



## **Olam's cotton business in Côte d'Ivoire named a finalist in Business in the Community's Responsible Business Awards 2016**

**London, June 7, 2016** – Olam International Limited (“**Olam**”), a leading agri-business has been named a finalist in the 2016 Responsible Business Awards, the UK's longest running and most prestigious awards programme championing responsible business locally and globally.

Olam has been recognised for its inclusive cotton business model in Côte d'Ivoire, Société d'Exploitation Cotonnière Olam (SECO), as a finalist in the Unilever Global Development Award category, supported by Business Fights Poverty. SECO tackles low productivity and social vulnerability among cotton farmers and their communities by offering training, healthcare and access to finance. Read SECO's [full case study](#) on the BITC website to learn more.

Commenting, Olam's Global Head of Corporate Responsibility & Sustainability, Chris Brett said: “SECO proves that inclusive business models really can be a win-win for communities and corporates. By working holistically with farmers to improve yields, environmental impacts, nutrition and food security, SECO is a great example of how we can help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. SECO's programme has been instrumental in piloting and developing the Olam Livelihood Charter (OLC) which guides our work with smallholder farmers across the globe.

He added, “Collaboration is vital and a special thank you goes to our partners, Compaci, CmiA and GIZ. Each brings something different to the table and with these partners, we can continue to scale SECO to transform the lives of cotton farming communities in Côte d'Ivoire.”

Stephen Howard, Chief Executive, Business in the Community said: “We know that every day businesses contribute towards more resilient communities, stimulate local economies, help to create skilled and healthy workforces and tackle environmental challenges. These awards give much needed visibility to the responsible business movement by showcasing the practical ways business is creating change. I congratulate all the finalists for playing their part in building a fairer society and more sustainable future for us all.”

Now in its 19th year, the [2016 Responsible Business Awards](#) are run by the charity Business in the Community (BITC) to celebrate inspiring examples of businesses that are making a significant difference by taking practical action to improve their local communities, create



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more inclusive businesses and tackle environmental challenges. The rigorous awards scheme saw 297 companies enter in 2016, 103 shortlisted and just 52 firms named finalists.

All winners will be announced on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2016 at the Responsible Business Annual Awards Gala in London. For more information on the Awards including the full list of finalists and their case studies, visit [www.bitc.org.uk/awardstories](http://www.bitc.org.uk/awardstories) and follow @BITC on Twitter #BITCawards.

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## Notes to Editors

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### **About Olam International Limited**

Olam International is a leading agri-business operating across the value chain in 70 countries, supplying various products across 16 platforms to over 16,200 customers worldwide. From a direct sourcing and processing presence in most major producing countries, Olam has built a global leadership position in many of its businesses. Headquartered in Singapore and listed on the SGX-ST on February 11, 2005, Olam currently ranks among the top 50 largest listed companies in Singapore in terms of market capitalisation and is a component stock in the S&P Agribusiness Index and the DAXglobal Agribusiness Index. It is also the first and only Singapore company to be named in the 2009 lists for the Global Top Companies for Leaders and the Top Companies for Leaders in the Asia Pacific region by Hewitt Associates, the RBL Group and Fortune.

The Olam Livelihood Charter's 5<sup>th</sup> year full results will be published at the end of this month. See more at: [www.olamgroup.com](http://www.olamgroup.com)

### **About The Responsible Business Awards**

Business in the Community's Responsible Business Awards brings to life how businesses are creating innovative and sustainable solutions to our most pressing challenges, inspiring thousands of others to make a lasting difference and adding value back to their own business.

Now in its 19th year, the awards, rigorously assessed by independent business peers, are widely acknowledged as one of the most respected endorsements of responsible business in the UK and abroad. Open to companies of any size, sector or scale, a wide range of businesses enter, demonstrating the breadth and depth of responsible business.



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Each year, over 250 business peers assess the entries, endorsement planters are used by companies to profile their achievement, and over 4,000 people attend our Responsible Business Galas across the UK, inspiring thousands of people to be a motivated part of the Prince's Responsible Business Network.

In 2016, Business in the Community received 297 entries for the Responsible Business Awards, shortlisted 103 and re-accredited a further 82 entries for demonstrating continual impact in their responsible business programme. 52 companies were named finalists.