

## Responsible Business for Gins Code of Conduct

### A solution for sustainable and compliant ginning

CottonConnect introduces a first-ever Code of Conduct for Gins, to act as a guide for ginners to follow best practice.

Ginners fulfil the important role of linking farmers to clothing industries. Their significance in cotton's value-chain is frequently overlooked by brands and policy-makers and their underperformance undermines the success of the wider sector.

The Code is the result of seven years' partnership of CottonConnect with over 100 gins in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, working together to assess and address potential issues and develop a framework for improvement.

It aims to continuously improve health and safety at gins, and raise standards in the whole sustainable cotton supply sector. Improving the productivity of gins strengthens the whole value chain of cotton. And it is a significant part of ensuring that brands comply with new regulations governing claims about green credentials.

#### WHAT THE CODE IS AND DOES

The Code takes gins on a journey of improvement, working with CottonConnect to make changes in three areas:

**Social** – which includes adherence to best practices such as preventing child labour and forced labour, and improving workplace health and wellbeing.

**Economic** – which puts in place improvements in management.

**Environment** – with a focus on reduction in GHG emissions and promoting a safe working environment.

#### What is ginning?

Ginning is a simple but critical mechanical process that is the link in the textile supply chain between the farmer and the spinner. Requiring specialist machinery, it is the process of separating the cotton boll from the seed. Gins are also responsible for cleaning and washing cotton before transporting it to spinners, the next level in the supply chain.



#### POTENTIAL ISSUES IN GINNING

- The ginning season is short, so employment is often transitory and unregulated.
- Training and PPE provision may be minimal and poorly enforced.
- Working environments can expose workers to health and safety hazards.

#### STRENGTHENING SUPPLY CHAIN FOR RETAILERS

- A fully sustainable supply chain must include the ginning stage.
- Improving the productivity of gins strengthens the whole cotton value chain.
- Supply chain transparency is crucial to compliance with incoming regulations on environmental claims.



## The Code has many benefits

### FOR GIN MANAGERS

- Improvement helps gins increase productivity and lower accident rate and associated costs.
- It supports them to be compliant with the best standards and policies relevant to the sector.
- Helps factories build better credibility with brands and earn a reputation of being responsible supply chain partners.
- Reduces attrition in factories and creates a more engaged workforce.

### FOR BRANDS AND RETAILERS

- Builds credibility for brands and manages potential reputational risks associated with unsafe practices in ginning.
- Addresses issues of child and forced labour in one of the significant supply chain links for brands.
- Provides reassurance that gins working with the Code of Conduct can become 'partners of choice' for brands, offering reliable services.

### FOR WORKERS

- Provides a healthier and safer working environment.
- Ensures their statutory rights.
- Combats child and forced labour.

For more information visit [www.cottonconnect.org](http://www.cottonconnect.org)

## GIN IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME RESULTS

Aggregated results from health and safety programmes in gins in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and China in 2021-22 show an improvement in health and safety indicators, including:



Compliance with safety aspects **increased** from 67.3% to **88.7%**



Adoption of precautionary measures **increased** from 51.0% to **100%**



Usage of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) by gin workers **increased** from 36.2% to **93.3%**



Availability of proper WASH facilities for gin workers **increased** from 95.0% to **97.6%**

The baseline is aggregated baseline measurements recorded from HSSE programmes in 2019-20 and 2021-22.

## ABOUT COTTONCONNECT

- Award-winning proven approach to improving supply of sustainable cotton since 2013.
- In-depth understanding of the cotton production, procurement and manufacturing process.
- Relationships with all links in the supply chain in order to trace garments back from Tier 1 suppliers all the way to the farm.
- Dedicated supply chain specialists in key cotton origin markets, India, Pakistan, China, Bangladesh, Egypt, Turkey.



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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