

REQUIREMENTS FOR IMPLEMENTATION REEL COTTON COC





REEL COTTON

The REEL Cotton Programme is independently verified by a code of conduct developed with FLOCERT. The REEL Code of Conduct verifies that farmers in the REEL Cotton Programme are using sustainable practices, with added elements that ensure traceability and decent work. A claim may be made that cotton is REEL Cotton throughout the supply chain by farmers, ginners, spinners, fabric producers, garment manufacturers and brands. To ensure this claim is accurate there are clear auditing, verification and traceability processes in place that ensures the chain of custody and traceability of REEL Cotton throughout the supply chain.



REEL COTTON SUPPLY CHAIN AND TRACEABILITY

Traceability means that individual REEL Cotton products need to be identifiable as REEL Cotton at all steps of the processing from farm to end garments and with all relevant documents and labelling. Documentary and physical traceability aim to ensure that products sold as REEL Cotton are sourced from REEL producers and processors.

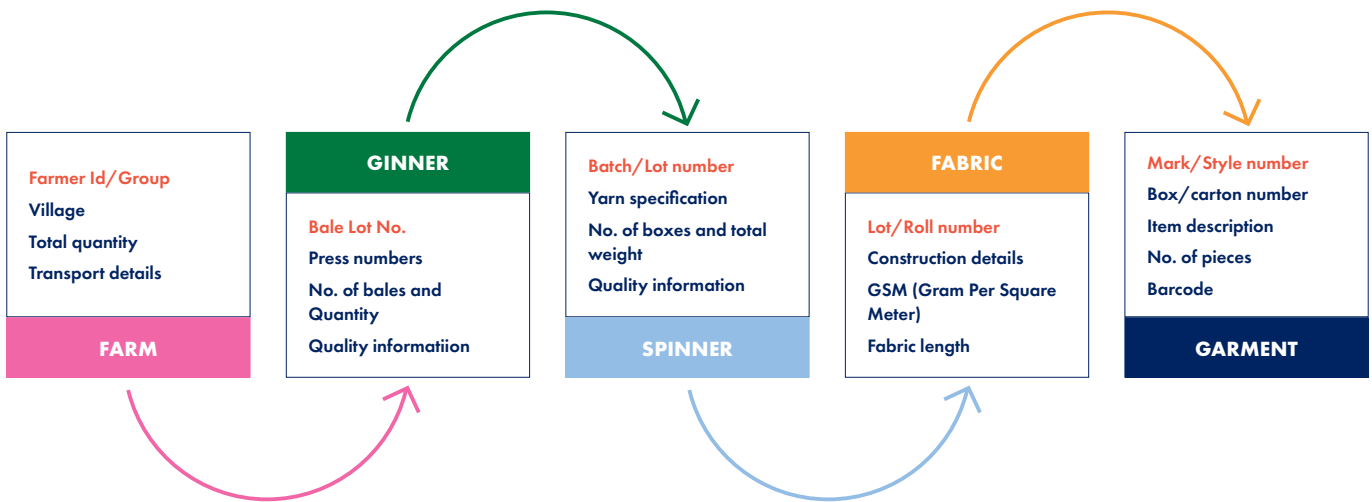


Figure: Diagrammatic representation of the traceability process



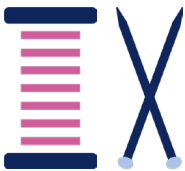
ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS ACROSS THE SUPPLY CHAIN

CottonConnect helps brands to re-imagine supply chains by supporting them in taking a holistic approach to farmer and supply chain resilience. During the REEL Cotton Programme, farmers are carefully trained on the long-term practices that aim to improve their cotton farm’s viability. REEL cotton Code of Conduct and TraceBale application can be implemented with help of CottonConnect.



BRANDS/RETAILERS

- Brands/Retailers must have an interest and vision in REEL Cotton sustainability practices.
- Must have long-term commitments to support REEL cotton farmers' training programme.
- Must have a well-established supply chain.
- Must have an interest in implementing a chain of custody to preserve the identity of REEL Cotton across the supply chain.
- Must ensure that suppliers and supply chain follow and adhere to the practices on prevention of child labour, sexual harassment, forced labour, working time, occupational health & safety, trade union and collective bargaining, equal wages, hazardous chemicals and water usage. Also, have a long-term road map and feature plan for addressing greenhouse gas emissions.



GARMENT/ FABRIC MANUFACTURER/SPINNERS

- Garment/fabric manufacturer must agree to preserve the identity of REEL Cotton.
- Must have a list of suppliers registered under REEL Cotton.
- Must follow and adhere to the practices on prevention of child labour, sexual harassment, forced labour, working time, occupational health & safety, trade union and collective bargaining, equal wages and hazardous chemicals. Also, have a long-term road map and feature plan for addressing greenhouse gas emissions.
- Must agree to implement the system of preservation of the identity of physical cotton.
- Must maintain all the documents related to the chain of custody and physical traceability of products.
- Must use TraceBale as per the SOP and maintain all the documents as per TraceBale, (if TraceBale is mandated for implementation as per the program).
- Agree to implement the external verification system on the chain of custody, as per the guidelines.



GINNERS

- Ginnners must agree on procurement of cotton directly from designated farmers practising sustainable cotton practices / REEL cotton program.
- Must maintain and preserve the identity of physical cotton.
- All the procured seed cotton must be traceable and stored separately.
- Must follow and adhere to the practices on prevention of child labour, sexual harassment, forced labour, working time, occupational health & safety, trade union and collective bargaining, equal wages, hazardous chemicals, and greenhouse gas emission.
- Must maintain all the documents related to the chain of custody and physical traceability of products.
- If mandated for implementation as per the programme, ginnners must use TraceBale as per the SOP and maintain all the documents as per TraceBale.
- No blending and mixing of REEL Cotton with conventional cotton.
- Must ensure regular and timely submission of stock details including procurement and selling.



HOW TO GET ASSOCIATED WITH REEL COTTON

- Must buy cotton and its product with designated supply chain partners.
- Supply chain partners must agree to use the TraceBale application for the chain of custody and traceability of REEL Cotton, if the program mandates or else maintain manual chain of custody documentation and implement processes as per the prescribed SOPs.
- Once supply chain partners are eligible as per the above-mentioned criteria then they can write and submit an expression of interest to join the programme at info@cottonconnect.org.
- Provide consent and access to the factory documents and systems for external verification procedures.
- Formal procurement agreements will be done by the factory in order to qualify for the audit process and eligibility requirements.



MONITORING AND PROTECTING REEL COTTON:

- Regular monitoring and verification of the supply chain will be conducted with the help of external/ third parties and the CottonConnect team.
- All the documents and data will be maintained in the TraceBale application or as part of the chain of custody documentation as the case may be. These documents and data will be verified per the requirement and at regular intervals.
- In the event of identification of misuse and wrong practices, this will be processed through the CottonConnect complaint procedure and the following procedure will be implemented:
 - The report on the unfair practices and not following standard operating procedures of REEL Cotton will be submitted.
 - The company or organization will be allowed to make and act on corrective actions against the findings under the stipulated period.
 - If there is no improvement on the agreed corrective action plan then a follow-up action will be conducted to ensure the corrective measure has been corrected.
 - Failure to take the required action by the member may result in the suspension or termination of the membership and approval of the supply chain partner.





CottonConnect is a company with a social purpose to reimagine the cotton supply chains and help textile producers and farmers enjoy better livelihoods.

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