



PEOPLE  
**WORKPLACE &  
WORKING CONDITIONS**



| safe, skilled and inclusive workplaces

**People are central to our success.**

The Australian cotton industry relies on the skill of its people to produce cotton lint and seed.

Cotton is grown on up to 1,500 farms depending on the season. In total, these farms employ an average of 10,740 full-time, part-time and casual employees per year. Many more people are employed as farm contractors, and in industries that provide goods and services.

**Good working conditions are central to attracting and keeping good people.**

Having a diverse, skilled workforce and a reputation for a safe, inclusive workplace will be increasingly important to attract the people needed to support a flourishing cotton industry.

At the same time, the global textile industry is seeking more evidence human rights are being upheld right along the supply chain, even in countries like Australia with legislative protections.

We are working to provide more evidence of working conditions on Australian farms to meet the needs of cotton customers, and to increase the appeal of our industry to potential employees.



**OUR GOAL**

Injury-free cotton farms, skills for innovative and modern agriculture, and a diverse workforce that is treated ethically

**SDG ALIGNMENT**



SDG 8.8 Promote safe and secure working environments for all workers.

**PATHWAY**

1. Collaborate with other agricultural sectors to improve whole farm workplace data collection
2. Use improved data to:
  - better inform OHS and training investments
  - meet increasing customer demand for evidence human rights are being upheld.

**KEY FACTS**

**50%**

of cotton growers and ginners have formal post-school qualifications

**28%**

of cotton growers and ginners are female

**6.9%**

of cotton growers and ginners are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

**38** serious injuries

Average of 38 serious injuries per year in five years to 2019, with an economic cost of over \$3 million per serious injury.