



IOAS and Better Cotton Collaborate to Strengthen Assurance and Sustainability in Cotton Supply Chains.

November, 2025 IOAS Inc. and the Better Cotton Initiative (BCI) announce their collaboration to strengthen assurance and sustainability across global cotton supply chains. Through this initiative, IOAS will evaluate and accredit certification bodies operating in the BCI system, bolstering efforts to improve labour practices, protect human rights, and promote ethical production in the cotton production sector.

The launch comes at a critical time as global demand intensifies for greater transparency and accountability in agricultural supply chains. With the cotton industry employing millions of workers, many in vulnerable or informal labor conditions, BCI accreditation will help to ensure that certification bodies are held to internationally recognized standards of integrity, independence, and social responsibility.

“We are pleased to launch BCI accreditation at IOAS, not just for sustainable agriculture, but for safeguarding the rights of cotton farmers and workers around the world,” said Lauren Carlyle, Executive Director of IOAS Inc. “Our accreditation model is rooted in fairness, credibility, and accountability—values that align with BCI’s mission.”

BCI’s comprehensive farm level standard includes key social criteria such as the promotion of decent work, prevention of child and forced labor, gender equality, and freedom of association. Through its accreditation of certification bodies, IOAS will help ensure that assessments are carried out rigorously and fairly, providing a critical check on the assurance system that underpins the Better Cotton label.

By launching BCI accreditation services, IOAS adds to its portfolio of oversight for standards in organic farming, sustainability, and social practices. The partnership with BCI represents an important expansion of IOAS’s mission to support credible certification in industries where social and environmental challenges are closely intertwined.

“This collaboration and recognition will help reinforce trust in the Better Cotton Initiative’s system and promote consistent, credible implementation of social standards,” said Tom Owen, Head of Certification, Better Cotton Initiative. “We’re pleased to be recognised by IOAS as having an accreditable programme which meets international requirements. IOAS’s expertise in advancing ethical assurance systems adds another important layer of credibility to our assurance model as we continue to expand the certification programme we launched earlier this year. We look forward to working with IOAS to continue building on the foundations we have in place.”

About IOAS Inc.

IOAS is an independent, mission-driven nonprofit that works globally to accredit certification bodies in organic and sustainable agriculture and chain of custody, and social accountability. Operating in accordance with ISO/IEC 17011, IOAS supports the development of certification systems that are credible, transparent, and impactful for people and the planet.

About Better Cotton Initiative (BCI)



The Better Cotton Initiative (BCI) is the world's largest cotton sustainability organisation, supporting farming communities to survive and thrive, while protecting and restoring the environment. BCI convenes a global multistakeholder network of farm-level organisations, brands, government bodies, civil society and industry organisations and supply chain actors to promote the supply and demand for cotton produced with sustainable practices. Over the past 16 years, BCI has aligned more than a fifth of the world's cotton with our farming standard, channelled €200 million to cotton-growing communities and helped supply chain actors towards their sustainability goals.

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