

ABR Program Handbook

ABR Governance

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Introduction



The **Responsible Brazilian Cotton Program (Programa Algodão Brasileiro Responsável – ABR)** is publishing a series of handbooks on sustainability developed especially for Brazil's cotton producers.

This edition presents the **ABR Institute**, the new ABR certification governance body that incorporates **stronger processes and more participation** into certification management.

We hope you thoroughly enjoy your reading!



What is the ABR Institute?

It is a private nonprofit association **in charge of the ABR Program**, which is the national social-environmental protocol standard for Brazilian cotton farming.

The **ABR Institute** was founded in June 2025 and officially launched in May 2026. Its goal is to improve **transparency and credibility** principles related to how lint produced in Brazil is certified.

Its ultimate purpose is to manage the ABR Program's strategic planning and monitor how its **environmental, social, and governance** initiatives are developed, as well as fostering partnerships and educational activities.

The ABR Institute upholds responsible practices in line with the promotion of human rights, **environmental preservation, territorial empowerment**, and the adoption of regenerative development models.



ABR Program Timeline

2005

Cotton farmers from Mato Grosso create the **Instituto Algodão Social-IAS** (Social Cotton Institute)



2012

Regional initiatives such as IAS are unified and Abrapa creates the **ABR Program**

2013

Better Cotton and **Abrapa** establish a benchmarking partnership for the ABR Program

2015

Abrapa creates the **Sou de Algodão** (Made of Cotton) movement to promote the use of Brazilian cotton



2021

Abrapa launches **SouABR** (IAmABR) to disseminate physical traceability within the fashion industry



2025

The **ABR Institute** is created with the participation of several players from the cotton farming chain



2026

The **ABR Institute** is officially launched as ABR Program's new governance body



Empowering the ABR Program

The main commitments of the **ABR Institute** are nationally managing the **Responsible Brazilian Cotton Program** and jointly approving its priority causes and action plans, as well as following up on their implementation.

In practice, the Institute establishes a **new body that defines guidelines**, plans actions, articulates with stakeholders, and monitors results related to social-environmental certification.

This creates a favorable landscape for the **continuous evolution** of the ABR Program, as it encourages the exchange of experiences, knowledge, challenges, and trends that point to a **more sustainable future for cotton farming**.

The ABR Institute is tasked with ensuring that the program is strictly aligned with **the industry's best practices and requirements**, incorporating innovations, reviewing criteria, and promoting the necessary methodological updates.

Principles



Social
responsibility



Ethics



Transparency



Participatory
governance



Operational
efficiency



Diversity
and equity



Environmental
sustainability



Cooperation



Social
inclusion



Social and
environmental
responsibility



Participatory Governance



The governance of the ABR Institute was developed to increase participation and empower decision-making within the ABR Program. Its model brings together different parts of the cotton chain to promote **more collaborative management that is transparent and connected to the industry's challenges.**



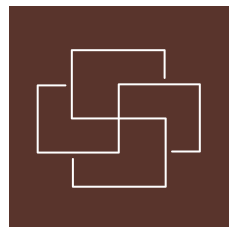
The **ABR Institute Board** comprises representatives from farms and associations, cotton gins, cooperatives, exporters, trading companies, and members of the supply chain, as well as research institutes, cooperation entities, and civil society organizations.

This means that multiple perspectives are incorporated into defining guidelines, following up on results, and certification development. With its format, the ABR Institute strengthens **ABR's legitimacy, credibility, and adaptability.**

Organizational Structure

The ABR Institute's structure was created to ensure that **management is efficient, transparent, and well distributed**; it establishes responsibilities in a clear way and promotes balance between decision, execution, and supervision.

The structure consists of four bodies: **General Assembly, Executive Board, Advisory Board, and Supervisory Board**. Together, they ensure that the organization is fully functional and they play complementary roles in strategic decision-making, administration, chain representation, and institutional control.





General Assembly

Ultimate decision-making body

It sets general guidelines for the ABR Institute and ensures that the more strategic decisions are representative and reached collaboratively.

Executive Board

Managerial and administrative body

This Board's responsibility is to turn strategic guidelines into operations, ensuring that the institution is functional on a daily basis.

Advisory Board

Representation and industry advisory body

This body connects the ABR Institute to several players from the cotton chain. It strengthens listening, legitimacy, and the certification's adaptability.

Supervisory Board

Supervision and controlling body

This Board ensures the transparency, controlling, and integrity of the ABR Institute's financial and corporate management.



General Assembly

- ABR Institute associates
- Members of the Executive Board
- Members of the Advisory Board
- Members of the Supervisory Board



Executive Board



Chairman
Vice-chairman
Treasurer



Advisory Board



Producers



Cotton farming
associations



Cooperatives
and exporters



Supply chain
companies



Industry and
retail companies



Academia and
research institutions



Civil society
organizations



Strategic partners



Executive Board



3 members
appointed
by the Chairman





Bylaws

The Bylaws establish the **legal and institutional foundations for the ABR Institute**. They define the Institute's legal status, purposes, principles, and policies, ensuring clarity and safety for its actions.

The Bylaws guide the ABR Institute's actions based on principles such as **transparency, ethics, sustainability, and social-environmental responsibility**. They ensure that the ABR Program's governance is consistent, legitimate, and solid.

The first version of the Bylaws was developed in June 2025 and revised together with Board members so that all parts could be heard and assured of their respective responsibilities.



Learn More

About the ABR Program

Go to the Responsible Brazilian Cotton Program's website and learn more about Brazilian cotton farming's social-environmental certification.

<https://abrcotton.com/>

About Abrapa

Learn more about Brazilian cotton farming on Abrapa's website.

<https://abrapa.com.br/>





The ABR is the result of a joint effort that strengthens Brazil's reputation as a global benchmark for the production of responsible cotton. It embodies the commitment to best environmental, social, and economic practices, and it shows the world that our fiber is grown with social and environmental respect.

Throughout this decade, cotton farmers have been reaping the benefits of this journey: a reduction in environmental and labor liabilities and the improvement of their farms' reputation. The ABR also contributes to opening doors into demanding markets, generating more trust and competitiveness for the whole industry.



ABR Program: Planting the seed of a more sustainable future and cultivating the pride of being Brazilian.





ALGODÃO BRASILEIRO RESPONSÁVEL
RESPONSIBLE BRAZILIAN COTTON

