Code to Standard Certification Process Automation

Introduction

The process of transition from the REEL code of conduct to the code of standard improves practices within our network but also sets a benchmark for the broader cotton industry. To develop this platform, we studied the stakeholder and organization involvement and found the below findings & observations to develop this platform for the smooth functioning of code to standard platform & process.

To develop this application the required modules, masters, users, etc. are already developed partially on the SCVP/Audit Platform. To reduce efforts & time we need to build a platform that is linked with the SCVP/Audit platform with dynamic district-level escalation.

Stakeholders for Platform Use

1. Farm Team
2. CottonConnect Verification Team
3. External Verification Agency
4. Producer Group
5. Supply Chain Team
6. Appeal Committee Chairman/Team
7. Technical Services Team
8. CottonConnect Management Team
9. Ginner
10. Other

Modules on Platform: These modules will be developed on the TraceBale and Audit Verification platform.

1. Initiate Certification
2. Certification Process Flow
3. Appeal/PG Module
4. Producer Group Allocation to Ginners (Multiple PG to same ginner or one PG to multiple ginners)
5. Ginners Allocation and Control
6. API Integration

Farm Group Certification Process

I. **Farm Team Initiation:**

o The Farm Team begins by working closely with Producer Group to ensure they meet the required standards. This includes training, guidance on compliance, and helping farmers prepare for the certification process.

II. **Internal Farm Group Audit:**

o The Verification Team conducts an internal audit to assess the Producer group's readiness for third-party evaluation. This step ensures that all necessary criteria are being met before involving external auditors.

III. **Third-Party Audit:**

o A certified third-party auditing firm is brought in to perform an independent assessment of the Producer Group. The auditors evaluate the group's compliance with the defined standard and provide an audit report.

IV. **CottonConnect Verification Team Review:**

o If the third-party audit yields a **positive** result, the report is shared with the CottonConnect Verification Team. The team reviews the findings to verify that the Producer Group has addressed all necessary compliance areas and is ready for the next step.

V. **Appeal Committee Team Review:**

o If the third-party audit yields a **negative** result, the report is shared with the CottonConnect Verification Team. The team reviews the findings to verify that the Producer Group has addressed all necessary compliance areas and is ready for the next step. If Producer Group not in compliance with defined standard. Then option will be provided to Producer Group to raise appeal to the appeal committee where Producer Group will get opportunity to provide necessary explanation. Upon approval from appeal committee next process will be same and if appeal committee reject appeal, then no certificate will be issues to Producer Group.

VI. **CottonConnect Management Team Approval:**

o After the verification team signs off, the final report is sent to the CottonConnect Management Team for approval. The management reviews all documentation and approves the issuance of the certification.

VII. **Issuance of Certificate to Producer Group and Ginner Allocation:**

o Once the CottonConnect Management Team grants approval, the certification is issued and provided to the Producer Group and allocation to Ginner in coordination with CottonConnect supply chain team. This allows the ginner to validate the cotton sourced from the certified farm group.

Unique Certification

o Unique certificate needs to generate in the system which will have unique Barcode/QR code on the certificate with Unique Certificate Number. This is to avoid counterfeiting.

Dashboard Development

- Insight dashboard of if request submitted from same location multiple times.
- User wise data access concerning request with detailed analytics.
- Delayed Requests, Pending to Transport Requests, Rejected Requests, and Odd Location Request tracking dashboard.
- Dashboard customized access to the respective stakeholder, functionality to restrict the access of dashboard functionalities.
- The dashboard development will be dynamic and during development, we will get more clarity on what and how to develop for better utilization.

Reports, Notifications, and Alerts

- Report development for users.
- Summary report development – Global/National/State/District/PG/Ginner.
- Report to be developed based on anomalies in request – Delayed/Location variation/Rejected/Approved.
- Notification at every stage for all stakeholders against every request.
- Alerts on delay in request.
- Red flag notification to the management team.