JOHN LEWIS & PARTNERS | JOHN LEWIS PARTNERSHIP | WAITROSE & PARTNERS

OUR APPROACH TO COTTON SOURCING

We recognise that the production of cotton based products can have significant economic, environmental and social impacts. We have a role to play in supporting responsible and sustainable farming practices in the production of cotton including efficient water usage and reduction in the use of harmful chemicals. We take the human rights of those working in these supply chains very seriously. You can find out more on our approach to Human rights in our supply chains here and in our latest Modern Slavery Statement.

Our commitment

We are committed to sourcing our own brand cotton more sustainably. We define 'more sustainable' as meeting one of the following criteria:

- BCI (Better Cotton Initiative)
- Organic : Certified to GOTS (Global Organic Textile Standard)
- Recycled : Certified to GRS (Global Recycling Standard)

In October 2020 we launched a bold new commitment that 'All key raw materials in our own-brand products will be from sustainable or recycled sources by 2025' with cotton being one of these key raw materials. Our current sustainable cotton sourcing targets across John Lewis and Waitrose and the latest externally reporting figures can be found here.

Traceability of cotton supply chains

Cotton traceability is an industry-wide issue due to its long and complex global supply chain. We are committed to addressing the traceability challenge, both through our own actions and by working collaboratively with others, which is crucial to implementing the improvements that are needed.

The John Lewis Partnership places significant importance on how and where it sources its raw materials, cotton being one of them. The majority of our cotton usage is within our bed linens and towels assortments, where the cotton originates predominantly from India, Egypt and the USA.

We are aware of the ongoing human rights concerns regarding cotton sourced from the Xinjiang region in China. We do not have operations, own brand suppliers or factories in Xinjiang however, we currently source a small amount of product where the cotton originates from China. These products come from suppliers who sign up to our Responsible Sourcing Code of Practice.

The John Lewis Partnership has always been firmly committed to safeguarding the human rights of those who help make and sell our products and services. As part of this commitment, we have allocated specific funding to invest in tools and technologies that allow physical traceability of raw

materials, with the aim of providing us with full visibility and control over where suppliers source cotton from, for all our own brand products.

Ongoing monitoring

Working collaboratively with the retail sector and organisations such as BCI is important in driving improvements in cotton supply chains. We became a BCI member in 2015, working closely not just to ensure our own cotton is sustainably sourced, but also to drive improvements across the industry. In 2019, our membership enabled BCI to reach and train more than 2,000 farmers on more sustainable farming practices such as efficient water usage and reducing the use of harmful chemicals on the land, resulting in increased yields.

In March 2020, the BCI suspended licensing and assurance activities in the Xinjiang region. As a result, there is no new licensed Better Cotton coming from the region. In October 2020, the BCI took the decision to cease all field-level activities in the Xinjiang region (including capacity building and data monitoring and reporting).

We are a member of the BCI "Chain of Custody Advisory Group", providing strategic advice to its members on strengthening traceability at every stage of the cotton supply chain. In addition, we have recently committed to be part of the Retailer & Brands Steering Committee that will influence the future design of cotton traceability.

The Egyptian Cotton Project

We are the first British retailer to join an international working group initiated by the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), in collaboration with Cotton Egypt Association (CEA), the Egyptian Ministry of Trade and Agriculture, the Better Cotton Initiative (BCI) and brands including Hugo Boss and Filmar. The group is leading the 'The Egyptian Cotton Project' with the following aims:

- Embedding sustainable farming programmes in Egypt by introducing farming communities to the Better Cotton Initiative and setting up organic cotton plantations.
- Improving cotton growers' livelihoods and economic performance with technical skills, sustainable agricultural practices, and fairer, more consistent pricing.
- Supporting youth skills, education, and development in sustainable agricultural and

industrial practices.

- Supporting vulnerable communities through education and encouraging equal opportunities.

We have introduced our Egyptian cotton suppliers to the working group to ensure they are part of this collaborative approach.