria of Cotton made in Africa. The COVID-19 pandemic led to severe restrictions in the practical feasibility of verification missions in 2020. A comparison of data sets with previous years, as usually done in the annual aggregated verification reports, is therefore not presented since data comparability is not given. Thus, the 2020 aggregated verification report concentrates on the data of the years’ missions to ensure transparency. The following chapters hence comprise an overview of the 2020 performance results of verified cotton companies, the verification management activities conducted by the Aid by Trade Foundation as well as the implementation support offered.

1. CmiA

1.1 Criteria for Standard Vol. 3.1

Baseline for the CmiA verification and performance assessment is the CmiA Criteria Matrix¹. The matrix consists of 17 Exclusion Criteria and 21 Sustainability Criteria (16 applicable to farm level and five applicable to ginnery level²). A traffic light system (red = lowest ranking, yellow = middle ranking; green = best ranking) is used to assess levels of achievement. The Managing Entity is responsible to manage the improvements. Based on the findings and recommendations of a verification, the Managing Entity defines its own Management Plan where it outlines priority areas for further improvement. The overall objective is to stepwise achieve a better ranking on criteria which have not yet reached the green level, and in the long-term perform on best practice level for a sustainable cotton production.

1.1.1 Exclusion Criteria

CmiA aims at preserving human health and livelihoods as well as the natural environment. As foundation for any cooperation with AbTF in achieving these objectives, partners must measure up to the 17 Exclusion Criteria of the CmiA standard. An overview of the Exclusion Criteria is provided in Table 1.

All Exclusion Criteria must be met by the verified cotton companies in order to have a CmiA certificate issued.

Exclusion Criteria	
1	Managing Entities of which <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - farmers cultivating more than 20 ha of cotton represent - more than 10% of the total cultivated surface and / or- more than 5% of farmers
2	Cotton production under irrigation
3	Worst forms of child labour (as defined by ILO-Conventions 138 and 182). Exceptionally, in the case of family smallholdings, children may help on their family's farm provided that the work is not liable to damage their health, safety, well-being, education or development, and that they are supervised by adults and given appropriate training
4	Trafficking of persons (as defined by UN Palermo Protocols)
5	Bonded or forced labour (as defined by ILO Convention 29 and 105)
6a	Discouraging foundation and/or membership of/in institutional structures (Discouraging Freedom of Association, as defined by ILO Convention 87)
6b	Discouraging and/or ignorance of the right to and the outcomes of Collective Bargaining (as defined by ILO Convention 98)
7	Cutting of primary forest or destruction of other forms of national resources which are designated and protected by national law or international legislation (currently valid) in order to cultivate cotton.

¹ The document is accessible under the link <http://www.cottonmadeinafrica.org/en/materials/cmia-standard/cmia-standards-documents>

² The terms 'farm' and 'field' such as 'gin' and 'ginnery' are used synonymously in this report.

	International legislation: a) Important Bird Areas (IBA) - www.birdlife.org/datazone/site b) b) World Heritage Sites / IUCN Categories I-IV: http://www.protectedplanet.net/ c) Ramsar Convention on Wetlands: http://www.ramsar.org/pdf/sitelist.pdf
8	Non-submission of input and production data in annual self-assessments as prescribed by AbTF.
9	Use of pesticides banned under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), the WHO list of highly hazardous and hazardous pesticides, and pesticides listed in the Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (PIC): a) Rotterdam Convention: Annex III (page 29 ff): http://www.pic.int/Portals/5/download.aspx?d=RC_Convention_Text_2011_English.pdf b) WHO list of hazardous pesticides class 1a and 1b (page 19ff): http://www.who.int/ipcs/publications/pesticides_hazard_2009.pdf
10	Pesticides are not prepared and applied by persons who are: - not healthy - not skilled and trained in the application of pesticides - not eighteen years or older - pregnant or nursing
11	Non-submission of verifiable list of pesticides, the corresponding active ingredients utilized and volumes (e.g. litres and/or kilogrammes) traded with farmer base during the most recent season in annual self-assessments.
12	Use of nationally approved pesticides registered for the use in cotton cultivation, but not labelled according to national standards and not labelled in at least one of the national languages.
13	The Managing Entity has no time-bound plan regarding the introduction of integrated pest management, defined as: - growing of a healthy crop - prevention of build-up of pest populations - preservation and enhancement of populations of beneficial insects - regular field observations of the crop's health and key pest and beneficial insects - management of resistance.
14	Commercial growing of GMO-Cotton
15	Immoral transactions in business relations defined by international covenants, national law and practices (practices that are not in contradiction with national law): OECD Guidelines (in the field of competition): - abuse market power or dominance - acquire market power or dominance by means other than efficient performance - engage in anti-competitive agreements or arrangements (whether formal or informal) Exception: concession areas/zones awarded/endorsed by government (e.g. Mozambique)
16	Non-respect of the principle of equal remuneration for men and women workers for work of equal value (as defined in ILO Convention 100, Art. 1)
17	Discrimination in the workplace (as defined in ILO Convention 111)

Table 1 Exclusion Criteria of CmiA Standard Matrix

For the aggregated performance results in 2020 specifically concerning the Exclusion Criteria see chapter 4.1. Exclusion Criteria in this report.

1.1.2 Sustainability Criteria

The Sustainability Criteria are guidelines for continuous improvement. To produce cotton according to Cotton made in Africa standards, Managing Entities need to consider these so-called Sustainability Criteria and meet them progressively. They are defined for the farm level as well as for the ginnery level.

The farm level covers six different intervention areas with 16 Sustainability Criteria, while the ginnery level includes five Sustainability Criteria.

Farm Level Criteria		Ginnery Level Criteria	
1	Social welfare programs	1	Labour contracts in ginneries
2a	Written Contracts	2	Working hours in ginneries are regulated and overtime work is remunerated
2b	Equal rights regarding gender	3	Wages in ginneries comply with national law or sector agreements
3a	Soil and water conservation	4	Employer assures proper occupational health and safety conditions in gins including and not limited to dust and noise reduction measures and PPE for dust protection and noise reduction
3b	Crop rotation	6	Environmental Management Plan
4a	Pesticide management		
4b	Storage and transport of pesticides		
4c	Spraying of pesticides and health protection		
4d	Disposal of empty plant protection chemical containers		
4e	Integrated Pest management/ pest threshold		
5	Training to improve farmers skills and capacities		
6a	Pre-financing of inputs		
6b	Transparency of input and cotton seed prices for farmers		
6c	A transparent system to grade seed cotton		
6d	Maximising fibre and lint quality through improved harvesting and post harvesting techniques		
6e	Payment of cotton farmers		

Table 2 Sustainability Criteria of CmiA Standard Matrix (Farm and Ginnery Level)

For the aggregated results of 2020 see chapter 4.2 Results of Farm Level Sustainability Criteria Verifications in 2020 and 4.3 Results of Ginnery Level Sustainability Criteria Verifications in 2020 this report.

1.2 CmiA Organic

CmiA Organic is attributive to the CmiA Standard. Thus, a CmiA Organic Unit is verified against the Criteria Matrix for CmiA Organic³. A Managing Entity needs to provide certification with one of the recommended Organic Certifications. Furthermore, in case the Managing Entity produces cotton under different standards (or according to a standard and conventional), it needs to have procedures, records and controls in place to segregate lint cotton produced under each one of the AbTF Standards (CmiA, CmiA Organic) from cotton produced under another standard (including other AbTF standards) or conventional cotton.

2. Overview of Verification Missions in 2020

2.1 Third Party Verifiers

To ensure reliable and independent verification, AbTF continued to mandate two professional verification organizations, namely AfriCert, based in Kenya, and Ecocert, based in Burkina Faso, to conduct CmiA verifications. 15 auditors carried out the verification missions.

2.2 Cotton Companies verified

In total, 12 Managing Entities have been verified in 2020. Out of the 12 Managing Entities verified, six have been verified on field level and six on ginnery level. All 12 were verified against the CmiA Standard based on Criteria Matrix version 3.1. One Managing Entity was additionally verified during the verification mission according to the CmiA Organic Standard.

For 11 Managing Entities verification missions were not feasible due to COVID-19.

Two Managing Entities (one in Uganda and one in Chad) successfully completed the initial verification cycle (first mission in 2019, second in 2020) and have been entitled to sell CmiA cotton under CmiA license joining the group of CmiA partners.

2.3 Verifications by Region and Audit Type

As mentioned above, 12 verification missions were conducted in 2020 while a total of eleven regular verification missions could not be carried out due to COVID-19. Looking at the regional distribution of conducted missions, a total of 10 verification missions took place with partners in the Northern hemisphere and two with partners in the Southern hemisphere (see Figure 1: Total Numbers of Verifications by Region 2020).

³ The document is accessible under the link <https://www.cottonmadeinafrica.org/de/materialien/cmia-standard/cmia-standard-3/5-cmia-organic-criteria-matrix-2013/file>

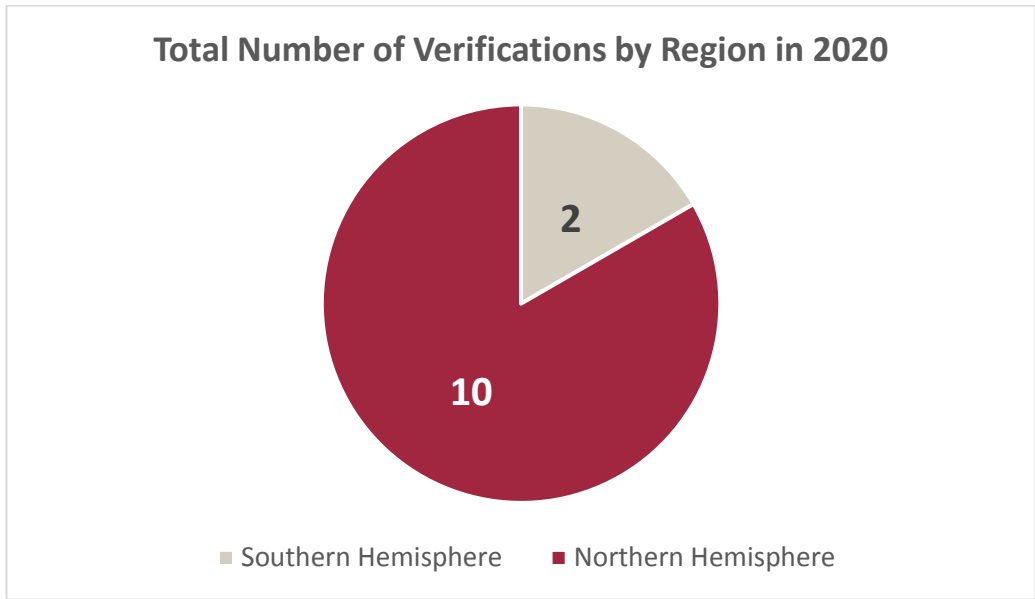


Figure 1 Total Number of Verifications by Region in 2020

Looking at the type of verifications, a total of six field verifications and six ginnery verifications were conducted. Looking at the regional distribution in relation to types of missions, two ginnery verifications were conducted in the Southern hemisphere while six field verifications and four ginnery verifications took place in the Northern hemisphere (see Figure 2: Overview of Verifications 2020 per Audit type and Region).

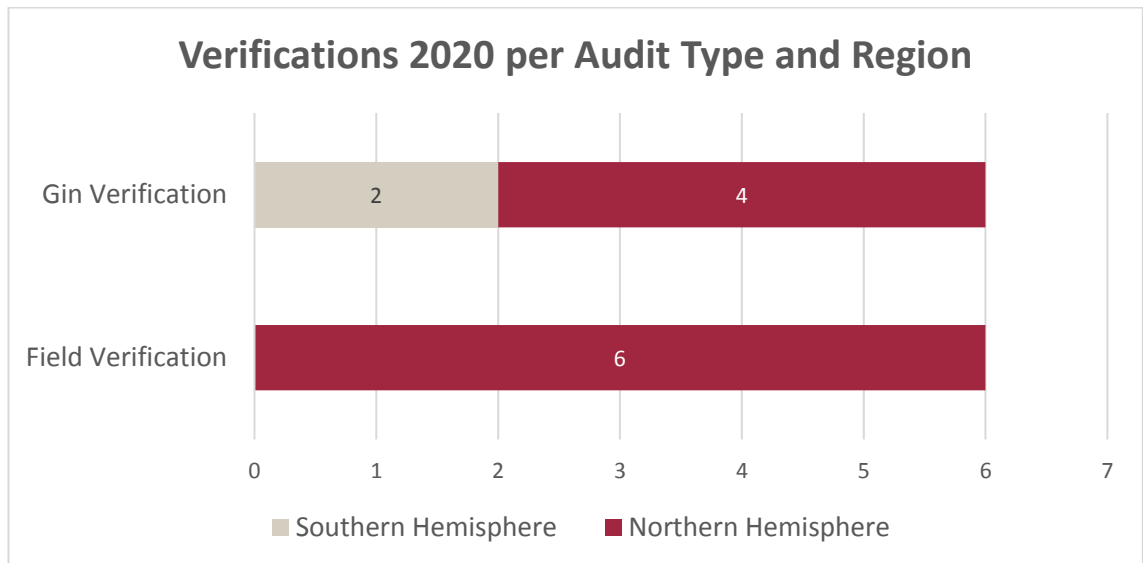


Figure 2 Overview of Verifications 2020 per Audit Type and Region

3. Performance Results – 2020 Verifications

AbTF certification builds on a two-years verification-cycle. Beside annual self-assessments, a cycle consists of a farm level verification in one year, complemented by a ginnery level verification in the other year. Performance levels in 2020 are presented in the respective sections on Exclusion Criteria (4.1), Results of Farm Level Sustainability Criteria Verifications in 2020 (4.2) and Results of Ginnery Level Sustainability Criteria Verifications in 2020 (4.3).

3.1 Exclusion Criteria

CmiA aims at preserving human health and livelihoods as well as the natural environment. To reach these objectives, CmiA partners must comply with the Exclusion Criteria. For all 12 Managing Entities verified in 2020, verifications proved that they comply 100% with the Exclusion Criteria of the CmiA-Standard.

3.2 Results of Farm Level Sustainability Criteria Verifications in 2020

In total, six farm level verifications were carried out. Verifications showed that CmiA cotton companies achieve best practice level for the majority of the criteria with 78,1% of all ratings being green. None of the six Managing Entities verified on field level in 2020 show a red (non-sustainable) rating on any of the 16 Sustainability Criteria. The best performing entity reached 15 green ratings, and only one yellow rating. As the aggregated results indicate (see table below), Managing Entities show a significant tendency towards best (green) performance ratings regarding the Sustainability Criteria on Farm Level in 2020.

2020				
	Farm Level Criteria	Total "red"	Total "yellow"	Total "green"
1	Social Welfare Programmes	-	3	3
2a	Freedom of bargaining and written contracts	-	-	6
2b	Equal rights regarding gender	-	1	5
3a	Soil and water conservation and water run-off management	-	2	4
3b	Crop rotation	-	3	3
4a	Pesticide Management	-	-	6
4b	Storage and transport of pesticides	-	2	4
4c	Spraying of pesticides and health protection	-	3	3
4d	Disposal of empty plant protection chemical containers	-	2	4
4e	Integrated Pest Management / pest thresholds	-	4	2
5	Training to improve farmer's skills and capacities	-	-	6
6a	Pre-financing of inputs	-	-	6
6b	Transparency of input and cotton seed prices for farmers	-	1	5
6c	A transparent system to grade seed cotton is in place	-	-	6
6d	Maximising fibre and lint quality	-	-	6
6e	Payment of cotton to farmers	-	-	6
TOTAL		0	21	75

Table 3 Numeric Overview of Farm Level Sustainability Criteria Ratings in 2020

Given the 16 criteria and six Managing Entities verified in 2020, a total of 91 ratings were given on Farm Level Sustainability Criteria. Out of these, only 21 ratings (21,92%) were “yellow” (see Figure 3).

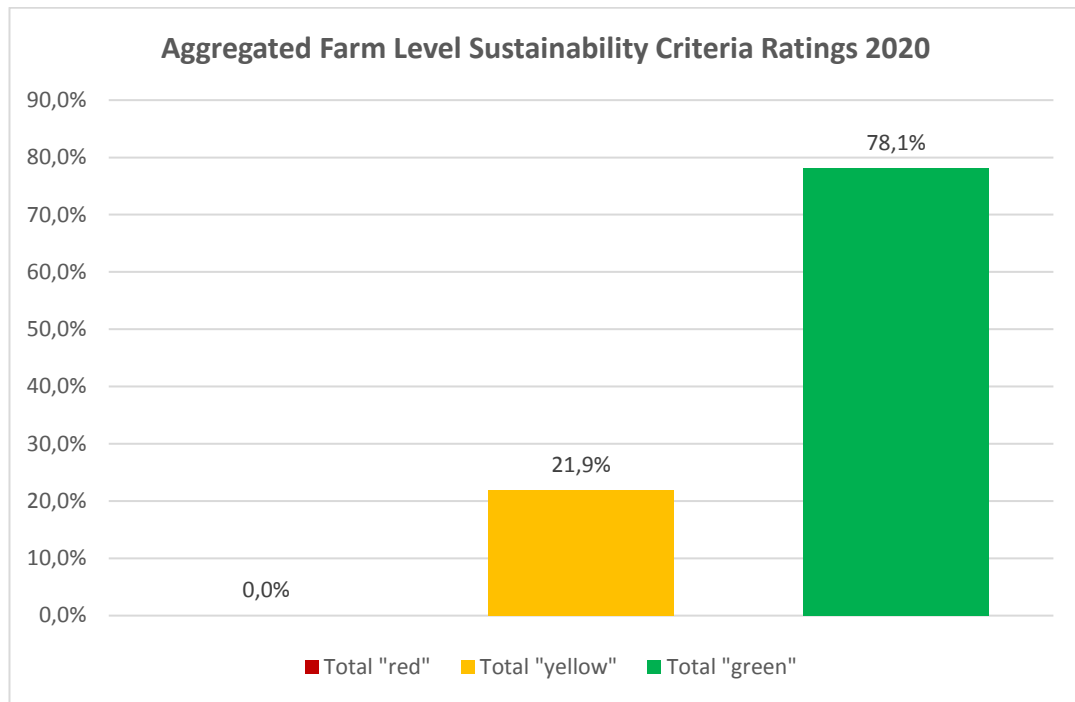


Figure 3 Aggregated Farm Level Sustainability Criteria Ratings in Percent of the Six Farm Level Verifications in 2020

The 21 “yellow” ratings indicate further improvements are necessary to achieve best practice performance (green rating) for the subjects ‘Integrated Pest Management/ pest threshold’ (criterion 4e) by four Managing Entities and on ‘Social Welfare Programmes’ (criterion 1), ‘Crop Rotation’ (criterion 3b), ‘Spraying of pesticides and health protection’ (criterion 4c) by three Managing Entities. Only two of the six Managing Entities verified on farm level need to further improve to reach green rating with regard to ‘Soil and water conservation and water run-off management’ (criterion 3a), ‘Storage and transport of pesticides’ (criterion 4b) and ‘Disposal of empty plant protection chemical containers’ (criterion 4d). One Managing Entity needs to improve each on criterion 2b ‘Equal rights regarding gender’ and criterion 6b ‘Transparency of input and cotton seed prices for farmers’.

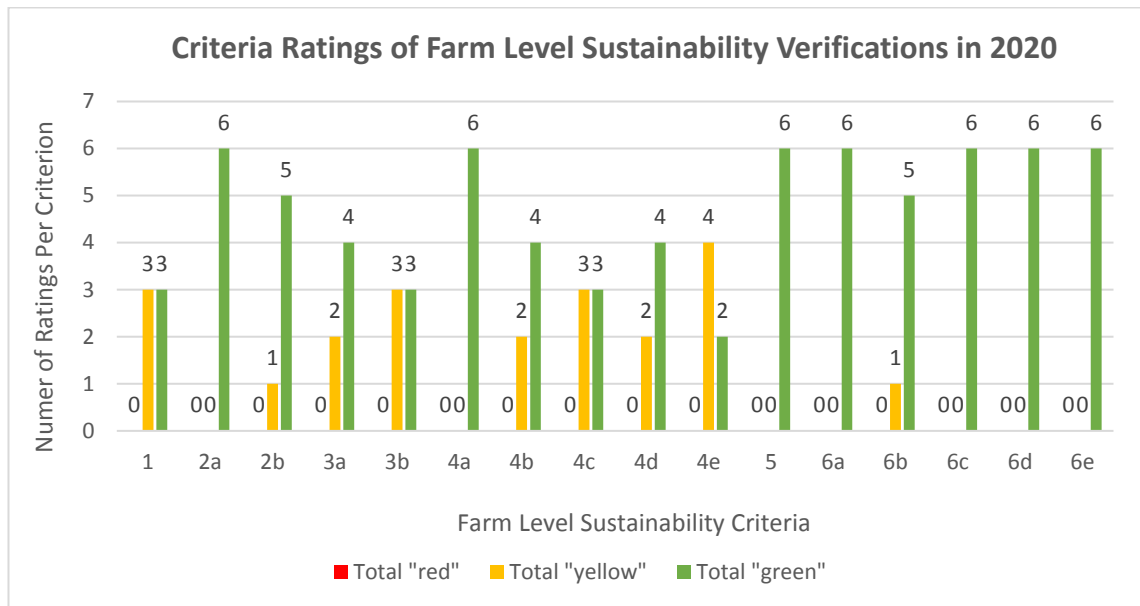


Figure 4 Numeric Overview of Criteria Ratings by Criterion of the Six Farm Level Verifications in 2020

3.3 Results of Ginnery Level Sustainability Criteria Verifications in 2020

In 2020 six Managing Entities has been verified on Ginnery Level.

None of the six Managing Entity showed a “red” (non-sustainable) rating at any of the five Sustainability Criteria. However, two Managing Entities received yellow ratings on all ginnery level criteria. For two of four the remaining Managing Entities “green” ratings dominated their ginnery level sustainability performance in 2020, while for one “yellow” rating dominated. One Managing Entity was able to reach “green” ratings on all five sustainability criteria.

2020				
	Ginnery Criteria	Total "red"	Total "yellow"	Total "green"
1	Labour contracts in ginneries	-	3	3
2	Working hours in ginneries are regulated and overtime work (includes shift and night allowances) is remunerated	-	2	4
3	Wages in ginneries comply with national law or sector agreements	-	2	4
4	Employer assures proper occupational health and safety conditions in gins including and not limited to dust and noise reduction measures and PPE for dust protection and noise reduction	-	5	1
6	Environmental Management Plan	-	4	2
TOTAL		0	16	14

Table 4 Numeric Overview of Ginnery Level Sustainability Criteria Ratings in 2019

Given the five criteria and six Managing Entities verified in 2020, a total of 30 ratings were given on Ginnery Level Sustainability Criteria. Out of these no instance of non-sustainable practice (red rating) was documented (see table 4). The aggregated results show 16 “yellow” ratings and 14 “green” ratings regarding the Sustainability Criteria at Ginnery Level in 2020.

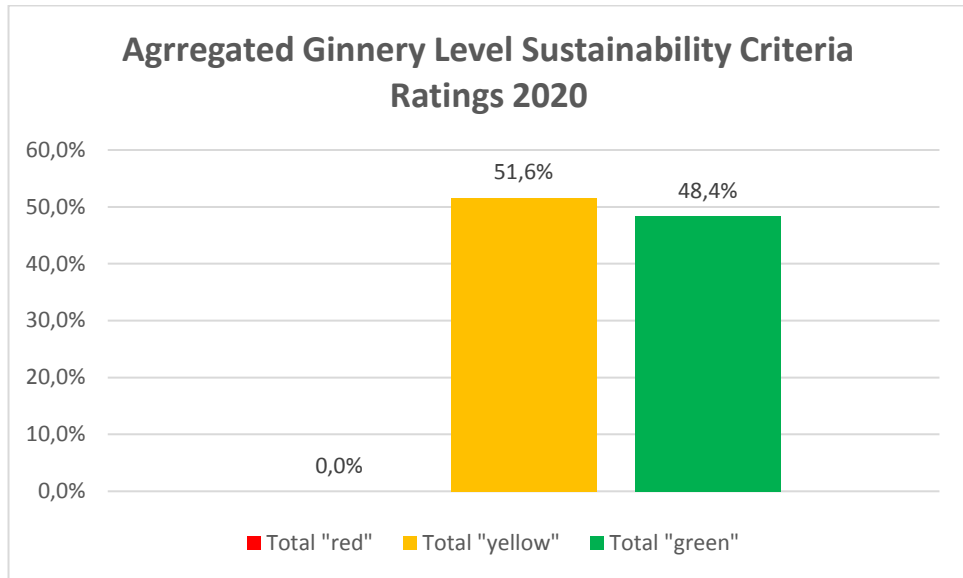


Figure 5 Aggregated Ginnery Sustainability Criteria Ratings in Percent of the Six Ginnery Level Verifications in 2020

In total, 16 ratings show “yellow” on the ginnery level verifications equivalent to 51,6% of all ratings (see figure 5). When observing ratings by criterion (see figure 6), it can be observed that on two criteria yellow ratings dominate. This applies to criterion 4 (‘Employer assures proper occupational health and safety conditions in gins including and not limited to dust and noise reduction measures and PPE for dust protection and noise reduction’) where five out of six Managing Entities were rated “yellow” as well as criterion 6 (Environmental Management Plan) were four out of six Managing Entities received a “yellow” rating. These are the only criteria on which the majority of verified Managing Entities in 2020 need to improve to reach best sustainable practice level (“green”).

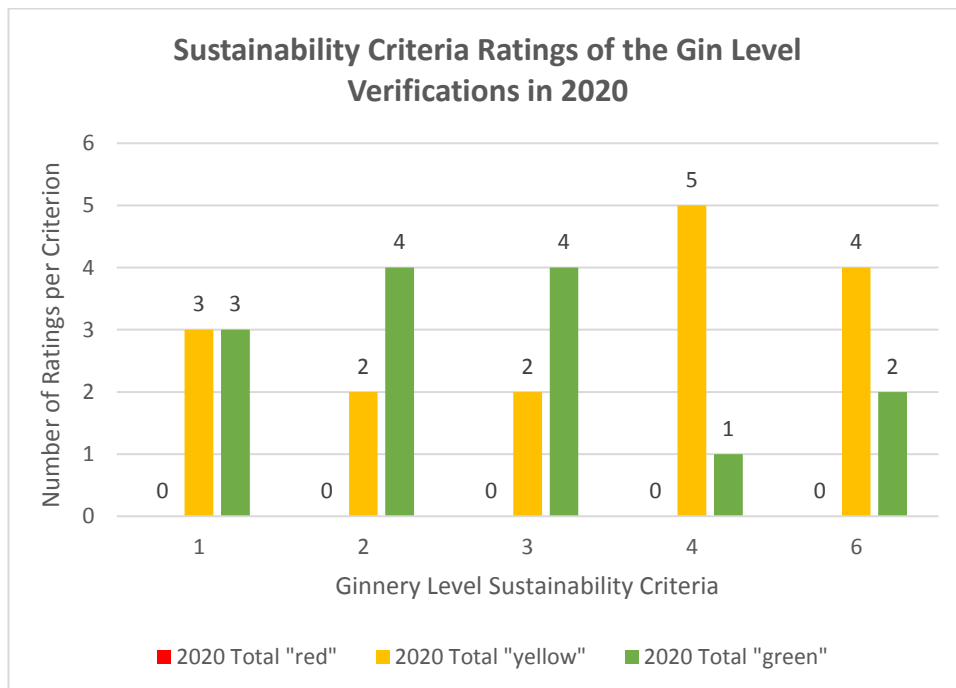


Figure 6 Numeric Overview of the Sustainability Criteria Ratings by Criterion of the Six Ginnery Level Verifications in 2020

Half of the verified Managing Entities have received “green” ratings regarding ‘Labour contracts in ginneries’ (criterion 1). On the remaining two criteria yellow ratings are outnumbered by green ratings. In comparison to the other ginnery Sustainability Criteria, highest levels of compliance therefore were achieved regarding the remuneration of overtime work (including shift and night allowances) and regulated working hours in general (criterion 2) as well as on ‘Wages in ginneries’ (criterion 3) where four out of six Managing Entities show green rating. A total of 12 out of the 30 and therefore 48,4% of all ratings were green ratings.

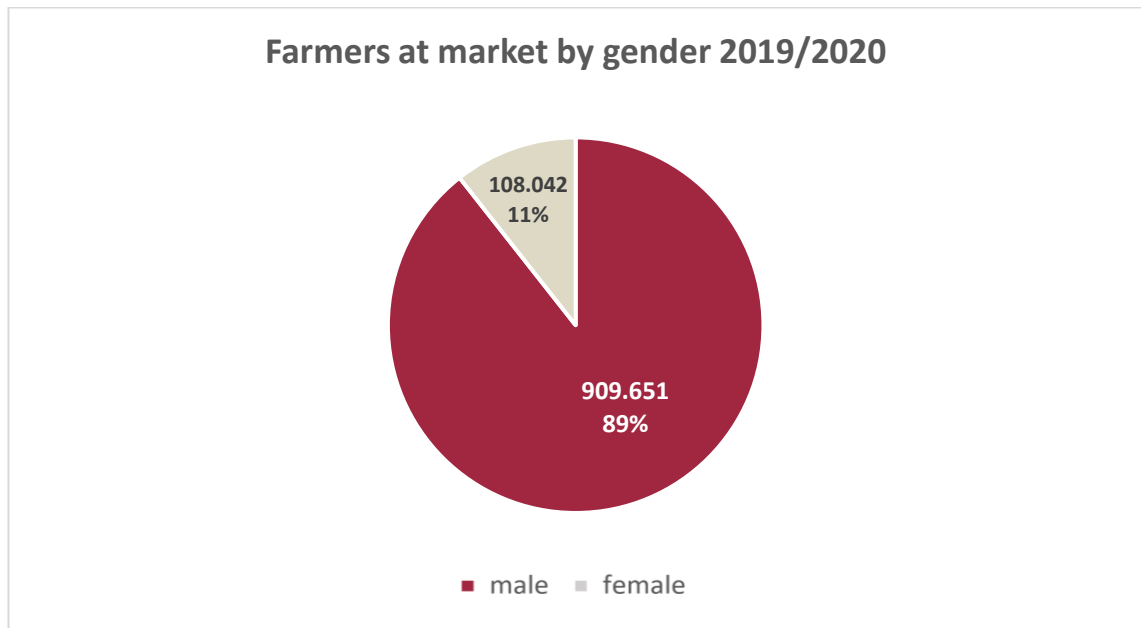
4. Verified Cotton Companies in 2020 and Cotton Production in the 2019/20 Season

At the beginning of 2020, 24 cotton companies were verified against the CmiA Standard. One cotton company had been certified against the additional license of selling part of its production as “CmiA Organic”.⁴ Meanwhile the composition of the partners changed: Two Managing Entities, one in Chad and one in Uganda, joined the partners network. The partnership with three other Managing Entities, one each in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia and Ghana, ended. Thus, at the end of 2020, a total of 23 cotton companies in ten countries in sub-Saharan Africa had been verified according to CmiA and CmiA-Organic.

All following reported production data for the 2019/20 season refers to the 23 cotton companies that were entitled to sell their 2019/2020 harvest under CmiA license. For the 2019/20 season, over 1 million farmers delivered seed cotton to 23 verified cotton companies. They were cultivating cotton on nearly 1.7 million hectares producing a total volume of ca. 1.47 million metric tons (mt) of seed cotton. Among the cotton farmers at market⁵, 11% were female farmers with direct contractual relationship to the cotton companies and 89% were male farmers (see Figure 7).

⁴ See also Annex A and B for a detailed list and map of all certified CmiA and CmiA Organic cotton companies with their corresponding sales licence status.

⁵ “farmers at market” are those who are actually delivering seed cotton for sales to the cotton company at the end of the season.



**Figure 7 Farmers at Market by Gender
contracted by CmiA certified Cotton Companies, 2019/20 Season**

In the 2019/2020 season, cotton companies with CmiA status operated **66 ginneries**, in addition ginning was sub-contracted to five more ginneries⁶. The 23 cotton companies employed over **2,000 permanent** and more than **12,800 seasonal workers**. CmiA partners produced a **total of ca. 629,000 mt of lint cotton**. For a detailed overview see table 5.

	2019 (Harvest 2018/2019)	2020 (Harvest 2019/ 2020)
Companies	24	23
Farmers	885,575	1,017,393
Area (ha)	1,656,998	1,668,602
Seed cotton (mt)	1,404,508	1,467,866
Lint cotton (mt)	593,067	629,789

Table 5 CmiA Cotton Production Overview 2019 & 2020

⁶ Sub-contracted ginneries need to comply to the CmiA standard in the same manner as those owned by the Managing Entity. Sub-contracted ginneries are verified within the scope of regular ginnery-level verifications.

5. Farmer Trainings provided by CmiA Cotton Companies

In the 2019/20 season, a total of 4,089,200 attendees participated in farmer trainings⁷ offered by CmiA verified cotton companies. Trainings are organised and planned by the Managing Entities and take the results of the verifications into account. Farmer trainings are key to success, to ensure proper implementation of the CmiA standard and to guarantee a sustainable development. Topics regularly trained include all three aspects of sustainability and cover the following areas:

1. Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), including early land preparation, planting, thinning, gap filling, etc.
2. Conservation techniques to improve soil fertility and soil health (including water-management)
3. Integrated Pest Management (IPM), with special focus on scouting and threshold spraying
4. The proper use and storage of pesticides as well as the disposal of the empty chemical containers
5. CmiA Child labour criteria, Gender and HIV awareness
6. Business skills, like the Farmer Business Schools concept and cotton agronomy topics in general
7. Post-Harvest handling techniques and grading of seed cotton (including good management practices for harvest and storage of seed cotton)

Figure 8 below indicates the numbers of male and female attendees of farm level training per topic in the 2019/20 season.

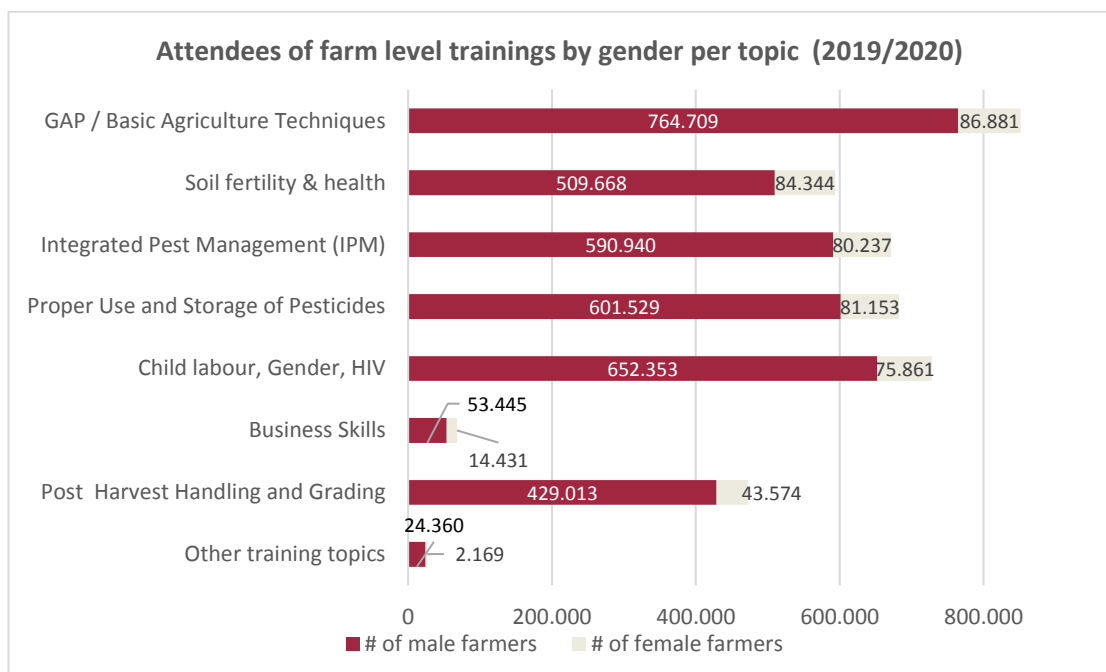


Figure 8 Attendees of Farmer Trainings by Topic and Gender in the 2019/2020 Harvesting Season

⁷ Farmers who attended several trainings have been counted multiple times.

It is important to point out that some topics (like GAP) consist of several training sessions that are conducted in accordance with the activities on the field throughout the season. Other training content, for example on CmiA child labour criteria, Gender and HIV, are usually integrated into other agronomic training sessions.

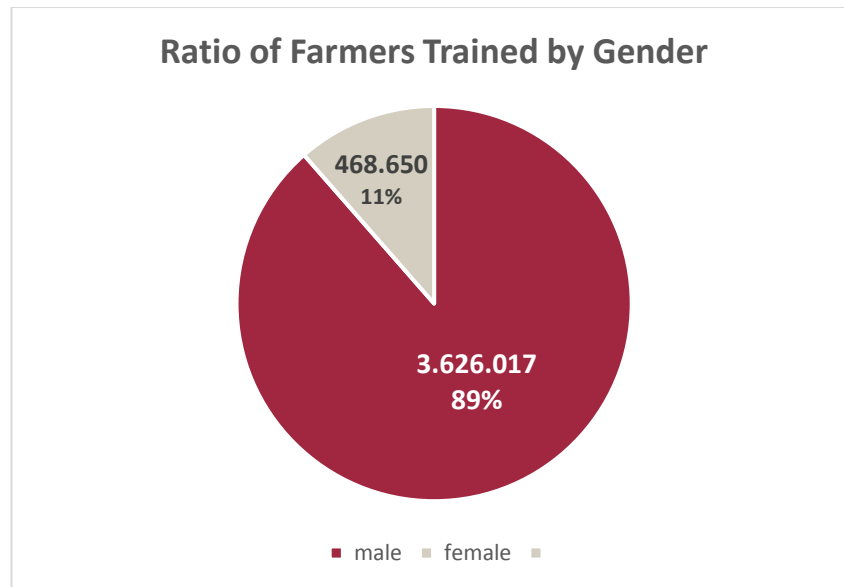


Figure 9 Ratio of Female and Male Attendees in Farmer Trainings in 2019/2020 Harvesting Season

With the given share of 11% of female farmers amongst the total CmiA farmer base (see figure 7), data on the ratio of farmers trained by gender indicates a gender-balanced representation of farmers in training sessions, as 11% of all Farmers trained in 2019/2020 were female (see Figure 9).

6. Implementation Support by AbTF

The Aid by Trade Foundation (AbTF) supported the implementation of activities that contribute to a more sustainable cotton production in different ways:

- In January 2020, the AbTF started its engagement in a water stewardship project co-funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). The AbTF is co-operating with the consortium partners Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS), Water Witness International, the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) and Solidaridad 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 the responsible use of water resources. In 2020, AbTF was significantly involved in the preparation of a baseline study on opportunities and challenges in the field of water management in the Ethiopian cotton sector. In the upcoming project period, AbTF focuses on the development of training materials for smallholder farmers on effective water management. Training material developed within the project will be transferable to other CmiA growing countries.
- In February 2020, a visit was made by AbTF to a CmiA partner in Tanzania. Together with a consultant commissioned by the AbTF, the agricultural advisors of the cotton company were trained in new methods of integrated, non-chemical plant protection. Additionally, the AbTF visited the project of bioRe Tanzania together with the CmiA partner's extension team leaders to witness bioRe's internal control system for organic certification and their training concept for the associated organic cotton farmers.
- In order to support the partners in Africa in protecting their employees and the cotton farmers from COVID-19 infections, the AbTF has provided funds as an ad-hoc measure to each CmiA cotton company to distribute soap, disinfectants, install small hand-washing stations or distribute information material provided by the respective responsible health authorities. In addition, two poster series were developed to sensitise the all people involved in field-level activities as well as in the ginning factories on how to significantly reduce the risk of a COVID-19 infection through appropriate behaviour. The posters are available in English, French, Portuguese, and Swahili. All CmiA partners were provided with a budget to print the poster series.
- With support of the Ana Kwa Ana Foundation, AbTF continued to co-finance the position of gender officers at three different cotton companies in Zambia. After the first project phase was successfully completed at the end of 2019 focusing on field activities, a new project round started in May 2020. The new funding period activities focus on the ginnery level in addition to ongoing field level activities. To further strengthen the position of women, training materials on gender-sensitive topics were developed in a joint working group with the gender officers in autumn 2020. In future, these will be used in training courses for employees in the ginneries.
- AbTF continued its exchange with the nature and wildlife conservation organisation 'African People & Wildlife' (APW). The approach taken by the organisation, which places the local population at the centre of a four-step approach for the protection of nature and habitats, has been identified by AbTF as its own field of learning. The first cooperation between APW and AbTF has been realised with a beekeeping and income generating project for women's groups. Through micro-credits and training, women in rural Tanzania were trained as beekeepers and the foundation was laid for a centre for women entrepreneurs. The women have been empowered to gain financial benefits from nature conservation meanwhile preserving important grasslands and wildlife

corridors. Building on the project cooperation, a package of measures is to be developed for CmiA to contribute to solving human-wildlife conflicts in cotton areas and also make habitat protection economically attractive for the cotton farmers involved in CmiA.

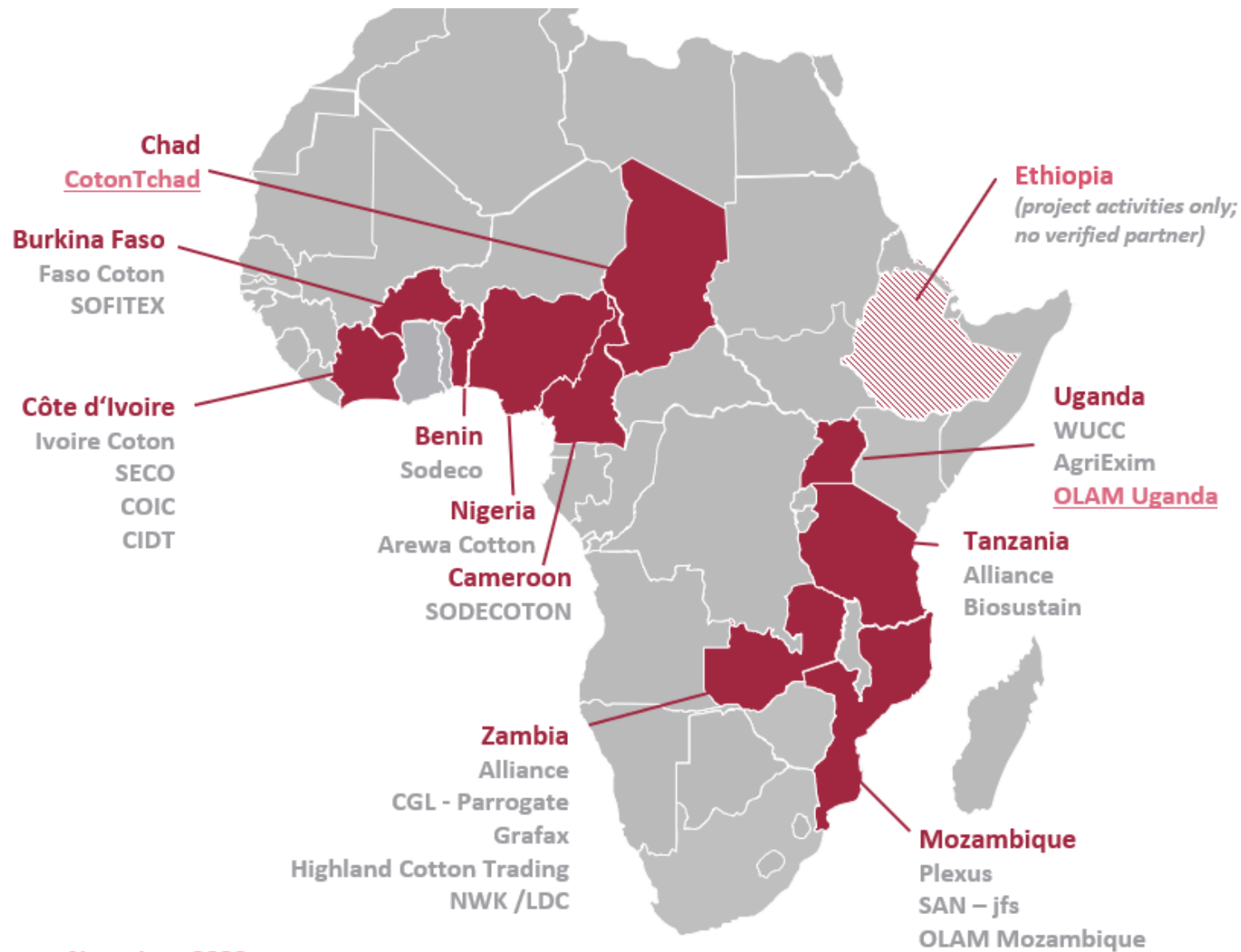
- In October 2020, a two-year project was started with a cotton company in Zambia to introduce the cultivation of CmiA-Organic cotton in the country.
- In early December 2020, AbTF commissioned GIZ - International Services to support the implementation of CmiA training in Tanzania. In addition to training measures for the Tanzanian CmiA partners, this project focuses in particular on the development of new CmiA training materials in line with the extended requirements of the CmiA Standard Volume 4 and the testing of concepts for virtual training, which should also be applicable for other CmiA growing countries.

7. AbTF Verification Management Activities

The CmiA standard system requires that all cotton companies are assessed by independent third-party verifiers on farm- and ginnery-level in order to be able to sell their cotton as CmiA or as CmiA Organic. AbTF is responsible for the Management and Monitoring of the verifications. In 2020, the AbTF Verification Management carried out the following activities:

- a) Coordination / Organization of Verification Missions
 - 12 CmiA verification missions, six farm level and six ginnery level verifications, have been coordinated.
 - Introduction of two new partner companies to CmiA standard requirements that completed the initial verification cycle in 2020.
 - Guidance to all cotton companies on CmiA-Standard and the upcoming CmiA Vol. 4.
- b) Data Management
 - Collection and quality control of Annual Self-Assessments from all cotton companies.
 - Performance analysis both from self-assessments and verification reports.
 - Development of a web-based data management software solution (CmiA Assurance Platform) for the online submission of self-assessments and verification results.
- c) Verification Quality: Monitoring and Training
 - Cooperation with two third-party verification organizations (control bodies)
 - Quality control and follow-up on 12 verification reports and corresponding Management Plans for continuous improvement.
 - Development of “Guidelines for verifiers on a risk-based approach towards verifications” covering best practices for health, safety, and wellbeing in the light of verifications during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- d) Standard Development, Interpretation and Guidance
 - Finalisation of CmiA Volume 4. The new standard version was finalized in December 2020 and will be introduced in 2021.
 - Revision of the Verification Governance which serves as explanatory document of the verification process, to be published in 2021 under the new title “Assurance Manual”.
 - The CmiA ‘Theory of Change’ together with the initiative’s Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning system have been revised.
 - Coordination and exchange with other Standard Organisations

Annex A Map of Verified Partner Cotton Companies (CmiA and CmiA Organic) in 2020



New since 2020

Annex B List of Verified CmiA Cotton Companies with respective Sales License Status in 2020

Country	Cotton Company	CmiA Certificate	BCI Benchmark	CmiA Certificate (valid to → indicated crop season*)
Benin	SODECO (Péhunco gin only)	yes	yes	31.12.2021 → crop 2021/22
Burkina Faso	Faso Coton	yes	yes	31.12.2021 → crop 2021/22
Burkina Faso	SOFITEX	yes	yes	31.12.2021 → crop 2021/22
Cameroon	SODECOTON	yes	yes	31.12.2021 → crop 2021/22
Chad	COTONTCHAD SN	Yes	No	31.12.2021 → crop 2021/22
Côte d'Ivoire	CIDT	yes	yes	31.12.2022 → crop 2022/23
Côte d'Ivoire	CO.I.C.	yes	yes	31.12.2022 → crop 2022/23
Côte d'Ivoire	Ivoire Coton	yes	yes	31.12.2021 → crop 2021/22
Côte d'Ivoire	SECO	yes	yes	31.12.2021 → crop 2021/22
Mozambique	Plexus ¹	yes	yes	30.06.2020 → crop 2019/20
Mozambique	OLAM Mozambique	yes	<i>Verified by BCI independently</i>	31.12.2020 → crop 2019/20
Mozambique	SAN jfs Holding	yes	<i>Verified by BCI independently</i>	30.06.2021 → crop 2020/21
Nigeria	AREWA Cotton	yes	yes	31.12.2021 → crop 2021/22
Tanzania	Alliance Ginneries Ltd.	yes	yes	30.06.2021 → crop 2021/22
Tanzania	Biosustain ¹	yes (Organic)	yes	30.06.2020 → crop 2019/20
Uganda	WUCC	yes	yes	31.12.2022 → crop 2022/23
Uganda	AgriExim	yes	yes	31.12.2021 → crop 2021/22
Zambia	Alliance Ginneries Ltd.	yes	yes	30.06.2021 → crop 2020/21
Zambia	Louis Dreyfus Company Zambia (formerly NWK Agri-Services)	yes	yes	30.06.2021 → crop 2020/21
Zambia	Continental Ginnery Limited/ Parrogate	yes	yes	30.06.2021 → crop 2020/21
Zambia	Grafax Cotton Limited	yes	yes	30.06.2021 → crop 2020/21
Zambia	Highland Cotton Trading /Parrogate	yes	yes	30.06.2021 → crop 2020/21

¹ Verification cycle for renewal of Certificate ongoing