



sustainability verified

Brazilian cotton: best practices in sustainable & regenerative cotton production

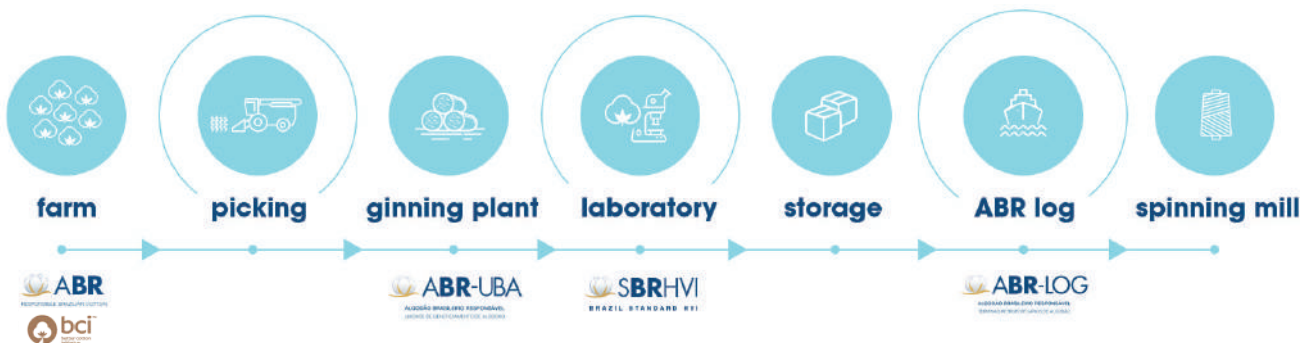
Internationally-recognised certification schemes play a crucial role in ensuring transparency, accountability, and verifiable best practices across the cotton supply chain. Brazilian cotton production aligns productivity with social and environmental responsibility through internationally recognised standards.



The **Responsible Brazilian Cotton Program** – ABR (its Portuguese abbreviation) – is Brazil's national certification scheme for responsible cotton production. Created in 2009, the program ensures that every certified bale meets rigorous **environmental, social, and economic** standards through annual **audits run by independent third**.

Verified sustainable, every step of the way

ABR certification covers the **entire cotton journey**, from farm to shipment, with sustainability embedded at every stage through certifications such as ABR for farms, ABR-UBA for ginning plants, SBR-HVI for classing labs, and ABR-LOG for retro port area (where containers are stuffed with Brazilian cotton and delivery to the world).



scope & scale

- ▶ In the 2024-25 season, certified farms produced **3.3 million metric tonnes of ABR cotton**.
- ▶ Certified ABR producers in Brazil account for **1.6m hectares of cotton production** annually.
- ▶ **81% of Brazil's cotton** is ABR certified. This makes it one of the world's most comprehensive national responsible cotton certification schemes.

For more information, please access:



how ABR certification works

- ▶ ABR applies **195 verification items** across 9 categories
- ▶ Areas evaluated cover environmental protection, responsible agricultural practices, workplace safety and health, and social and labour best practices.
- ▶ ABR-certified farms are audited **annually, in person, farm by farm**.
- ▶ Independent auditing is carried out by **ISO 17065 accredited, third-party auditors** such as Control Union, ABNT, Genesis certification, and QIMA.
- ▶ **ABR programme promotes a culture of continuous improvement:** compliance thresholds increase with each cycle from a minimum 85% in the first year to a minimum 90% compliance by the fourth year.
- ▶ Certificates and are publicly available in English and Portuguese through the ABR system, detailing **farm name, location, certification scope, and validity period**.

major highlights

- ▶ Zero tolerance for illegal deforestation
- ▶ Strict compliance with national environmental laws
- ▶ Proactive protection of natural vegetation reserves, often beyond minimum 20% legal requirement
- ▶ Expansion of the deployment of IPM systems and responsible use of agricultural inputs
- ▶ Zero tolerance of forced or child labour.
- ▶ Zero tolerance for forced labour and formalized rural employment
- ▶ Widespread adoption of occupational health & safety best practices

Better Cotton



Since 2010 the Brazilian cotton sector has been working closely together with Better Cotton, the globally-recognized international cotton sustainability standard. Brazil's ABR standard has been licensed by Better Cotton as an **equivalent standard**.



- Over **80%** of Brazil's cotton production is Better Cotton certified.

For more information,
please access:



- BCI/ABR certification covers strict criteria such as:

- **Responsible pesticide use**

- **Water management**

- **Soil health**

- **Biodiversity conservation**

- **Decent work**

- **Fair labour conditions**

- **Management**

- **Climate change mitigation**

Regenagri

Regenagri is a regenerative agriculture initiative aimed at securing the health of the land and the wealth of those who live on it. It supports farms and organisations to transition to holistic farming techniques that increase soil organic matter, encourage biodiversity sequester CO2 and improve water and energy management.



For over 15 years, Brazilian cotton producers have advanced regenerative agriculture, now recognized internationally through certifications like Regenagri. Their practices restore ecosystems, improve soil health, reduce emissions, and enhance biodiversity, ensuring a growing supply of regenerative cotton.



In 2024:

- ▶ **170,000 hectares certified** (growth of 61K over 2023)
- ▶ **315,000 metric tonnes** of cotton lint delivered

For more information, please access:



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