Together we are more cotton

#LatinAmericanCotton

The +Cotton project has been implemented since 2013 by the Brazilian Cooperation Agency of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (ABC/MRE), the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and seven partner countries - Argentina, Bolivia, Ecuador, Colombia, Haiti, Paraguay and Peru. It is a Trilateral South-South Cooperation initiative aimed at promoting sustainable and inclusive production systems, from an holistic perspective of the cotton value chain to contribute to rural development, value addition, fair trade and the inclusive agro textile system.

+90 public and private sector institutions from partner countries participate in the project.

It mobilizes a regional network that involves associations of the cotton sector, research and Technical Assistance and Rural Extension institutes, academia, among others.
Opportunities are created for the exchange of knowledge and experiences, access to markets, technological innovations, and agricultural management, from a perspective where diversified cotton production systems contribute to food and nutritional security for cotton growing families in the most vulnerable territories.

### Market access and marketing

The project supports the preparation of business plans and access to markets. With the Pima cotton produced by the Costach cooperative in Peru, a pajama was made for an American brand.

With the support of the project, in 2020, the first crop of native organic cotton was harvested in Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, Colombia, which, when marketed, was transformed into a collection of t-shirts for a Colombian brand.

The Ecuadorian women of the AMUCOMT Association are contributing to the recovery of cotton growing in the country. With the support of the project, they received a mini ginner for fiber processing, using a small-scale technology.

### Generating and exchanging knowledge

- **Analysis studies and best practices**
- **In-person and virtual courses**
- **Field visits**

In addition to the delivery of inputs such as seeds and the promotion of the generation of new technologies adapted to family-based cotton farming, such as machinery, among others.

### Technological innovation

- **Colombia, Ecuador and Paraguay. Using drones**
- **Colombia, Bolivia, Ecuador, Paraguay and Peru. Mechanized harvesting**
- **Ecuador and Paraguay. Cotton ginning machines**

As part of the project, Embrapa Cotton developed a harvester prototype that was taken to Paraguay for field testing.

In order to bring the rural sector online, the LazosApp application was created to close the digitalization gap in the agricultural sector and connect the cotton sector in Latin America.

### Main actions developed in the partner countries of the +Cotton project:

- **Exchange, knowledge networks and best production practices**
- **Support for technological innovations**
- **Field days**
- **Demonstration plots for testing and validation of different cotton production systems**
- **Training of rural youth**
- **Access to markets**
- **Training in pest control**
- **Rescue of native cotton crop**
- **Studies and support for public policies**
- **Investment in seeds**
- **Technical Assistance and Rural Extension (ATER)**
- **Strengthening of cotton growing women**
- **Regional cotton forum**