Farmer Results 2016-17 Season

The Better Cotton Initiative (BCI) is committed to measuring sustainability improvements everywhere Better Cotton is produced and to evaluating the social, environmental and economic impact of the Better Cotton Standard System.

BCI Farmers vs. Comparison Farmers

The farmer results presented here compare the country averages for this season (2016-17) of key social, environmental and economic indicators achieved by licensed BCI Farmers to non-BCI Farmers in the same geographic area who are not participating in the BCI Programme. We refer to the latter farmers as Comparison Farmers.

Collecting BCI Farmer Data

BCI Farmers maintain a Farmer Field Book, in which they record farm inputs and outputs such as irrigation methods, pesticide use, costs and yields. Data is collected every season from a large representative random sample of participating smallholders, and from all medium and large farms.

Communicating BCI Farmer Results

Farmer results must not be manipulated in any way. Averaging farm results across different geographies or across different cotton seasons undermines the credibility of the data. If you are a BCI Member and wish to use the results to support your storytelling or if you would like to share this information in articles, reports or other publications, please contact the BCI Communications Team who can help ensure that you use the data correctly and in a way that maintains the integrity of the data.

ENVIRONMENTAL & ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Farmer Results 2016-17 Season

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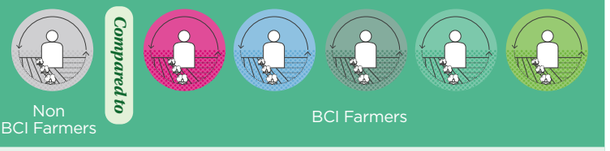
The 2016-17 farmer results provide an overview of the outcomes BCI Farmers are experiencing at field-level by participating in the BCI programme and adhering to the Better Cotton Principles and Criteria (P&C). The Better Cotton P&C provide a global definition of Better Cotton through seven key principles. Adhering to the Better Cotton P&C enables BCI Farmers to produce cotton in a way that is measurably better for people, the environment and farming communities.

BCI Farmers vs. Comparison Farmers

The farmer results presented here compare the country averages of key social, environmental and economic indicators achieved by licensed BCI Farmers to non-BCI Farmers in the same geographic area who are not participating in the BCI Programme. **We refer to the latter farmers as Comparison Farmers.**



Environmental indicators

Pesticide Use
The indicator measures the volume of active pesticide ingredient applied, per hectare of cotton cultivated.

Synthetic Fertiliser Use
The indicator measures the volume of synthetic fertiliser applied, per hectare of cotton cultivated.

Organic Fertiliser Use
The indicator records whether organic fertiliser is used.

Water Use for Irrigation
The indicator measures the volume of water used for irrigation, per hectare of cotton cultivated. Water use is not recorded for rain-fed cotton cultivation.

Economic indicators

Yield
The indicator measures the amount of harvested cotton, per hectare.

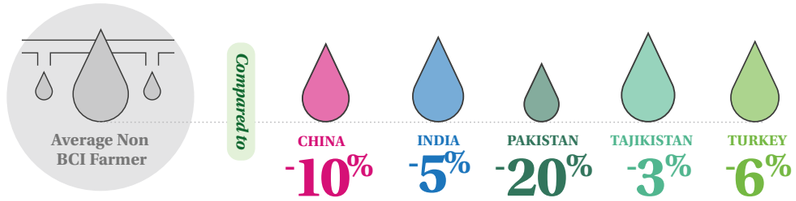
Profitability
The indicator measures profitability, defined as the net income earned from producing the cotton crop.

In the 2016-17 season, the Better Cotton Standard System was directly implemented in 11 countries. This overview shares results from five of those countries and not the others for the following reasons.

In Israel and Mozambique, Comparison Farmer data was not available because most of the cotton farmers in these countries were already participating in the BCI Programme. In Kazakhstan and Madagascar, there was only one licensed Producer Unit (a grouping of BCI Farmers) and BCI's data confidentiality agreements prevent public reporting of a single Producer Unit's results. In the US, BCI only works with large farms, and Comparison Farmer data is not available because it is considered commercially confidential information. In South Africa, there were data quality issues that prevented meaningful analysis.

Water m³/ha

BCI Farmers in all five countries used *LESS* water for irrigation than Comparison Farmers.

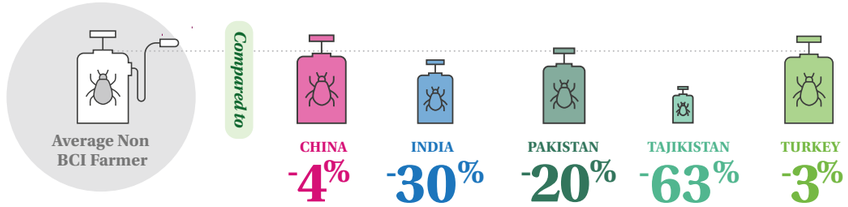


"Tip" How to talk about the results:

BCI Farmers in China used *10% less* water than Comparison Farmers.

Pesticide kg/ha

BCI Farmers in all five countries used *LESS* pesticide than Comparison Farmers.

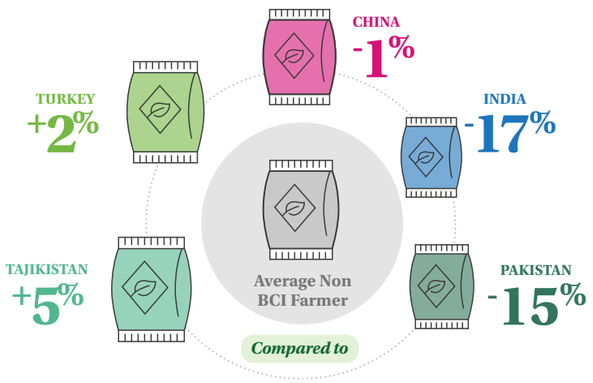


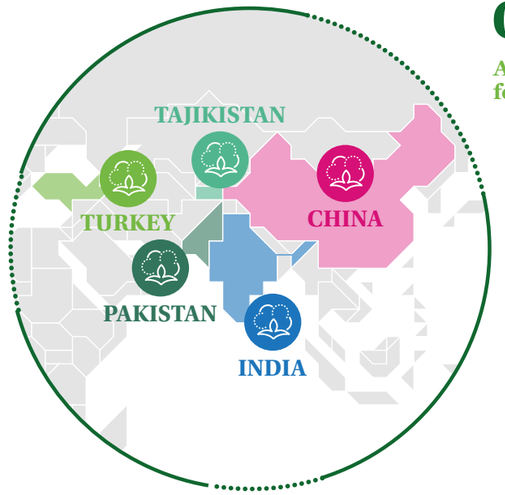
"Tip" How to talk about the results:

BCI Farmers in India used *30% less* pesticide than Comparison Farmers.

Synthetic fertiliser kg/ha

BCI Farmers used *LESS* synthetic fertiliser than Comparison Farmers in 3 of the 5 countries.



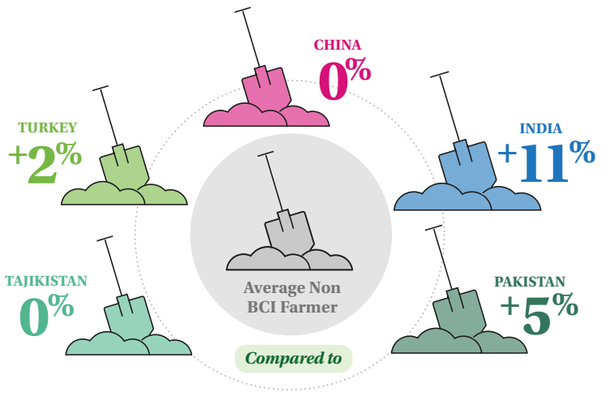


"Tip" How to talk about the results:

BCI Farmers in Pakistan used *15% less* synthetic fertiliser than Comparison Farmers.

Organic fertiliser yes/no

A greater number of BCI Farmers *USED* organic fertiliser than Comparison Farmers in 3 of the 5 countries.

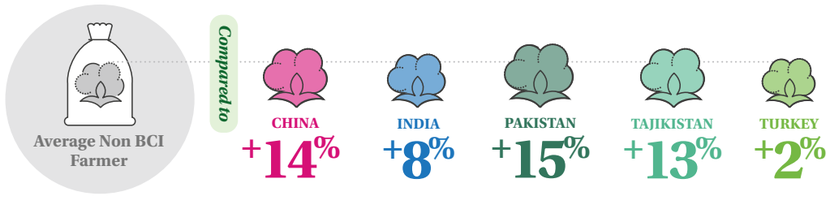


"Tip" How to talk about the results:

In Pakistan, *5% more* BCI Farmers applied organic fertiliser than Comparison Farmers.

Yield t/ha

BCI Farmers in all five countries had *HIGHER* yields than Comparison Farmers.

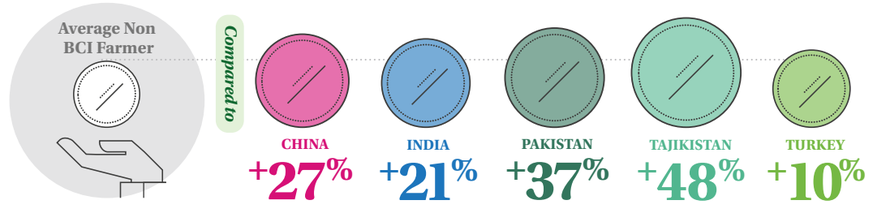


"Tip" How to talk about the results:

BCI Farmers in Tajikistan had a *13% higher* yield than Comparison Farmers.

Profit net income/ha

BCI Farmers in all five countries had *HIGHER* profits than Comparison Farmers.



"Tip" How to talk about the results:

BCI Farmers in Turkey had *10% higher* profits than Comparison Farmers.

SOCIAL INDICATORS

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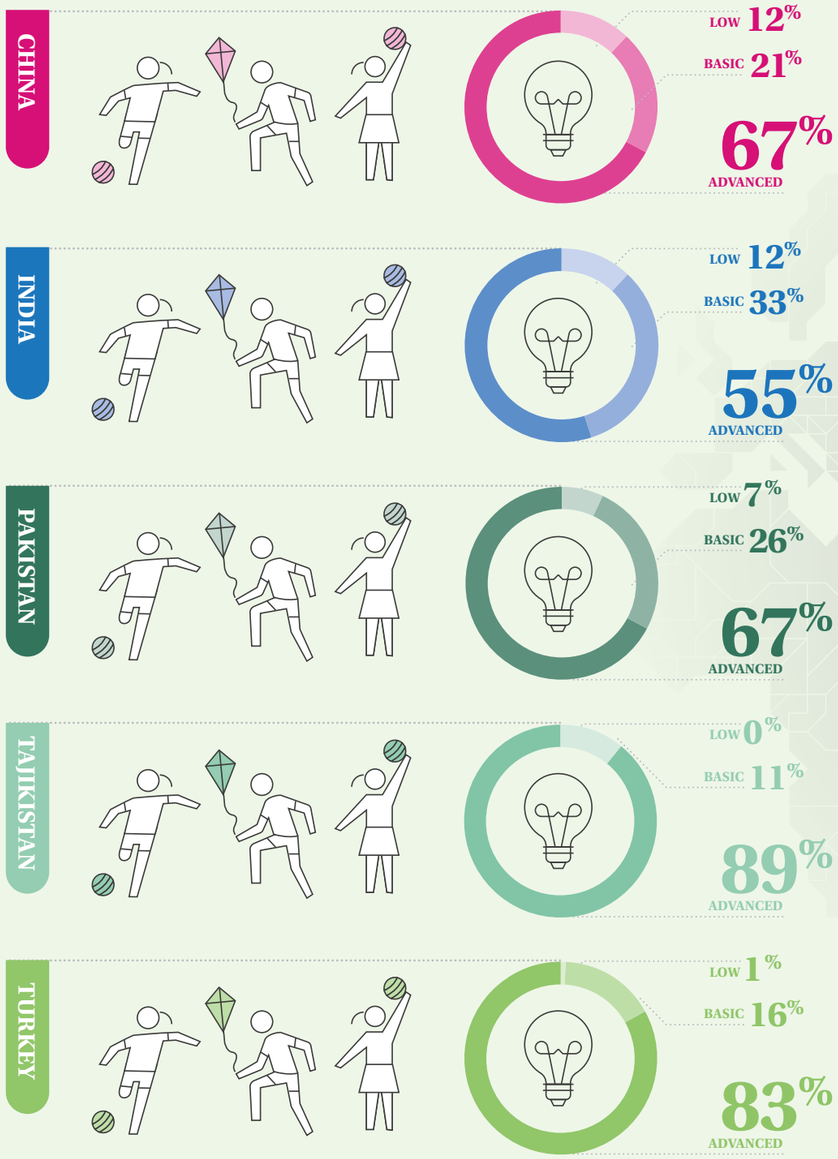
Eliminating Child Labour ***Improving Knowledge***
The indicator measures the percentage of farmers who can accurately differentiate between acceptable forms of children's work and hazardous child labour.

Women's Inclusion in BCI Activities
The indicator measures the number of farmers and workers receiving BCI training who are women (by training topic), compared to the number of male farmers and workers trained.

Eliminating Child Labour *Improving Knowledge*



Women's Inclusion in BCI Activities

Percentages represent the proportion of women trained as a total of all participants.

Training topic:

Health & safety, labour, gender or other social issues

CHINA	INDIA	PAKISTAN	TAJIKISTAN	TURKEY
11,660	60,393	37,969	1,384	472
35%	14%	19%	34%	37%

Training topic:

Preparation and use of pesticides

CHINA	INDIA	PAKISTAN	TAJIKISTAN	TURKEY
13,687	37,056	7,886	382	12
37%	9%	5%	10%	2%

Training topic:

Harvest practices to ensure fibre quality