

U.S. COTTON TRUST PROTOCOL

Setting a new standard in sustainable cotton production

The Trust Protocol is a program that offers brands and retailers the critical assurances needed to source more sustainably grown cotton by providing data on environmental metrics of U.S. cotton production and a fully transparent supply chain.

The program's mission is to bring quantifiable and verifiable goals and measurement to the key sustainability metrics of U.S. cotton production with a vision where transparency is a reality and continuous improvement to improve our environmental footprint is the central goal.

It was created where the core values focus on U.S. cotton's legacy of authenticity, innovation and excellence, environmental stewardship, caring of people, and personal and corporate integrity, as well as a Theory of Change that is grounded in science-based measurement and feedback.

The program was built upon three key pillars:



Verified data – measurement in six key sustainability metrics



Article-level supply chain transparency for all members



Continuous improvement remaining central to U.S. cotton production

The Trust Protocol is aligned with the U.S. 2025 National Goals for Continuous Improvement and understands that a focus on innovation and technology is vital.



OUR PROGRESS TO DATE

The Trust Protocol has already welcomed **more than 800 brand, retailer, mill and manufacturer members**. This includes brands and retailers such as:



Our mill and manufacturer members are from global regions and countries including:

- | | | |
|------------|-----------|-------------------|
| Pakistan | Indonesia | Latin America |
| Bangladesh | Vietnam | Taiwan |
| India | Turkey | The United States |
| China | Korea | Western Europe |
| Thailand | Japan | |

Grower participation for the 2021/22 crop doubled since the program's pilot in 2020/21 with an estimated **1.1 million acres of cotton enrolled**.

The program has also been recognized and published in the **ITC Standards Map** and been approved as a standard for sustainable cotton by the **Partnership for Sustainable Textiles** and as an **ISEAL Community Member** all within the first 18 months after launch.

The Trust Protocol is aligned with the **UN Sustainable Development Goals**, recognized by **Textile Exchange** and **Forum for the Future**, and part of the **Sustainable Apparel Coalition**, **Cotton 2025 Sustainable Cotton Challenge**, **Cotton 2040** and **Cotton Up** initiatives. It is also aligned with the **G7 Fashion Pact** and **UNFCCC Fashion Industry Charter**.

