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# Appendix

# 6.6 Cotton Field Golden Cotton Award

### Activity introduction

### Background

Taiwan is a land that nurtures rich ecosystems and unique species. "Organic agriculture" demonstrates our care and is a way of giving back to this land. It not only provides healthy and safe food but also protects the sustainable future of this land. Every organic farmer is a silent guardian who tirelessly cultivate the land to steadfastly protect Taiwan's ecological balance.

To honor these unsung heroes and to showcase the beauty of organic agriculture to the public, Cotton Field Organic has organized the "Golden Cotton Award", expressing gratitude for the hard work of producers. This is more than just a competition, it is a celebration of the spirit of organic agriculture and a commitment to a sustainable future.

#### Purpose

The "Golden Cotton Award" aims to reward Taiwan's outstanding organic farmers and organic promotion organizations that contribute mightily to the sustainable development of the industry, thereby allowing consumers to have better understanding of and trust in organic agricultural products.



We discover and commend exceptional contributors in Taiwan's organic farming sector, in order to encourage greater participation and new vitality to the industry.

We provide an exchange platform that promotes experience sharing and collaboration, to collectively improve industrial standards and future outlooks.

We aim to improve consumers' understanding of organic agriculture and to support environmentally friendly farming practices, to achieve the vision of harmonious coexistence between humanity and nature.

#### Event organizers

- Organizer: Cotton Field Organic
- · Advisory unit: Agriculture and Food Agency, Ministry of Agriculture
- · Co-organizer: National Training Institute for Farmers' Organizations



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### Appendix

# » Introduction to the four main categories of the Golden Cotton Award and selection criteria

Category	Highlighted keywords	Evaluation focus
Ecological conservation	Biodiversity, biological control, sustainable seed sources	Focus on contribution to on-farm ecosystem conservation
Innovative management	Technology adoption, brand establishment, and diversified management.	Evaluate innovative technologies, business management and revenue models
Organic leadership	Market development, organic supply chain, product innovation	Assess their roles in promotion and industry leadership
Food education contributions	Organic education, knowledge promotion, and cultural connection	Emphasize the depth and breadth of promoting organic food and agricultural education

### Evaluation process and judge composition

To ensure the professionalism and impartiality of the evaluation process, we invite scholars, experts, and industrial group representatives from the agricultural industry to form a professional evaluation committee. Adhering to the principles of fairness, impartiality and openness, the committee conducts a three-stage evaluation rigorously, to select the most representative organic practitioners.

# Sustainable practices starting from the land

Organic farms across Taiwan are practicing eco-friendly agriculture in a variety of ways. Some have created habitats for protected species through long-term organic cultivation, while others have introduced natural cycles and carbon footprint management to minimize their environmental impact. In addition, some farms utilize the land's natural resources and traditional techniques to achieve balanced production and habitat conservation. Some have also received the leopard cat-friendly mark in recognition of their conservation efforts.

These efforts are the result of years of dedication and contribution of countless small farmers. Through the "Golden Cotton Award", we honor the great efforts of organic farmers in engaging in ecological conservation, business innovation, and education promotion. The award is presented to organic farms in Taiwan, and through collaboration with the Agriculture and Food Agency, Ministry of Agriculture and National Training Institute for Farmers' Organizations, a positive cycle supporting the organic industry has been established.

In the future, Cotton Field Organic will continue to play a leading role in supporting organic small farmers through the award event, resource integration, and platform development, to promote environmentally friendly farming practices and to achieve the goal of sustainable agriculture with all sectors through joint practice.



