The Cotton Corporation of India Ltd.

(A Government of India Undertaking)

MISSION FOR COTTON PRODUCTIVITY
(KAPAS KANTI)

HANDBOOK FOR GINNING & PRESSING (G&P) FACTORIES

FY 2026–27 TO 2030–31

COMPONENT – II

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT & BRANDING

AUGMENTING QUALITY | IMPROVING GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS | BUILDING BRANDS

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PREAMBLE

Cotton occupies a central position in India's agricultural and textile economy and supports the livelihoods of millions of farmers. As one of the world's major cotton-producing countries, India has significant potential to further strengthen the productivity, quality and global competitiveness of its cotton value chain. At the same time, the sector faces challenges relating to productivity, contamination, post-harvest handling, ginning and pressing practices, quality testing, traceability and market access.

The Mission for Cotton Productivity (Kapas Kanti) was announced in the Union Budget and approved by the Union Cabinet on 05.05.2026**.** The Mission adopts a comprehensive value-chain approach covering productivity enhancement, quality improvement, branding, market access, fibre diversification and development of new-age fibres. It seeks to strengthen the cotton ecosystem, improve productivity and quality, enhance value realisation and increase the competitiveness of Indian cotton.

Component-II of the Mission – Quality Improvement & Branding**,** implemented by the Ministry of Textiles through the Cotton Corporation of India Ltd. (CCI)**,** has particular relevance for Ginning & Pressing (G&P) factories. The Component seeks to promote high-quality cotton, strengthen Kasturi Cotton Bharat, improve testing and certification, facilitate market access and price discovery, enhance traceability and build the capabilities of G&P factories.

Ginning & Pressing factories occupy a critical position in the cotton value chain, as the quality of cotton is significantly influenced by its handling and processing at the ginning stage. Kapas Kanti therefore provides a number of opportunities for G&P factories through Output-Based Support, Kasturi Cotton Bharat, market promotion, e-Market Access, strengthened cotton testing infrastructure and capacity building**.**

This Handbook has been prepared as a ready reference for Ginning & Pressing factories to understand the relevant interventions under Component-II of Kapas Kanti Mission and to facilitate their participation. It provides an overview of the Component-II of Kapas Kanti Mission and Component-II, followed by practical information on eligibility, support mechanisms, market access, testing infrastructure and capacity-building opportunities available to G&P factories.

The Handbook may be read together with the notifications, Standard Operating Procedures and instructions issued by the Ministry of Textiles, CCI, Textiles Committee and other designated agencies from time to time**.** In case of any variation between this Handbook and the approved Guidelines or subsequent official instructions, the latter shall prevail.

Together, let us build a quality-assured, traceable, competitive and globally recognised Indian cotton value chain.

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A. Mission for Cotton Productivity (Kapas Kanti) - An Overview

Cotton occupies a central position in India's agricultural and textile economy. India is one of the world's major cotton-producing countries and cotton supports the livelihoods of millions of farmers. It also forms the principal natural fibre used by the Indian textile industry.

Despite India's significant position in global cotton production and area under cotton cultivation, the productivity of Indian cotton remains comparatively low. The cotton sector also faces challenges relating to quality, contamination, post-harvest handling, processing practices, testing infrastructure, traceability and market positioning. These challenges affect the competitiveness of Indian cotton and the value realised across the cotton value chain.

Recognising the need for a comprehensive and coordinated approach to address these issues, the Mission for Cotton Productivity (Kapas Kanti), was announced in the Union Budget and subsequently approved by the Union Cabinet on 05.05.2026.

The Mission adopts a value-chain approach, covering interventions from cotton production and productivity enhancement to quality improvement, branding, market access, fibre diversification and development of new-age fibres. Its broad objective is to strengthen the cotton ecosystem, improve productivity and quality, enhance value realisation and increase the competitiveness of Indian cotton.

1. Vision of Kapas Kanti

The Mission is aligned with the 5F vision – "Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign". The approach seeks to strengthen linkages across the cotton value chain so that improvements at one stage translate into better outcomes at subsequent stages.

The Mission therefore goes beyond increasing cotton production alone. It seeks to create an integrated cotton ecosystem in which:

- Farmers are supported to adopt improved production technologies;
- Productivity and resilience of cotton cultivation are enhanced;
- Contamination and quality-related issues are addressed;
- Quality testing and certification are strengthened;
- Indian cotton is positioned as a premium and reliable product;
- Transparent market linkages and price discovery are facilitated;
- Traceability is strengthened across the value chain; and
- Indian cotton becomes more competitive in domestic and international markets.

2. Key Challenges in the Indian Cotton Sector

The Mission has been designed in response to a number of structural and emerging challenges confronting the Indian cotton sector.

(i.) Low Productivity:

Indian cotton productivity remains relatively low due to factors including:

- High dependence on rain-fed cotton cultivation;
- Regional variations in productivity; and
- Inadequate adoption of improved production technologies.

The Mission seeks to address these constraints through research, technology development and large-scale dissemination of improved crop production practices.

(ii.) Pest and Climate Vulnerability:

Cotton production is affected by pest-related risks as well as increasing climatic variability. The Mission therefore places emphasis on climate-resilient technologies, improved varieties and production practices capable of addressing emerging climatic and pest-related challenges.

(iii.) Quality and Contamination Issues:

Quality-related challenges, including contamination, harvesting and storage practices and limitations in processing infrastructure, can adversely affect the value and marketability of Indian cotton.

Improving quality at the farm, ginning and post-ginning stages is therefore an important part of the Mission.

(iv.) Ginning and Processing Constraints:

The quality of cotton is not determined only at the farm level. Ginning and pressing operations play a critical role in preserving fibre quality and preventing contamination.

The Mission accordingly recognises the need for:

- Improved ginning and processing practices;
- Modernisation and upgradation of processing facilities;
- Improved quality management;
- Contamination control; and
- Greater adoption of quality assurance and certification systems.

(v.) Testing, Certification and Traceability:

Increasing domestic and international demand for reliable quality, sustainability and traceability requires stronger systems for testing, certification and tracking of cotton through the value chain.

3. Structure of the Mission

The Mission for Cotton Productivity has three broad components**:**

I. Component I – Productivity Enhancement:

Component I focuses on increasing cotton productivity through research, innovation, technology development and large-scale dissemination of improved production technologies**.**

It comprises two sub-components:

a) **Sub-Component IA – Research & Development:**

This focuses on research relating to climate-resilient, pest-resistant and high-yielding cotton varieties/hybrids, improved ginning percentage, climate-smart technologies, precision and IoT-based techniques and mechanisation.

b) **Sub-Component IB – Scaling-up of Crop Production Technologies:**

This focuses on empowering farmers through science and technology support and promoting improved crop production technologies, including High-Density Planting System (HDPS), closer spacing, Extra Long Staple (ELS) cotton and good management practices**.**

II. Component II – Quality Improvement and Branding:

It focuses on strengthening the quality, value and market positioning of Indian cotton through interventions interalia:

(i) Augmentation of Kasturi Cotton Bharat
- Output based support to G&P factories
- Strengthening Market Access through Promotional Activities
- e-Portal for enhanced price discovery, ease of doing business and traceability

(ii) Strengthening Cotton Testing Infrastructure

(iii) Capacity Building of Registered G&P Factories

Component II is being implemented by the Ministry of Textiles through the Cotton Corporation of India Ltd. (CCI) and has an overall budget of ₹1,000 crore**.**

III. Component III – Fibre Diversification through New-Age Fibres:

Component III seeks to promote fibre crops suited to regional soil and climatic conditions and support the development of new-age fibres, their blends with cotton and value-added products.

The component also envisages development of quality standards, branding, e-commerce and trade promotion for new-age fibre blends with cotton.

It is to be implemented by the Ministry of Textiles through the National Jute Board (NJB) with a budget of ₹300 crore.

4. Mission Outlay and Implementation Period

The Mission for Cotton Productivity has an overall outlay of ₹5,659.22 crore and is to be implemented over a period of five years from FY 2026–27 to FY 2030–31**.**

The broad allocation is:

Component	Focus	Implementing Agency	Outlay (₹crore)
Component I	Productivity Enhancement	DARE/ICAR & DA&FW	₹4,359.22
Component II	Quality Improvement & Branding	Ministry of Textiles through CCI	₹1,000
Component III	Fibre Diversification through New-Age Fibres	Ministry of Textiles through NJB	₹300
		Total	**₹5,659.22**

5. Expected Outcomes of the Mission

The Mission seeks to generate outcomes across the entire cotton value chain.

(i.) Enhancing Cotton Productivity:
The Mission targets an increase in cotton productivity to 755 kg/ha by 2030-31, from 431 kg/ha in 2025-26, with particular emphasis on improving productivity and resilience in rain-fed areas.

(ii.) Improving Cotton Quality and Global Competitiveness:
Through quality improvement, contamination control, testing, certification, traceability and branding, the Mission seeks to strengthen the positioning of Indian cotton as a premium-quality product.

Reduction in trash, including the target of less than 2% trash, is expected to contribute to improved quality and export potential.

(iii.) Strengthening Farmer Incomes:
Improved productivity, better quality and enhanced price realisation are expected to contribute to higher returns for cotton farmers.

(iv.) Promoting Sustainability:
The Mission promotes climate-resilient production practices, water-efficient approaches and eco-friendly fibre development, thereby contributing to a more sustainable cotton and textile value chain.

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B. Component–II: Quality Improvement & Branding

1. Overview:

Component–II of the Mission for Cotton Productivity (Kapas Kanti) focuses on improving the quality, value, marketability and global competitiveness of Indian cotton**.** The Component adopts a value-chain approach, recognizing that improving cotton productivity at the farm level must be complemented by improvements in post-harvest handling, ginning and pressing, quality testing, certification, branding, traceability and market access.

The Component is implemented by the Ministry of Textiles through the Cotton Corporation of India Ltd. (CCI)**.** It comprises a set of interventions aimed at creating an ecosystem in which quality cotton is produced, processed, tested, certified, traceable and effectively connected with domestic and international buyers.

2. Objectives of Component–II:

The principal objectives of Component–II are to:

- Promote the production and supply of high-quality cotton;
- Improve the quality and consistency of cotton bales through better processing and quality management;
- Promote Kasturi Cotton Bharat as a premium Indian cotton brand;
- Encourage G&P factories to produce certified Kasturi Cotton Bharat bales through Output-Based Support**;**
- Strengthen contamination control across the cotton value chain;
- Improve domestic and international market visibility of Indian cotton;
- Facilitate transparent market linkages and price discovery through an e-Portal/e-auction mechanism**;**
- Strengthen cotton testing and certification infrastructure;
- Promote innovation and start-up participation in the cotton value chain;
- Enhance the skills and capabilities of G&P factory personnel; and
- Promote sustainable utilization and recycling of cotton waste.

These interventions together seek to strengthen the movement of Indian cotton from a predominantly commodity-oriented market towards a quality-assured, traceable and branded cotton value chain**.**

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C. Benefits & Opportunities for G&P Factories under Kapas Kanti

S. No.	Area	Benefit to Ginners	Nature of Benefit
1.	Production-based incentive	₹500 per certified Kasturi Cotton Bharat bale, subject to the prescribed conditions/ceiling	Direct Financial Incentive
2.	Higher production of Kasturi bales	Ginner can convert eligible quality cotton into certified Kasturi bales and earn the incentive on qualifying production	Commercial
3.	Free/low-cost e-market access	A dedicated digital platform can provide a transparent avenue for displaying and marketing Kasturi bales to registered buyers/spinners	Market Access
4.	Branding of Kasturi Cotton Bharat	Ginner gets the benefit of selling a nationally promoted, traceable and certified brand, rather than ordinary commodity cotton	Brand Premium Potential
5.	Better price realisation	Certification, quality assurance, QR traceability and branding can help ginners negotiate better prices from mills/domestic and export buyers	Commercial
6.	Wider buyer base	Linking Kasturi bales with spinners, exporters, textile brands and other supply-chain participants can expand the potential customer base	Market Expansion
7.	Traceability & quality assurance	QR/blockchain-based traceability identifies the ginner, lot, bale, crop year, etc., strengthening buyer confidence	Quality/ Credibility
8.	Modernisation & quality improvement	The Mission specifically envisages modernisation of ginning and processing facilities and improvement in cotton quality	Operational Benefit
9.	National/international promotion	Government/industry-led branding, exhibitions and promotion of Kasturi Cotton Bharat can create greater visibility for participating ginners	Marketing Support
10.	Long-term premium market	Creation of a recognized Indian premium cotton brand can establish a differentiated market for compliant ginners rather than competing only on commodity price	Strategic Benefit
11.	Skill Upgradation of workforce	Improved technical skills and efficiency through Best Management Practices (BMP) training	Operational / Human Resource Benefit
12.	Access to Modern Testing Facilities	Access to modern cotton testing facilities near cotton producing areas	Infrastructure / Technical

D. SCHEME FOR THE GINNERS

I. Output based support to G&P:

1. Objective:

To enhance the supply of Kasturi Cotton Bharat (KCB) bales by incentivizing Ginning & Pressing (G&P) factories through output-based support of ₹500 per certified bale, encouraging upgradation of processing facilities and adoption of quality management systems. The support shall be provided up to ₹75 lakh per G&P factory over a period of five years, with an overall target of 133 lakh KCB bales during the Mission period.

2. Duration & Budget Outlay:

To be implemented over a period of five years from FY 2026–27 to FY 2030–31, the budget is as follows:

S. No	Sub Component	FY wise Budget (₹ crore)					
		2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030 - 31	Total
1.	Output based support to G&P factories	75.00	225.00	200.00	160.00	5.00	665.00

- **Indicative financial support:** ₹500/- per certified Kasturi bale.

3. Scheme Type:

Central Sector Scheme with 100% Central Funding**.**

4. Implementing Agency:

The Cotton Corporation of India Ltd. (CCI), Ministry of Textiles, Government of India.

5. Implementation Mechanism:

The CCI shall be responsible for its effective implementation consistent with these guidelines and ensure transparent, efficient, and time-bound execution.

5.1. Eligibility Criteria:

- Ginning & Pressing (G&P) factories registered with nominated agency/agencies under Kasturi Cotton Bharat certification scheme. A brief about the Kasturi Cotton Bharat, is enclosed at **Annexure-I**

- G&P factories registered with Textile Committee and having a minimum 3 (three) star rating under the Star Rating Scheme of Textiles Committee.
- The G&P factory shall have an Air Jet Lint Cleaner installed as a mandatory requirement for availing support under the Scheme.

5.2. Support for Kasturi Cotton:

- Financial assistance of ₹500/- (or as may be decided from time to time with the approval of Apex committee) per Kasturi cotton Bharat bale shall be provided commencing from Cotton season 2026-27. This output-based support shall be subject to a maximum ceiling of ₹75 lakh per G&P factory over the entire mission period.
- Physical Target: 133 lakh Kasturi bales over a 5-year period**.**

Financial Year	**Annual Target:** Kasturi cotton bales (in lakh bales)	**Financial Target (₹ crore)**
2026-27	15.00	75.00
2027-28	45.00	225.00
2028-29	40.00	200.00
2029-30	32.00	160.00
2030-31	1.00	5.00
Total	**133.00**	**665.00**

5.3. Registration process:

- Interested Ginning & Pressing (G&P) factories shall register on Kasturi Portal. The registration form along with the list of required documents is enclosed at **Annexure–II**. The following documents shall be required at the time of registration:
    - Partnership deed (in case of partnership firm), or Memorandum and Articles of Association (in case of a company)
    - GST Registration certificate
    - PAN
    - Bank account details
    - UDYAM Certificate (for MSME firm)
    - Any Other documents, as may be specified

5.4. Certification of Kasturi bales:

- Kasturi Cotton Bharat (KCB) bales shall be certified by the agency/agencies appointed by Apex Committee.

5.5. Submission of Claim:

- Ginning & Pressing (G&P) factories shall submit claims for Output-Based Support to CCI along with the following documents:
    - Kasturi lot certification issued by the agency appointed by Apex Committee, based on testing of samples meeting prescribed quality parameters fixed by Any Agency.

5.6. Support Disbursement:

- 50% of the eligible claim shall be reimbursed upon submission of Kasturi Cotton Bharat (KCB) bale certification.
- The balance 50% of the amount shall be released after the sale of Kasturi lots and submission of Transaction Certificate (TC) issued by the agency appointed by Apex Committee**.** However, in case of captive consumption by ginners in his spinning mill, the said G&P factory shall provide certificate of consumption.
- Any claim found to be supported by incomplete, incorrect, or non-compliant documentation shall be liable for rejection.
- Any obligation or dispute arising out of the sale and purchase transaction shall be governed by the agreement between the Buyer and Seller, without any reference to or liability on the part of CCI.
- Ginning & Pressing (G&P) factories availing support under the Scheme shall mandatorily submit the prescribed returns on TSRS Portal of the Textile Commissioner Office or as may be prescribed from time to time in this regard.

5.7. Mode of Disbursement:

- All claims received within a given month shall be processed and reimbursed through DBT by the 15th of the succeeding month.

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II. e-Portal for Enhanced Price Discovery, Ease of Doing Business and Traceability

1. Objective:

To develop a transparent, efficient, and user-friendly e-portal for Kasturi Cotton Bharat bales that facilitates market linkages and enables effective price discovery, while operating as a neutral, non-transactional platform without involvement in trade execution, financial settlement, or dispute resolution between buyers and sellers.

2. Duration & Budget Outlay:

To be implemented over a period of five years from FY 2026–27 to FY 2030–31, the budget is as follows:

S. No	Sub Component	Budget (₹ crore)					
		2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	Total
1.	e-Portal for enhanced price discovery, ease of doing business and traceability	6.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	10.00

3. Scheme Type:

Central Sector Scheme with **100% Central Funding**.

4. Implementing Agency:

The Cotton Corporation of India Ltd. (CCI), Ministry of Textiles, Government of India.

5. Implementation Mechanism:

5.1. Agency Selection:

- The development, operation, and maintenance of the e-Portal shall be entrusted to a reputed organization having proven expertise in digital platform development, e-auction systems, and IT-enabled services.
- The agency shall be selected in accordance with the prevailing Government of India guidelines subject to approval of the Apex Committee.

5.2. Scope of Work:

- The scope of work shall include design, development, deployment, operation, and maintenance of a dedicated e-Portal for Kasturi Cotton Bharat bales to

facilitate transparent price discovery, improved market access, and traceability, while acting strictly as a neutral digital facilitation platform.

- The above portal could be expanded facilitating sale of all type of cotton by any seller in due course of time
- It includes the following:
    - Platform Design and Development
    - User Registration and Onboarding
    - e-Auction, Price discovery Mechanism and traceability
    - Notification and Communication System
    - Operation and Maintenance (O&M)
    - Helpdesk and User Support

5.3. Definitions:

5.3.1 Buyer:

- Buyer means any individual, firm, company, cooperative, partnership, or other legal entity duly registered on the e-Portal, intending to participate in the e-auction process for purchase of Kasturi Cotton Bharat bales.

5.3.2 Seller:

- Seller means any individual, firm, company, cooperative, ginning & pressing unit, or other legal entity duly registered on the e-Portal, authorized to list and offer Kasturi Cotton Bharat bales for sale through the e-auction mechanism.

5.3.3 E-Platform:

- E-Platform means the dedicated e-Portal developed under the Kapas Kanti for facilitating listing and e-auction of Kasturi Cotton Bharat bales. The Platform shall function solely as a neutral digital interface for price discovery and market facilitation, and shall not act as a buyer, seller, agent, broker, or intermediary in any transaction between users.

5.3.4 Registered User:

- Registered User means any Buyer or Seller who has successfully completed the registration process on the e-Portal, including submission of required details and acceptance of the Terms of Use, and has been granted access credentials to use the platform for permitted activities.

5.3.5 e-Auction:

- e-Auction means the electronic bidding process conducted on the Platform in a time-bound and transparent manner, wherein registered Buyers place bids for Kasturi Cotton Bharat bales listed by registered Sellers, leading to determination of the highest bid. The Auction process is limited to **price discovery**, and any resulting transaction shall be concluded directly between the Buyer and Seller, independent of the Platform.

5.4. Roles & Responsibilities:

5.4.1 Responsibility of Buyer:

- The Buyer shall register on the platform with accurate credentials and undertake independent due diligence regarding the quality, quantity, and specifications of Kasturi Cotton Bharat bales prior to bidding.
- The Buyer shall participate in the e-auction in a fair and transparent manner, honour the bids placed, and enter into a contractual agreement with the Seller.
- The Buyer shall be solely responsible for making payments directly to the Seller as per mutually agreed terms.
- Any disputes arising out of the transaction shall be resolved directly with the Seller without involving the Platform or the Implementing Agency.

5.4.2 Responsibility of Seller:

- The Seller shall register on the Platform with valid details and ensure that all information provided, including bale specifications, quality parameters, and certifications, is true and accurate.
- The Seller shall honour the auction outcome, enter into an agreement with the Buyer, and ensure timely delivery of goods.
- The Seller shall be solely responsible for any claims relating to quality, quantity, compliance, or delivery and shall resolve disputes directly with the Buyer.

5.4.3 Responsibility of Service Provider:

- The Service Provider shall be responsible for the design, development, deployment, and maintenance of a secure, reliable, and efficient e-Portal, ensuring transparent functioning of the e-auction system.
- It shall provide necessary IT infrastructure, cybersecurity safeguards, user support, and system uptime as per defined service levels.
- The Platform Provider shall maintain audit trails, generate reports, and enforce platform terms of use.
- It shall function strictly as a neutral facilitator and shall not participate in trade execution, payment settlement, or dispute resolution between users.

5.4.4 Responsibility of Implementing Agency (CCI):

- The Implementing Agency shall provide overall policy direction, supervision, and oversight for the development and operation of the Platform.
- The Implementing Agency shall promote adoption of the Platform, review performance and fund utilization.
- It shall act solely as a policy facilitator and shall not be a party to any transaction conducted on the Platform.

5.5. Post-Implementation Transition & Sustainability

Upon completion of the Mission period, the e-portal/platform shall be transitioned to a suitable institution/agency for continued operation and maintenance, as may be decided with the approval of the Apex Committee.

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III. Capacity Building Of Registered G&P Factories

1. Objective:

To facilitate Capacity building by enhancing the skill level of workers of registered Ginning & Pressing (G&P) factories including Managers, Supervisors, Graders and Ginning Fitters by conducting targeted training programs based on Best Management Practices (BMP), thereby improving productivity and quality of cotton processing and cotton bales under the Kasturi Cotton Bharat Programme.

2. Duration & Budget Outlay:

- **Duration:** To be implemented over a period of five years from FY 2026–27 to FY 2030–31
- **Target & Budget Outlay:** Training of 10,000 workers to be undertaken, covering 2,000 Ginning & Pressing (G&P) factories.

S. No.	Financial Year	No. of G&P Factories covered	No. of Workers to be trained	Budget (₹ crore)
1.	2026-27	500.00	2500.00	7.50
2.	2027-28	500.00	2500.00	7.50
3.	2028-29	500.00	2500.00	7.50
4.	2029-30	500.00	2500.00	7.50
5.	2030-31	0.00	0.00	0
	Total	**2000.00**	**10000.00**	**30.00**

- Training will be provided upto 5 Workers per G&P factory
- Indicative financial support: ₹1.5 lakh per G&P Factory.

3. Scheme type: Central sector scheme with 100% central funding

4. Implementing Agency:

The Cotton Corporation of India Ltd. (CCI), Ministry of Textiles, Government of India

5. Training Programs Agencies:

ICAR – CIRCOT, Mumbai, Office of the Textile Commissioner, Textile Committee, State Governments, and any other agencies at State Governments and Central Government, academic, research, industry, or private institutions/agencies, as may be identified and approved by the PMIC.

The Implementing Agency shall prepare a detailed SOP and submit the same to Project Monitoring & Implementation Committee (PMIC) for approval.

6. Implementation Mechanism:

The trainings and capacity-building programmes shall be conducted through both physical and digital modes, including courses hosted on platforms such as iGOT Karmayogi and YouTube. The training modules and content shall be reviewed and updated periodically based on field experience, stakeholder feedback, technological advancements, and learnings emerging across the cotton value chain.

6.1. Selection of Beneficiaries:

The Ginning & Pressing (G&P) factories shall be selected in transparent manner, on first come first serve basis.

6.2. Roles & Responsibilities of Implementing Agency:

- Pre-training and post-training assessments shall be conducted to evaluate knowledge enhancement and skill upgradation of trainees. The assessment process may be undertaken by an Independent Agency, wherever considered necessary.
- Planning be carried out well in advance to develop proper training standards and curriculum for ginning factories by Training Agencies. Digital learning modules, short video capsules and other technology-enabled learning tools may be developed to facilitate wider dissemination of knowledge and training among stakeholders.
- Structured feedback, as submitted by the independent agency to PMIC shall be obtained from participants as well as G&P factory management to assess training effectiveness and identify areas for improvement.
- The Independent Agency shall submit an Annual Report to PMIC, outlining programme performance, key outcomes, impact assessment, and recommendations for strengthening and scaling up the initiative.
- Based on review findings, PMIC may recommend course corrections, curriculum revision, reallocation of targets, or procedural improvement
- Trainings may include courses available on I-GoT or other platforms such as YouTube.

6.3. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU):

A MoU shall be executed to define the roles, responsibilities, and operational modalities for implementation of the skill upgradation programme covering 2,000 Ginning & Pressing (G&P) factories and training of workers. It broadly covers:

- Roles and responsibilities
- Performance obligations
- Compliance requirements
- Financial Arrangements

- Monitoring framework
- Parties involved:
  - ICAR–CIRCOT and/or any other designated technical or training agency
  - Registered G&P factories (2000)

I. Roles and Responsibilities of beneficiaries:

CCI shall function as the nodal coordination and financial management agency under the scheme and shall:

- **Responsibilities of CCI**
  - Coordination with ICAR-CIRCOT and other approved training agencies for scheduling and logistics.
  - Facilitate identification and confirmation of eligible registered G&P factories in consultation with the Implementing Agency.
  - Release of funds as per approved financial norms.
  - Maintenance of factory-wise and worker-wise training database.
  - Monitor physical and financial progress of the scheme.
  - Submission of periodic progress reports to PMIC and Apex Committee.
  - Place cases of shortfall/deviation before PMIC for necessary recommendations.

- **Responsibilities of training agency**

ICAR–CIRCOT or any other approved training agency shall act as the technical implementing agency and shall:

  - Preparation of standard training curriculum based on BMP.
  - Deployment of qualified trainers and subject matter specialists and technical personnel for conducting training programs.
  - Conduct on-site and/or off-site training workshops for workers in selected G&P factories.
  - Ensure adequate hands-on and practical exposure during training sessions.
  - Assessment and certification of trained workers.
  - Issue certificates to successfully trained workers.
  - Maintain proper documentation, including attendance records, assessment results, and training reports.

II. Monitoring, Evaluation & MIS:

- Key Performance Indicators (KPIs):
  - No. of G&P Factories covered in training programme
  - No. of workers trained per G&P factory
  - Attendance rate & completion rate of enrolled trainees
  - No. of mock exams conducted during the training programme

- Pre-training and post training assessment scores to measure skill enhancement
- No. of training batches conducted and geographical coverage covered
- Feedback forms received from trainees and overall satisfaction rating

Third-party evaluation may be undertaken periodically to assess Effectiveness of training modules, improvement in worker skill levels and overall outcomes under the Kapas Kanti.

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E. OTHER SUPPORTING BENEFITS

1. Strengthening Cotton Testing Infrastructure

Quality testing is an essential part of ensuring consistency, certification and market acceptance of Indian cotton. Under Component-II of Mission for Cotton Productivity (Kapas Kanti), the Government envisages establishment of 50 Cotton Testing Laboratories across cotton-growing States.

The laboratories will be established through a RFP process, providing an opportunity for eligible stakeholders, including Ginning & Pressing (G&P) factories, to participate in the establishment and operation of such facilities, subject to the terms and conditions of the RFP to be issued by the Textiles Committee.

The strengthened testing network is also expected to reduce the turnaround time for testing and certification of Kasturi Cotton Bharat (KCB) bales, thereby facilitating faster certification and improving the ease of doing business for G&P factories.

1.1. Objective:

- To strengthen cotton testing infrastructure across all cotton-growing States
- To establish a robust, standardized, and technologically advanced network of Cotton Testing Laboratories
- To meet the evolving requirements of the cotton value chain, including farmers, traders, ginners, and the textile industry.

A total of 50 Cotton Testing Laboratories shall be established, with priority accorded to locations having significant cotton acreage and market relevance.

1.2. Duration & Budget Outlay:

To be implemented over a period of five years from FY 2026–27 to FY 2030–31, the budget is as follows:

S. No.	Sub Component	Budget (₹ crore)					
		2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030 -31	Total
1	Strengthening Cotton testing Infrastructure through Setting-up of 50 Cotton Testing Labs near cotton producing areas.	10.00	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.00	30.00

1.3. Scheme Type:

Central Sector Scheme with 100% Central Funding**.**

1.4. Implementing Agency:

The scheme shall be implemented by the Textiles Committee, Ministry of Textiles, and Government of India.

1.5. Implementation Mechanism:

1.5.1 Selection of Beneficiaries:

- Selection shall be carried out through a transparent RFP process.
- Eligible entities may include industry associations, Ginning units, FPOs, cooperatives, or other qualified institutions.
- Evaluation shall be based on:
  - Location relevance (cotton cluster proximity)
  - Infrastructure readiness
  - Technical capability
  - Financial and operational capacity

1.5.2 Laboratory Equipment:

- As may be specified by the implementing agency.

1.5.3 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU):

A MoU shall be executed between the Implementing Agency and selected beneficiaries.

1.6. Expected Benefits for G&P Factories

- Reduced turnaround time for cotton quality testing and certification.
- Faster testing and certification of Kasturi Cotton Bharat (KCB) bales.
- Reduced logistics and testing-related costs.
- Access to standardized, modern and NABL-accredited testing facilities.
- Improved quality assurance, market acceptance and price realization.

Overall, the strengthened cotton testing infrastructure will improve operational efficiency and ease of doing business for G&P factories while facilitating faster quality-based marketing of cotton and Kasturi Cotton Bharat bales.

However, for detailed information the stakeholder may refer to the website of Textiles Committee and documents being published by them from time to time.

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Annexure-I

F. Brief Note on Kasturi Cotton Bharat - Reshaping India's Textile Value Chain

Kasturi Cotton Bharat is not merely a rebranding of Indian cotton; it is a movement that marks a definitive paradigm shift, transforming India's cotton legacy into a futuristic international benchmark. It signals India's commitment to building a globally recognized premium cotton identity.

The creation of a globally acknowledged standard improves efficiencies, increases ease of use and generates trust in Indian products, creating greater opportunities for increasing market share as compared to ordinary cotton.

The three pillars of Kasturi Cotton are:

1. Fibre Quality
2. Traceability
3. Sustainability

1. Fibre Quality: Superior Fibre, Superior Products

At the heart of Kasturi Cotton lies a superior fibre profile. Kasturi Cotton is variety neutral and is defined by benchmarking seven key cotton parameters of staple length, micronaire value, RD value, fibre strength, uniformity index, trash and moisture.

Kasturi Cotton provides the assurance of finer cotton through rigorous sampling, testing and certification. It delivers greater operational efficiencies, reduced wastage, better yarn realisation and superior product output.

2. Traceability: End-to-End Transparency

KC Track, Kasturi Cotton's indigenously built Blockchain and QR-code platform is a unique farm to finished product traceability solutions that is truly a one-of-its-kind traceability solution in the global cotton ecosystem. It delivers unparalleled transparency within a highly complex value chain. The benefits of this platform are numerous:

a. A common industry wide platform that comes built in with the Kasturi Cotton initiative that both SMES and large integrated textile mills can utilise to meet mandatory requirement of the global cotton textiles supply chain. This reduces the burden of creating individual traceability solutions and the accompanying integration issues.
b. Provides ease of use and complete transparency to members
c. Assurance of origin of Indian cotton – a mandatory requirement in global markets
d. Consumers, too, can scan the QR code for assurance of origin and quality of cotton

3. Sustainability: Creating a Better Future

Kasturi Cotton has collaborated with globally recognized standards in sustainability like the Better Cotton Initiative (BCI) and Regenagri to spread best practices in sustainability among Indian farmers. The sustainability initiatives also include training and development of Best Practices with leading associations and organisations like CITI-CDRA, SIMI-CDRA, ICAR-CIRCOT and Cotton Connect.

Kasturi Cotton is adopting village clusters that have shown maximum potential in producing cotton that meets the Kasturi Cotton standard. Key cotton producing clusters in MP, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, AP and Odisha will be identified and developed as Centres of Excellence under the Kasturi Cotton Clusters initiative. Dedicated Extension workers 'Kasturi Cotton Mitras' are being appointed to provide hands-on support and guidance in enabling these clusters to improve quality and yields and thereby access markets that value superior cotton. The goal is to enable farmers to get higher returns for their superior produce positively impacting the lives and livelihoods of the farming community.

These sustainability initiatives encompass the three main pillars, namely:

I. Planet (environment) through water management, carbon sequestering and judicious use of pesticides and fertilizers
II. Produce (farms) by increasing quality, improving returns, improving livelihoods
III. People (social) through ethical labour practices and cluster development

Benefits of Using Kasturi Cotton

The "Kasturi Cotton" program aims to deliver an array of benefits to the cotton textile industry and to consumers.

Benefits for the Textile Industry:

- An assured supply of consistently high-quality Indian cotton
- Greater operational efficiencies
- Superior product output
- Confirmation of Indian grown cotton that is verifiable
- End-to-end traceability through its blockchain platform
- Meet traceability and sustainability criteria of developed markets

Benefits for Consumers:

- Softness of Fabric: Kasturi Cotton ensures a luxurious softness in fabrics, enhancing the overall comfort of the end product.
- Lustre of Fabric: The cotton's intrinsic qualities contribute to a natural sheen, elevating the fabric's visual appeal.
- Improved Colour Vibrancy: Fabrics made from Kasturi Cotton exhibit enhanced colour vibrancy, creating a more visually striking end product.

- Increased Strength of Fabric: The inherent strength of Kasturi Cotton translates into durable and long-lasting fabrics, meeting the demands of modern consumers.
- Increased Durability of Fabric: Durability is a key feature, ensuring that products made from Kasturi Cotton withstand the test of time.

Benefits for Farmers:

- Farmers that adopt best practices in sowing, picking, segregation and storing of the cotton produced would experience better remuneration for their efforts
- Educational webinars and training sessions will enable the farmers to access latest practices and information on cotton cultivation

The economic benefits of the Kasturi Cotton initiative.

Kasturi Cotton enables Indian Cotton to upgrade its perception in the international market and improve its valuation by positioning it as a reliable cotton of consistent quality and a competitively priced product, both in domestic and global markets. This creates positive cascading effect on the supply chain and the benefits of increased returns should benefit the value chain right down to the farmers. It will enable Indian Cotton to continue to be a fibre of choice and it will also encourage Indian farmers to adopt modern practices that will enhance the yield of the Indian Cotton sector.

Response to the Kasturi Cotton initiative

The Kasturi Cotton branding initiative has been welcomed by the industry. Top brands including Killer, US Polo, Arrow, Serena by Welspun, Trident and Boutique Living by Indo Count have created a range of premium products for international and domestic market. Global and Domestic industry stalwarts have begun the process of adoption of Kasturi Cotton.

Enhancing the brand recognition of Kasturi Cotton

Kasturi Cotton has been strengthening its branding by reaching out to all stakeholders including farmers, ginners, spinners, manufacturers and buying houses/brands. It has undertaken intensive digital campaigning that has enhance brand recognition in the supply chain. Advertising in domestic and international trade publications and digital platforms has also spread the brand message across the world.

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Annexure-II

G. Form for registration on Kasturi Portal along with the list of required documents

✅ **Kasturi Cotton Bharat Registration – Complete Procedure**

Registration link: https://kasturicotton.in/#/register/new/id

🔹 **Step 1: Basic Details Entry**

Fill in the primary company and contact details:

- **User Role** (e.g., Ginning, Spinning, Processing, Yarn Dyeing, etc.) *
- **Organization Name** *
- **Designation of Authorized Representative** *
- **Contact Person Name** *
- **Mobile Number** *
- **Email ID** *

🔹 **Step 2: Organization Details**

Provide complete address and location details:

- **Company Postal Address** *
- **Country** *
- **State** *
- **District** *
- **City** *
- **Pin Code** *
- **Website**
- **Location Latitude/Longitude**



🔹 **Step 3: Firm / Company Details**

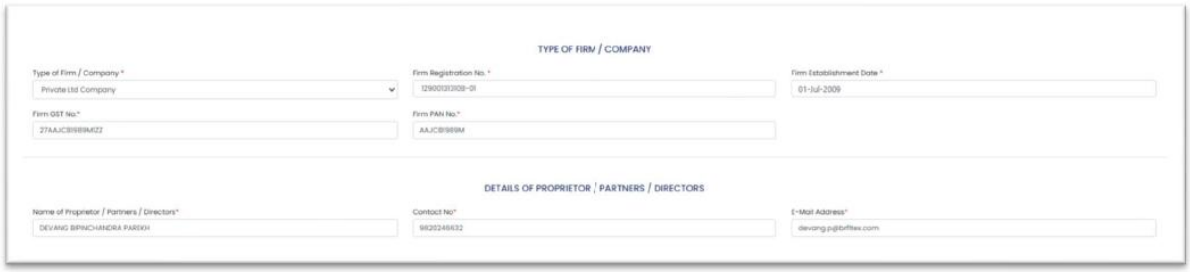
Legal and registration-related information:

- **Type of Firm / Company** (e.g., Private Ltd Company) *
- **Firm Registration Number** *
- **Firm Establishment Date** *
- **GST Number** *
- **PAN Number** *

🔹 **Step 4: Proprietor / Directors Details**

Details of key management:

- **Name of Proprietor / Partner / Director** *
- **Contact Number***
- **Email Address** *



🔹 **Step 5: Certification Details**

✔ **Product Traceability Certification (Mandatory)** *

- Select: **Yes / No**
- If Yes:
  - **Certificate Name** (GOTS / OCS / GRS / GCC / CCI)
  - **Certificate Number**
  - **Certificate Validity**
  - **Upload Certificate (PDF)**

✔ **Other Certifications (If Applicable)** *

- Select: **Yes / No**
- If Yes:
    - **Certificate Name** (BCI / RegenAgri / Fair Trade / OEKO-TEX / SA 8000 / SMETA / SLCP / etc.)
    - **Certificate Number**
    - **Validity Date**
    - **Upload Certificate (PDF)**

🔹 **Step 6: Additional Information**

- **Any other details (optional remarks)**
- **Add Units** (List of all units to be registered under the program)

🔹 **Step 7: Upload Mandatory Documents**

Ensure all documents are:

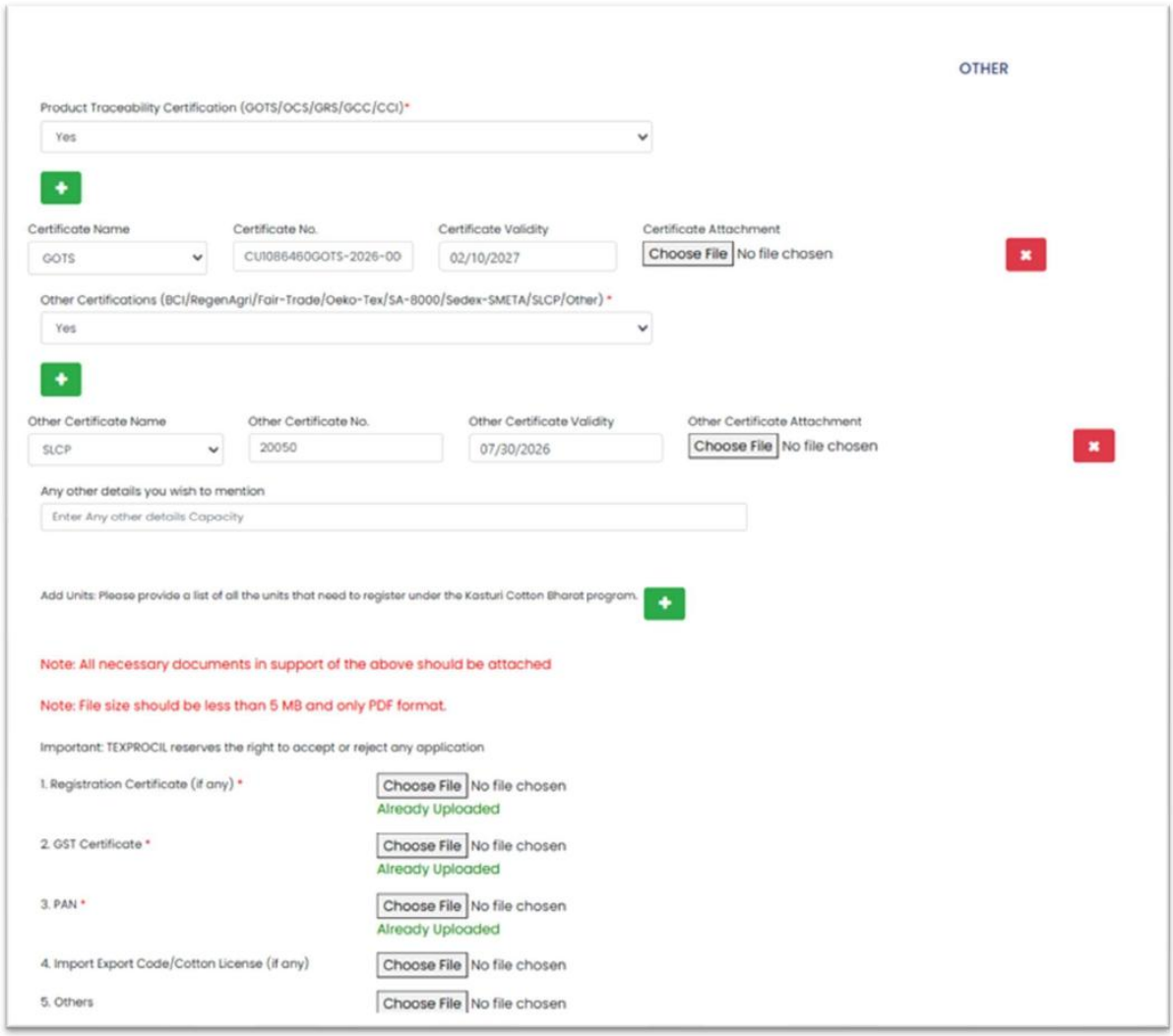
- **PDF format only**
- **File size < 5 MB**

📄 **Required Documents:**

1. **Registration Certificate (Company Incorporation Certificate)** *
2. **GST Certificate***
3. **PAN Card Copy***
4. **Import Export Code (IEC) / Cotton License (if applicable)**
5. **Other Supporting Documents (if any)**

🔹 **Step 8: Final Submission**

- Verify all details
- Ensure all mandatory fields (*) are filled
- Upload all required documents
- Submit the application


OTHER
Product Traceability Certification (GOTS/OCS/GRS/GCC/CCI)*
Yes
Certificate Name
Certificate No.
Certificate Validity
Certificate Attachment
GOTS
CU1086460GOTS-2026-00
02/10/2027
Choose File No file chosen
Other Certifications (BCI/RegenAgri/Fair-Trade/Oeko-Tex/SA-8000/Sedex-SMETA/SLCP/Other) *
Yes
Other Certificate Name
Other Certificate No.
Other Certificate Validity
Other Certificate Attachment
SLCP
20050
07/30/2026
Choose File No file chosen
Any other details you wish to mention
Enter Any other details Capacity
Add Units: Please provide a list of all the units that need to register under the Kasturi Cotton Bharat program.
Note: All necessary documents in support of the above should be attached
Note: File size should be less than 5 MB and only PDF format.
Important: TEXPROCIL reserves the right to accept or reject any application
1. Registration Certificate (if any) *
Choose File No file chosen
Already Uploaded
2. GST Certificate *
Choose File No file chosen
Already Uploaded
3. PAN *
Choose File No file chosen
Already Uploaded
4. Import Export Code/Cotton License (if any)
Choose File No file chosen
5. Others
Choose File No file chosen