

Code of Conduct



U.S. COTTON
TRUST PROTOCOL[®]
Trust in a smarter cotton future

The U.S. Cotton Trust Protocol strives to be the world's leading program for sustainable cotton production. The Trust Protocol seeks to drive continuous improvement in sustainability through the deployment of a science-based, field level program that identifies, measures, and verifies the sustainable growing practices of participating U.S. cotton producers.

The Trust Protocol upholds the principles of personal and corporate responsibility and insists on compliance with all local and international law with respect to human rights, public health, worker safety, and environmental stewardship. These values are fundamental to the mission of the Trust Protocol and are incorporated into the following obligations. Any potential breach of this Code will be treated as a serious matter, subject to the review and judgment of the Trust Protocol's Board of Directors.

Any concern regarding a potential breach of the Code of Conduct should be directed to the Trust Protocol Board at grievance@trustuscotton.org. Every grievance will be reviewed by the Board. If the Board finds that a violation has occurred, it will first attempt to resolve the matter through direct, confidential engagement with the violating entity. If the violation is unresolved, or if the Board in its discretion finds the violation of the Code of Conduct to be sufficiently grave, the Trust Protocol may revoke the violating entity's membership.

General Commitment

Mission, Values, and Principles

Members will uphold the mission, values and principles of the Trust Protocol, act in its best interests, and adhere to the obligations set forth in the Membership Agreement.

Specific Commitments

Adherence to Applicable Laws

Members are expected to operate within all applicable laws and regulations, including all anticorruption, antitrust, customs, and international taxation laws.

Collaboration

The Trust Protocol complements rather than competes with other sustainable cotton initiatives. Members are supportive of each other and of the broader sector, collaborating alongside other sustainability initiatives.

Conduct

In all activities connected to the Trust Protocol, Members will act with dignity and integrity.

Conflict of Interest

Any possible conflict of business interest within the Trust Protocol identified by a Member should be reported to the Board immediately.

Contract Sanctity

Members are expected to respect the sanctity of contracts for all transactions with other Members. If a contract cannot be fulfilled, then all concerned parties should seek an amicable settlement or seek arbitration.

Data Integrity and Disclosure

The Trust Protocol will only publish aggregate data reflecting the sustainable practices of participating cotton producers. The Trust Protocol expects Members to respect the letter and spirit of the privacy protections described in the Membership Agreement.

Discrimination

The Trust Protocol will not tolerate discrimination or harassment of any kind or form on the basis of race, religion, color, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age or disability. Violations of this principle may be grounds for immediate revocation of Membership in the Trust Protocol.

Misrepresentation

Members will not make false claims, disparage, or otherwise misrepresent information about the Trust Protocol and will support the Trust Protocol in identifying false claims or other risks to the reputation of the program.

Privacy and Confidentiality

Members will respect the privacy and right to confidentiality of other Members, connected organizations, and individuals.

Upholding Reputation

Members will uphold the good reputation of the program and report any observed violations to the Board.