



# Global Organic Textile Standard- Benefits and Contribution to India

**CSR Mandate & Voluntary Sustainability Standards:  
Contribution to Business, Economy, Society and  
Environment in India**

**Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS)**





# Background of the Standard

# Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS)



**“GOTS is recognized as the leading processing standard for textiles made from organic fibres worldwide. It defines high level environmental criteria along the entire supply chain of organic textiles and requires compliance with social criteria as well.”**

# Milestones in History



**August 2002**  
**Intercot, Düsseldorf**

**Formation of the International Working Group on  
Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS IWG)**

**May 2005**  
**Intercot, Chicago**

**Four parties agree on the 1st Version of the GOTS**

**October 2006**

**Start of certification system**

**June 2008**  
**IFOAM Conference**

**Introduction of the logo & release of the Labelling Guide**

**March 2011**

**Release of GOTS Version 3.0**

# International Working Group (IWG)



**International Association Natural Textile Industry (IVN), Germany**

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**Soil Association (SA), England**

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**Organic Trade Association (OTA), USA**

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**Japan Organic Cotton Association (JOCA), Japan**

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# IWG / Committees



## International Working Group IWG

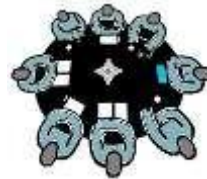
**Decisive committee for organizational, structural and political issues**



**One board representative of each party and the Coordinator**

## Technical Committee TC

**Generating revisions of the standard, development of quality assurance system**



**One expert appointed by each party of the IWG and the Technical Director and coopted independent experts**

## Certifiers Council CC

**Advisory function for all issues related to the GOTS quality assurance system**



**One representative of each GOTS approved certifier and the Technical Director**

# GOTS approved Certifiers- 1



**BCS Öko-Garantie, Germany**



**bio.inspecta, Switzerland**



**CCPB, Certificazione e controllo prodotti biologici, Italy**



**Ceres, Germany**



**Control Union Certifications, Netherlands**



**Ecocert Greenlife, France**



**ETKO Ekolojik Tarim Kontrol Organizasyonu, Turkey**



**ICEA Istituto per la Certificazione Etica e Ambientale, Italy**

# GOTS approved Certifiers- 2



**IMO Institute for Marketecology, Switzerland**



**Letis, Argentina**



**OIA Organizacion Internacional Agropecuaria, Argentina**



**OneCert, USA**



**Oregon Tilth, USA**



**Soil Association Certification, England**



**Bioagricert Srl**



**Control Union, India**



**Control Union, Turkey**

# Revision of GOTS Standard- Multi Stakeholder Approach



## Organisations invited to participate:

- **Members of the International Working Group on GOTS**
- **Approved Certification Bodies**
- **20 International stakeholder organizations with expertise in:**
  - **organic production**
  - **textile processing and manufacturing**
  - **textile chemistry**
  - **social criteria**

**and representing the industry, NGOs as well as consumer interests.**

# Harmonisation process



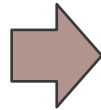
# Basic Features



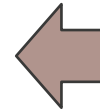
**Organic Fibres**



**Environmental and  
Social Criteria**



**Concerns all  
Processing Stages**



**Testing for Harmful  
Substances**



# Basic Key criteria for fiber use



## Organic Fibers

- Minimum of 70% certified organic fibers
- Certification according to recognised organic production standards (such as NPOP, Regulation EC 834/2007 or USDA NOP)

## Additional Fibers (Balance 30% or 5% content)

- Non- GMO Natural Fibres
- Maximum of 10% synthetic or regenerated fibers (respective max. 25% for socks, leggings and sportswear)
- Maximum 30% of Sustainable Regenerated or recycled synthetic fibres

# Organic Fibres



Criteria	Item
Fibres Allowed	Cotton, Bast, Silk, Wool, Other Animal Fibres (Certified Organic)
Fibres Not Allowed	Conventional Cotton, Conventioanl Angora Wool, Virgin Polyester, GMO, Asbestos, carbon, steel, Acrylic
Fibres Restricted	Synthetic & Regenerated (Max 10%)
Special Conditions (in Restricted Fibres)	For socks & Sportswear, including Yogawear (Max 25%)
Special Conditions (Regenerated fibres)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Regenerated fibres from organic raw materials, from certified sustainable forestry management are permitted now up to 30%</li></ul>
Special Conditions (Synthetic fibres)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Recycled synthetic fibres are permitted now up to 30%</li></ul>

# Entry Level Criteria in GOTS for Organic Fibres



## Approved organic standards are:

- Regulation (EC) 834/2007
- USDA National Organic Program (NOP)
- Any (other) standard approved in the IFOAM Family of Standards for the relevant scope of production (crop or animal production)

## CBs must at least have one of the following qualifications:

- ISO 65 / 17065 accreditation
- NOP accreditation
- IFOAM accreditation
- IFOAM Global Organic System accreditation

# Criteria for processing/ additives



- **General criteria for all processing stages**  
(e.g. separation, record keeping, environmental policy, social criteria)
- **General ban on harmful substances in all processing stages**  
(e.g. formaldehyde, toxic heavy metals, GMOs)
- **General criteria for the assessment of chemical inputs (Positive List)**  
Should meet GOTS Version 4.0 (meeting limits on human and environmental (aquatic, fauna, flora and soil) toxicity as well as on biodegradability/ eliminability)
- **Specific criteria for the different processing stages** (e.g. functional waste water treatment plant for wet processing plants, limitations on materials for accessories and finishing methods)

# Positive lists – Statistics (For Additives)



- As on 31<sup>st</sup> Dec, 2013, Positive lists according to GOTS Version 3.0 are prepared for more than **398** suppliers of dyes and auxiliaries
- They contain  
**3746** trade names of colourants and  
**5662** trade names of auxiliary agents

The positive lists are available to all operators participating in the GOTS certification system through their certifier

# Minimum Social Criteria



**Meeting social minimum criteria based on the ILO Key Norms is compulsory for all processing and manufacturing stages.**

**The requirements include:**

- **No child labor**
- **Payment of living wages**
- **Working hours must not be excessive**
- **Safe and hygienic working conditions**
- **No discrimination, no harsh or inhumane treatment**
- **Mandatory fire safety drills**
- **Operators must establish social compliance management tools that support the implementation and monitoring of the social minimum criteria**

# Social Criteria- Audit Considerations



**Certification programs of which the results should be considered and recognised in the course of GOTS inspection:**

- **Fair Wear Foundation (FWF)**
- **Social Accountability 8000 (SA 8000)**
- **Worldwide Responsible Accredited Production (WRAP)**
- **Business Social Compliance Initiative (BSCI)**

# Environment Criteria



- **Energy & Water Consumption** **Data** must be available
- **Waste & Discharges**
- **Chemical & Sludge Disposal**
- **Staff Training**
- **Max COD content of discharged water:** 20 g/kg of textile output
- **pH of discharged water** 6 to 9
- **Max Temperature of discharged water** 35 °C

# Storage, Packing, Transport & Record Keeping



- **Contamination with non organic products is prohibited**
- **PVC in packing materials is prohibited**
- **Paper/cardboard in packing has to be FSC Certified or recycled, from 1<sup>st</sup> Jan, 2014**
- **Pesticide/ Biocide use in storeroom/ transportation has to be in accordance with International/ National Organic Production Standard**
- **Transaction Certificates (TCs) are obligatory (considering the new policy that allows for multiple shipments covered on a single TC)**
- **Records relevant to the inspection must be kept for at least 5 years**

# Dual system for quality assurance



## On-Site inspection

- On-site inspection of the entire processing chain up to the import level
- Annual inspection cycle
- Organic product flow, environmental and social criteria subject to inspection

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## Residue Testing

- Orientation values for residues
- Risk assessment of contamination
- Analysis in ISO 17025 accredited labs

# Label grading



**Using 95 – 100%  
organic fibres:**



**Organic**  
certified by *[certifier's ref.]*

**Using 70 – 94%  
organic fibres:**



**Made with (x %)  
organic materials**  
certified by *[certifier's ref.]*

# Licensing system



- The GOTS logo may be used as **on-product** and consumer label to market GOTS certified textiles
- **Intermediate Textiles** may carry the GOTS logo as well
- Use of logo not permitted for **additives suppliers** at the moment. However, they can mention it in text.

# GOTS- an Ideal Sustainability Tool



- **Covers all natural textile fibres**
- **Covers all processes in manufacture**
- **Covers Chemical Restrictions**
- **Covers Product Performance**
- **Covers Waste Management to check environment pollution**
- **Covers Social Aspects (ILO)**
- **Covers Work Environment**
- **Covers Water and Energy Management**
- **GOTS is legally registered as a Non-Profit Organisation in Germany. Hence GOTS has no commercial interest and is working for upliftment and safety of people and stakeholders involved**

# The Gold Standard for Sustainability



Certified to GOTS standard  
- traceability of organic fibre content +  
environmentally and socially  
responsible manufacture

***"Organic" claims can  
legitimately be made on products***



Certified to OE standard - traceability  
of organic fibre content only

***"Made with organically grown cotton" claims  
can legitimately be made on products***



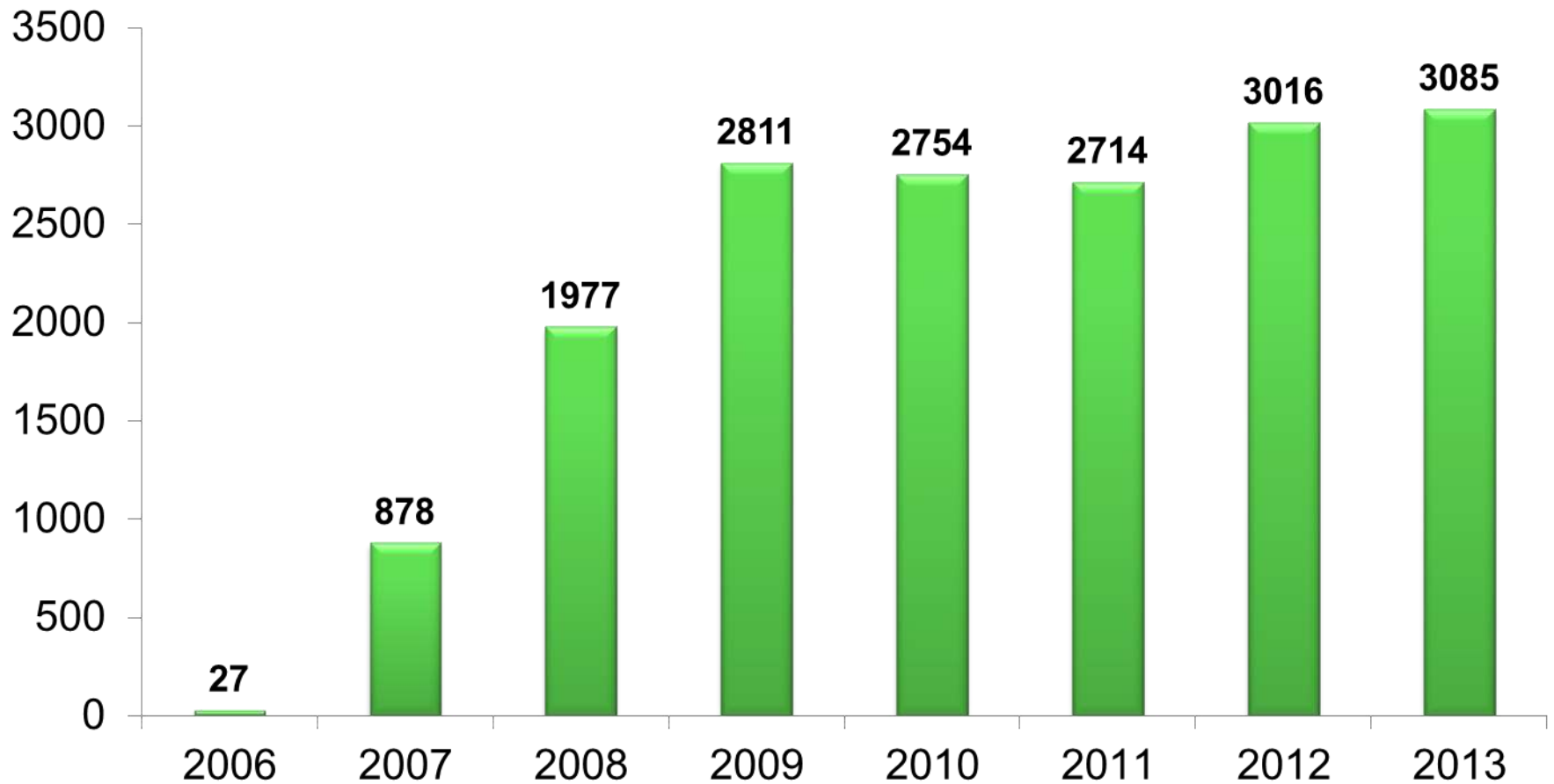
Certified Organic at farm level only

***Any claims made will need to be able to be justified...***



# Current Outreach –India and Globally

# Development of certified facilities- Global 2006 - 2013



# Breakdown of facilities by region / country- 2013



**3085 facilities certified to GOTS in 62 countries  
(in 2012: 3016 in 62 countries)**

■ India 1029 (1062)

■ China 197 (252)

■ Asia other 514 (552)

■ Turkey 421 (400)

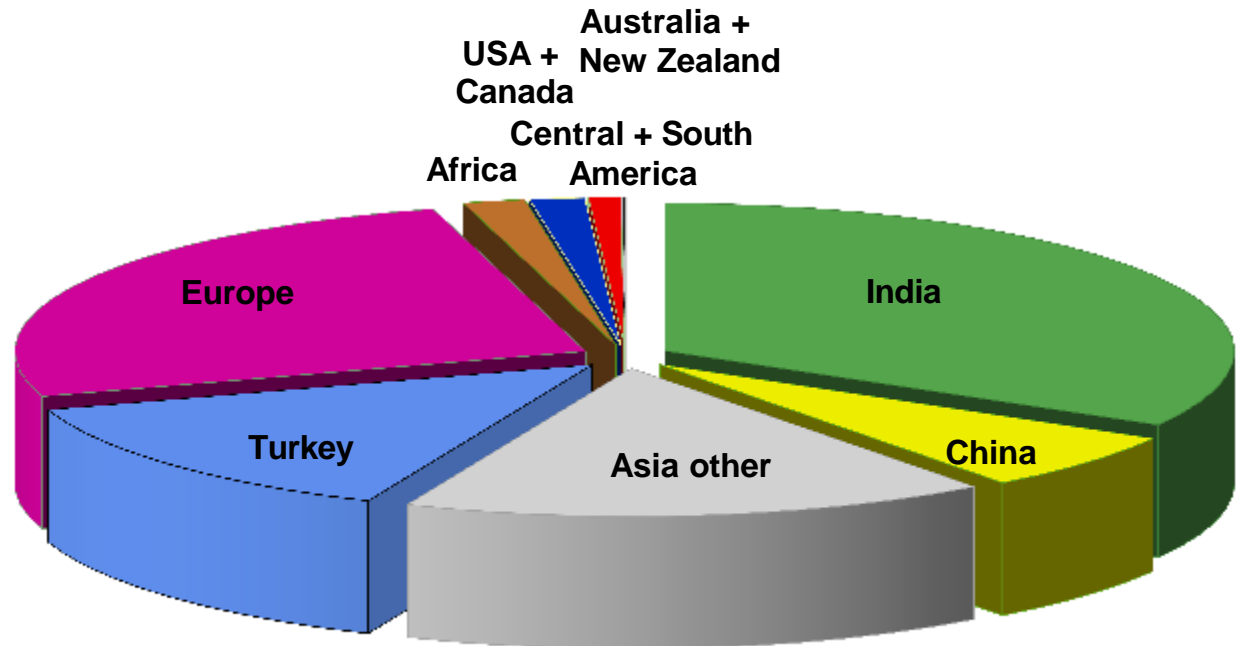
■ Europe 791 (606)

■ Africa 54 (59)

■ USA / Canada 48 (47)

■ Central- / South America 28 (33)

■ Australia / New Zealand 3 (5)



# Positive List (for dyes, chemicals, enzymes)



As on 31<sup>st</sup> Dec, 2013 data, the global Positive List Contained

- **398** suppliers

They contain

- **3,746** trade names of colourants and
- **5,662** trade names of auxiliary agents

# Latest Developments



- **1<sup>st</sup> International GOTS Conference** to be held on **22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2014** in **Mumbai, India**
- **Launched GOTS Water / Energy Tool** for licensees. This software lets you calculate your water and energy **consumption per unit** of product and also lets you compare your productivity with the **Global Benchmarks** (<http://www.global-standard.org/the-standard/gots-monitor/download/downloads/downloads.monitor.01.html>)
- **Launched of Video depicting the Changes in Version 4.0** (from ver 3.0) <http://www.global-standard.org/images/videos/GOTS4changes.mp4>
- **GOTS- SA Joint Campaign- Have you cottoned on yet? Phase II** launched in **Sep-2013** via Infographic [www.cottonedon.org](http://www.cottonedon.org)
- **GOTS Version 4.0** launched on **1<sup>st</sup> March, 2014**



# Implementation

# Implementation of GOTS Certification for Processing of Organic Textiles



- Source certified **Organic fibres** as Raw Material and collect TCs from the suppliers (Public Database can be very helpful here)
- Switch to Low Impact **Additives** (choose from positive list)
- Eco Friendly **Processing Techniques**
- Compliant with International Restricted Substance List (**RSL**)- End product testing
- Environment Criteria – solid / liquid waste- Create and Maintain an **Environment Policy**
- Implement robust **Social compliance** (no child labour, pay living wages etc)
- Ensure that all points mentioned in Version 4.0 are complied with
- Audit and Certification at **every processing step**

# Certification Along the Supply Chain



# Certification Systems along Supply Chain



**Cotton Farm/Collector**  
Government regulated standards



**Scope & Transaction  
Certificate**

**Processing Units**  
Industry voluntary standards



**Scope & Transaction  
Certificate**

**Retailer**  
Industry voluntary standards



**Scope & Transaction  
Certificate**

# Traceability and Mass Calculations



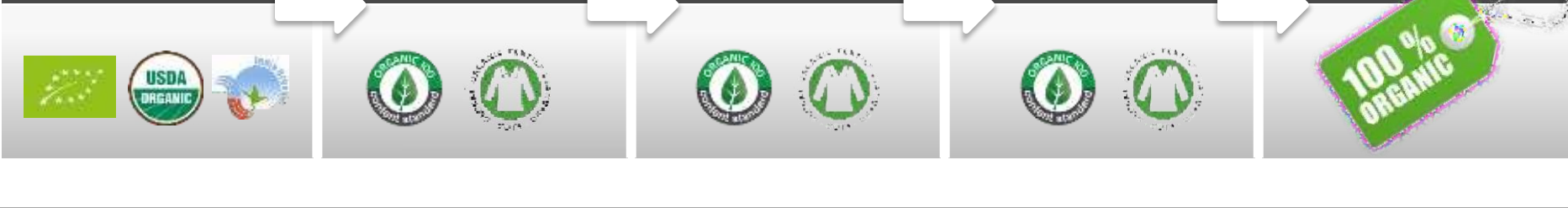
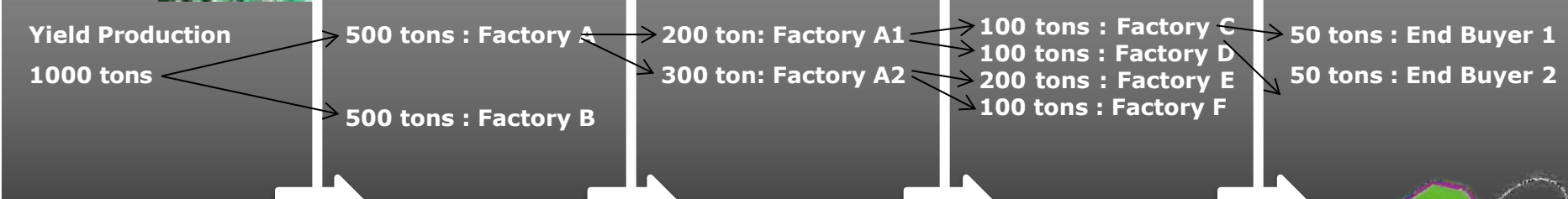
Farmer / Ginning  
Mill / Collector

Spinning

Knitting /  
Weaving/Dyeing

Finishing

End Product



**Note: There is a production loss due to wastage at every processing step. The above figures are for representation purpose only.**

# Increasing Recognition- Awards



- GOTS got the Consortium of Green Fashion Award for **Best Sustainability Initiative**, NGO Category, Apr 2013
- The award "**Green Brand Germany 2013/2014**" was given to DM's brand "Alana" for GOTS certified products for children in August 2013
- The award "**Outdoor industry Award Best New Products**" was given to the Running Shirt of the first GOTS certified athletic wear of the German company Engel in the Sustainable Products category in July 2013

# Increasing Recognition- USDA, USA



## USDA (United States Department of Agriculture):

- NOP (National Organic Program) policy memorandum (dated 20<sup>th</sup> May 2011) **explicitly recognises** GOTS and its label grade 'organic':  
“Textile products that are produced in accordance with the Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS) **may be sold as organic in the U.S.**”
- USDA clarifies that 'made with organic' is also a codified label grade and can only be used for textiles certified to NOP or GOTS
- Clarifies that the use of the term 'organic' in the labelling of textile products requires:
  - - the use of NOP certified raw fibres and
  - - third party certification of the supply chain

# Increasing Recognition- Europe



- **GOTS is a part of the recently launched Alliance of Brands and Standards for sustainable sourcing practices by **Federal German Government****
- **GOTS Technical Director has been formally nominated by DIN as a member of **Comité Européen de Normalisation [CEN]/TC 248, WG 32 Working Group 'Use of the term organic and other environmental marketing terms'****
- **The assessment process is going on as per EC ISO 14024. We've already discussed in management and will provide a statement on our website soon that GOTS is a **Type 1 Standard according to EC ISO 14024.****

# Increasing Recognition- IFOAM



## IFOAM (International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movement):

- **GOTS** has been welcomed by the IFOAM World Board as an **IFOAM Affiliate Member**
- IFOAM has **removed the textile processing section** in its standard with the fact that it has been supplanted by **GOTS**
- Apr 2013- IFOAM issued **Recommendation to Governments** not to develop parallel national standards and to encourage **GOTS** for organic textiles in their respective countries

# IFOAM Against National Textile Standards



WHAT WE DO ABOUT US GET INVOLVED OUR LIBRARY

THE ORGANIC INFO HUB

Welcome » IFOAM » IFOAM OGS related positions

## IFOAM OGS RELATED POSITIONS

### April 2014: IFOAM position on the Global Organic Textile Standard

IFOAM endorses GOTS as the minimum reference for organic textile processing. It encourages GOTS to further develop and to follow the principle of continuous improvement. This endorsement includes the recommendation to Governments, not to start development of redundant standards and regulations but to make references to GOTS as processing standard for organic labeled textiles.

Source: <http://www.ifoam.org/en/node/2499>



# Contribution of GOTS to India

# Major Benefits to India from GOTS (1)



- **One International Standard** for all markets- trust for consumers, brands, manufacturers and all stakeholders.
- **Generating market and customers for organic cotton, finally benefiting organic farmers**
- **Premium** for GOTS Certified Organic Textiles
- **Higher business opportunities and increase in foreign exchange earnings**
- **Better working conditions** for labourers in certified textile processing facilities; hence benefitting the poor workers
- **Limited Cost of Compliance** due to acceptance of GOTS certification over the world for organic textiles

## Major Benefits to India from GOTS (2)



- Thousands of dyes and auxiliaries in India were assessed for important environmental criteria like **toxicity, biodegradability, ingredients and residues** of hazardous substances under GOTS Approval Program.
- Almost no environmental data have been available **previously** for many of these products and **GOTS assessment and registration** was the reason why important environmental data have been assessed and tested and corresponding **MSDS** have been prepared.
- **Only treated water is discharged** from textile factories participating in GOTS program.

## Major Benefits to India from GOTS (3)



- **Better Aquatic Life: Fish are saved from harmful chemicals like APEOs and therefore restricting their entry to food chain as well**
- **Local residents saved from health hazards arising from toxic industrial waste**
- **W/E Monitor will let the textile processors monitor their water & energy consumption and productivity. W/E Monitor is free to download and use for all our licensees.**
- **Licensees can also approach our UK based Partner for further support and additional services to achieve improvement in their plants**

# GOTS Recognition in India-1



On tune of USA, **Govt of India** should recognise the benefits GOTS has been extending to India since 2006.

An **Official Endorsement** from the relevant authorities in Ministry of Textiles, Ministry of Commerce, APEDA and Director General of Foreign Trade will enhance its presence in India and will be highly beneficial to environment, society and organic textiles business in India.

## GOTS Recognition in India-2



- Post implementation of ISOT from 18<sup>th</sup> Dec, 2014 onwards, only organic textiles that are certified to ISOT will be exported. But there are various **practical and infrastructure issues** that need to be addressed before implementation.
- We therefore call on the responsible Indian authorities especially to reconsider their implementation deadline set for NPOP/ISOT certification for organic textile exports in order to allow the Indian export industry to align in line with the new legal requirements in a realistic timeframe of **further twelve months** upto 18<sup>th</sup> Dec, 2015.
- Secondly, as ISOT is restricted to cotton and silk only, we request the DGFT to modify the notification to allow export of GOTS certified organic materials made with other organic fibres like **wool, jute, coir** etc., which are not covered under ISOT, for which the NPOP/Tracenet TC cannot be generated.

## Further Information



- [www.global-standard.org](http://www.global-standard.org)
- GOTS and related documents available for download
- Public data base containing the GOTS certified entities, their products and fields of operation
- News and latest developments, subscribe to our newsletter.
- <http://www.global-standard.org/information-centre/faqs.html>
- [www.cottonedon.org](http://www.cottonedon.org)

**GOTS has been committed to support India and active backing from you will help us achieve our goals together.**

**Thank You!**



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