

# Contributor Code of Conduct

The Organic Cotton Accelerator (OCA) is a multi-stakeholder organisation dedicated to organic cotton. As a global platform, we are committed to bringing integrity, supply security and measurable social and environmental impact to organic cotton. OCA envisions a future where we have fully realised the Organic Cotton Effect - organic cotton's powerful and positive impact on people, planet and prosperity. We unite the sector to unleash the potential of organic cotton because we believe that by working together, we can create the conditions for organic cotton to thrive.

This Contributor Code of Conduct is intended as a living document which will be reviewed and updated when necessary. New versions will be published on the OCA website and communicated to Contributors. Contributors are responsible for keeping themselves informed of the contents of these updates.

As an OCA Contributor, you pledge to endorse OCA's vision and mission. You adhere to this Code of Conduct and use it to inform all your operations as an organisation. Breaches of the Code of Conduct may lead to a termination of your Contributor relation as specified in the OCA Contributor Commitment Agreement.

## The beliefs that drive OCA:

We believe in the life-changing effect of organic cotton. And seek partners who share our belief.  
We believe farmers have the right to grow organic cotton and everyone has the right to buy it.  
We understand the challenges in switching to and sticking with organic cotton.  
We believe in combining traditional farming techniques with innovative thinking.  
We believe in being honest about the challenges, so we learn and adapt together.  
We believe organic cotton is the catalyst for a truly sustainable textiles sector.  
We believe collaborative effort and sustained investment will help us create a sector fit for tomorrow.

## Expected Contributor behaviour:

OCA Contributors should all act with integrity to protect the credibility of OCA's global platform and programmes. In practice, this means all Contributors pledge to the following activities:

### 1. Responsibilities and conduct:

- a. Contributors commit to supporting OCA's vision and mission. Contributors will communicate their endorsement of OCA within their organisation and to external stakeholders.
- b. Contributors will act responsibly and transparently in their operations with OCA.
- c. Contributors will conduct themselves in a manner that does not, directly or indirectly, support activities that are deemed a threat to or undermine the operations of OCA.
- d. Contributors acknowledge that OCA is not a forum for sales or promotion of products, services, organisations or membership, nor is it a forum for the disparagement of products, services, organisations or memberships.

## **2. Multi-stakeholder collaboration:**

- a. Contributors will share their knowledge and expertise within the OCA platform to facilitate innovative solutions which can accelerate sector progress.
- b. Contributors will collaborate in the development of OCA's governance, programmes, resources and tools to help OCA achieve its mission and objectives.
- c. Contributors acknowledge that every Contributor will be treated equally, without prejudice or priority, regardless of size, financial contribution, organisational and sector history, experience and role within OCA.
- d. Contributors will seek to act in partnership in the broader space by being inclusive of and collaborating with other sustainable cotton initiatives external to OCA.
- e. Contributors recognise that OCA is a non-profit foundation and multi-stakeholder initiative serving as the global organic cotton platform in a pre-competitive and collaborative manner. As such, the facilitation, management and execution of OCA's programmes does not constitute OCA as a commercial service provider, vendor or supplier to Contributors, individually or collectively with other Contributors.

## **3. Safeguarding OCA's credibility:**

- a. Contributors will adhere to OCA's communication guidelines and not make any misleading or unsubstantiated claims about OCA's interventions and associated impact.
- b. Contributors will take responsibility to ensure all external communications are evidence-based and consistent.
- c. Contributors will help OCA monitor for false claims and other risks to OCA's integrity and credibility.
- d. Contributors will facilitate the continuous improvement of OCA's Programmes and Platform.

## **4. Commercial commitments in the Farm Programme (relevant only to for-profit entities):**

- a. Contributors will adhere to the terms of OCA's anti-trust policy.
- b. Contributors will conduct their operations with professional integrity to build trust in supply chains.
- c. Contributors will procure organic as part of their sourcing strategy. Brands and retailers are expected to participate in the OCA Farm Programme within two years of joining OCA as an indication of their engagement and commitment to OCA's mission.
- d. Contributors acknowledge that OCA will never engage directly in any commercial activities, financial negotiations and transactions between brands, retailers, manufacturers and suppliers regarding the buying and selling of organic cotton commodities, products or services including raw seed cotton fibre, premium/differentials, lint fibre, yarn, fabric or finished product.
- e. Contributors acknowledge that OCA will not initiate special projects or offer exclusive products or services to any of its Contributors that are not available to and open to all Contributors.

I am authorised on behalf of my organisation and hereby confirm that we understand and will follow this Contributor Code of Conduct.

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

\_\_\_\_\_ Name of Organisation

\_\_\_\_\_ Name

\_\_\_\_\_ Title / Position

\_\_\_\_\_ Signature

Please sign and submit only this page to the OCA Secretariat.

All Contributors have the responsibility to inform their employees about the content of this Contributor Code of Conduct and secure their compliance.

If you, your employees, or any other representatives of your organisation have any queries related to the OCA Contributor Code of Conduct, please contact [secretariat@organiccottonaccelerator.org](mailto:secretariat@organiccottonaccelerator.org)