



# GLOBAL ORGANIC TEXTILE STANDARD

## ECOLOGY & SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



Engel



Grüne Erde



gotsutsumu



Moriko Organic



Herka



Internet Tekstil



Sey Organic Jeans

# Annual Report 2015

OUR VISION  
IS THAT ORGANIC TEXTILES  
WILL BECOME A SIGNIFICANT PART OF EVERYDAY LIFE,  
ENHANCING PEOPLE'S LIVES AND THE ENVIRONMENT.



OUR MISSION  
IS THE DEVELOPMENT,  
IMPLEMENTATION, VERIFICATION, PROTECTION  
AND PROMOTION OF THE  
GLOBAL ORGANIC TEXTILE STANDARD

*from: GOTS Vision and Mission*

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 2015

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➔ In 2015 the number of GOTS certified facilities worldwide increased to 3,814, a new record. The top locations were India, Turkey, Germany, Bangladesh, China, Pakistan and Italy.

➔ Impact assessment shows that the number of workers in GOTS certified facilities exceeds one million.

➔ 7,099 colourants and auxiliaries have been initially approved in 2015 to GOTS Version 4.0, up from 5585 chemical inputs in 2014.

➔ 1st International GOTS conference in Mumbai, India, great success with 250 attendees

➔ 18 Certification Bodies accredited by GOTS to provide independent third party GOTS certification.

➔ Accreditation requirements for Certification Bodies updated with specified social audit and chemical input qualification criteria

➔ GOTS successfully continued certifier training with a first 3 day Social Training Seminar held in India for GOTS auditors

➔ Seven regional GOTS Representatives worldwide actively promote GOTS in their respective regions.

➔ GOTS continued successful partnerships with leading trade fairs: Messe Frankfurt in China, Germany and France, Messe München, Biofach India and Japan.

➔ More than 50% increase of GOTS database search requests (2015: 233,802, 2014:154,095)

➔ India finally drops plan to implement own organic textile standard (ISOT)



## DEVELOPMENT

GOTS Version 4.0 was fully implemented in 2015. Issues relating to the tightened material and chemical input criteria were solved.

An on-going issue, especially reported by small- and mid-size companies in Europe selling huge amounts of GOTS Goods by small shipments, is the cost and administrative burden related to the mandatory issuance of Transaction Certificates (TCs). To address this, firstly the TC policy already includes several clauses to reduce the related workload (covering (up to 100) multiple shipments in three months on a single TC, this has reduced the minimum information required on a TC). Secondly, to solve a valid claim of the retail industry and their suppliers in

this context, the Standards Committee decided in November 2015 on a derogation on the obligation to receive and



maintain TCs for shipments of final GOTS Goods purchased by voluntarily certified retailers, provided the GOTS

labelling of such goods does not contain the licence number of the retailer but of the supplier/manufacturer. Standard revisions are anticipated every three years. Accordingly, as GOTS Version 4.0 and the corresponding Manual were released 1st March 2014 the next revision process will start during 2016. The revision procedure foresees that a first revision draft will be presented by the Standards Committee to the members of the Advisory Council, certifiers and invited stakeholders in spring 2016 and followed through to the release of GOTS version 5.0 in March 2017.



## IMPLEMENTATION

Development of businesses

The number of facilities certified to the Global Organic Textile Standard kept on growing last year, from 3,663 facilities in 2014 to 3,814 facilities in 2015. GOTS certified facilities are now located in 68 (63 in 2014) countries around the world. Continuously, growth is evenly spread across all market segments including the mass

market and the big brands. Countries or regions with the largest increase in GOTS certification in 2015 are (in rank order): India (+74), Europe (+58) Turkey (+27) and Bangladesh (+21). The Top Fifteen countries in terms of the total number of GOTS certified facilities are: India (1,441), Turkey (489), Germany (306), Bangla-

desh (210), China (201) Pakistan (142), Italy (141), Portugal (89), South Korea (80), Japan (65), USA (60), France (56), UK (49), Austria (49), Denmark (41).

To date the GOTS accredited independent Certification Bodies report more than one million people working in GOTS certified facilities.







## VERIFICATION

### Third Party Certification

18 certification bodies are accredited by GOTS to work as GOTS-approved certifiers. In 2015 a training webinar explaining the requirements of the updated Licensing and Labelling Guide was provided. The webinar reviewed in depth the current certification, licensing and labelling requirements for manufacturers, traders and retailers for on-product and off-product use of GOTS labelling and referencing. It also dealt with the related verification requirements for certifiers.

In addition, for the first time a three-day in-person training seminar was provided in Ahmedabad, India with regard to the social criteria in the ginning sector. The training was conducted by the Centre for Labour Research & Action, an Indian NGO expert in this field. During the seminar the very specific situation related to working conditions in cotton ginning factories (seasonal work) was outlined. The practical part contained a role play for the social compliance audit, a

field visit to interview ginning factory workers outside their factories and an interactive session on identifying potential gaps and finding possible solutions in auditing procedures. The 'Question & Answer' section for certifiers has been further developed and contains more than 100 questions and answers. This turned out to be a very useful and practical tool for consistent interpretation of GOTS and its quality assurance system.



## PROTECTION

Our Complaints Procedure continued to serve as a well-functioning and valuable tool for formalising and structuring complaints. 69 complaint cases have been filed in 2015 (up from 58 complaint cases in 2014, 43 cases in 2013 and 57 cases in 2012).

As in previous years most of the complaints were regarding claimed unauthorised use of our logo (trademark violations), false references to GOTS (certification) and fraudulent representations that companies or products were GOTS certified.

Most cases of unauthorised trademark use or false references continue to arise from the ignorance of traders and retailers of the GOTS labelling system, they removed the GOTS logo and/or incorrect statements from their advertising material after our intervention with several companies deciding as a result to apply for certification in order to be able to make correct references. In eight cases we required the assistance of attorneys in order to enforce compliance (three cases in Germany, two in the US, one in the UK,

one in India and one in Denmark). Apart from complaints received, we successfully requested from as many as 13 traders in Germany a legally binding cease and desist undertaking, as we had observed over the years an increasing tendency to offer printed garments labelled or advertised as GOTS certified while the production of the garments was certified but the printing was not. One case is still pending in court.



## PROMOTION

### Development cooperation and environmental protection

The biggest promotional event was our first international conference in Mumbai, India in May 2015 with 250 attendees. Please find the comprehensive report on the GOTS website.

We issued "GOTS News" twice in 2015 with a very good response from media and other interested parties. After the launch of the Why GOTS Factsheets, the GOTS Simple Show and the Compare - from Field to Fashion Flyer in 2014 we worked to spread these in 2015.

We continued our successful partnerships with leading trade fairs: Messe

Frankfurt in China, Germany and France, Messe München, Biofach India and Japan.

Our web analysing tool Piwik recorded again a higher number of visitors (183,406) compared to 2014 (159,814) with more than 822,500 page-views (2014: 724,000). 233,802 (2014: 154,095) page-views were counted on the GOTS Database. This increase of more than 50% shows that the GOTS Database is recognized as a valuable instrument for verification and search.

In 2015 six regional Representatives were working on GOTS promotion. The Representatives in alphabetical order: Sumit Gupta (India and Bangladesh), Claudia Kersten (Germany, Austria, Switzerland), Sandra Marquardt (USA), Satoko Miyoshi (Japan), Felicia Shi (China) and Christopher Stopes (United Kingdom).

### MEDIA

The number of inquiries from consumer and professional media (print, radio and television) remained high in 2015. The annual press release documenting GOTS successes in 2015

again received trade media interest, among others from BanglaApparel, Daily Cotton Market Report, Fibre2Fashion, IgmateX, Tecoya Trend, Textile Excellence, Apparel, Home & Textiles Today, Sourcing Journal, EcoTextile News, Just-style.com, Women's Wear Daily (USA), as well as OTA's fiber list serve and quarterly magazine. DB-Mobil - circulation 500,000 with estimated 1.39 million readers, b2b as well as b2c published an article in which GOTS was reported as one of the best solutions to sustainability in the supply chain. A post-event coverage by GOTS Representative Sumit Gupta of the „1st International GOTS Conference“ was published in Bangladesh Textile Today. In CNTAC's official social media account and affiliated media accounts GOTS was named as Partner in Excellence to the CSR of China Textile Industry by CNTAC. GOTS was included in shopping guides by city governments or local economic cooperations (for example in Rheda Wiedenbrück and Esslingen, Germany), in teaching materials like FAIRrockt (plou GmbH) or information brochures like "Wege zu einer nachhaltigen Jugendarbeit - Morgen wird heute gestern sein" ("Way forward to sustainable youth work - Today tomorrow will be yesterday") (Erzbischöfliches Jugendamt und BDKJ München und Freising) and information flyers in combination with exhibitions of Naturschutzbund.

The partnership with the Ethical Fashion Forum has provided continued exposure to the textile and fashion oriented media. A total of 29 news items mentioning GOTS appeared in Eco Textile News, the leading UK based print and on-line news service for the textile sector with a global reach. GOTS Marketing Director Claudia Kersten gave interviews to several magazines and online blogs, such as Ökotest, a well-known German consumer magazine with a circulation of more than 115,000 and Childhood Business explaining correct labelling and consequences for suppliers and also retailers in case of trademark violations and many others.



## APPROACHING RELEVANT TEXTILE OPERATORS:

In 2015 we attended and contributed to numerous international meetings, conferences and fairs in order to present GOTS and establish and strengthen contacts with the industry and stakeholders. We held seminars or were panellists at several relevant events and meetings in various countries: Visit to the headquarters of Lenzing Austria (largest producer of regenerated fibres), Strategy Meeting with IFOAM EU Group in Brussels, Participation in Chemical Working Group of the 'Partnership for Sustainable Textiles' initialised by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Meeting with Ökotex, Hohenstein, Germany, Meeting with Management of Fairtrade International and Flocert, Bonn, International Wool Textile Ass (IWTO), Zhangjagang, China, International GOTS Conference India, Mumbai, Meeting with Korean Agency for Technology & Standards, Ministry of Trade, Industry & Energy in Eschborn, Germany.

The GOTS representatives participated with booths in:

China: Intertextile Shanghai, Goesan International Organic Expo + Industry fair

Europe: Ethical Fashion Show (EFS) in Berlin during Berlin Fashion Week, Munich Fabric Start (MFS), Innatex. Claudia Kersten combined the trade fair participation in Berlin and Munich with lectures on „Supply Chain Management and Product Safety with GOTS - Challenges and Solutions including changes in GOTS 4.0“ and „Ecological, social and qualitative aspects in using synthetic and natural fibres“, EFF MySource, Source Summit London, Source Expo

India: Global Textile Technology & Engineering Show 2015 (GTTES), Heimtextil India, Biofach India,

Japan: Biofach Japan

USA: Natural Products Expo West

And GOTS representatives attended among other, "Building, Fire Safety Equipment Expo", Bangladesh; Green Textile Summit, China; World Green Design Forum, China; China Graduate

Fashion Week, China; Textilwirtschaft Fashion Summit, Germany; A+A trade fair, Germany; International Conference on Digital Textile Printing, India; SDC International Conference, India; Textile Exchange Sustainability Conference, India; SCAP Supporters Roundtable, UK

### INITIAL CONSULTANCY FOR GOTS CERTIFICATION

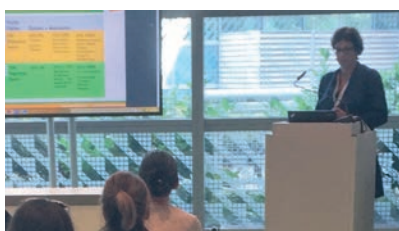
Beyond the consultancy during the numerous trade fairs the GOTS Representatives continued to host webinars - a sustainable (cost effective and environmentally friendly) way for the management of the companies and also for GOTS.

Germany/Austria/Switzerland Representative Claudia Kersten could gain or intensify contacts to several big brands and/or retailers (e.g. C&A, H&M, Esprit, Ernting's Family, Aldi, Vaude). She consulted Coop CH regarding GOTS as solution for their DETOX criteria

### ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES UNIVERSITY AND SCHOOL EDUCATION

There is ongoing interest in many educational fields: University teachers and students, scientists and researchers, teachers and editors of education materials for primary and high schools. In Germany the GOTS Representative gave lectures or workshops at ESMOD, Berlin or their MBA Programme Sustainability in Fashion, this year with active support from GOTS Representative Sumit Gupta and Managing Director Herbert Ladwig. The GOTS Representative in India gave lectures to students at SASMIRA, Mumbai- Textile Diploma Students; B.D. Somani Institute of Art & Fashion Technology, Mumbai; Centre for Textile Functions, MPSTME, Shirpur; PSG College of Technology

In Japan the GOTS Representative gave a lecture at "Ethical Fashion College" on "how can we choose ethical fashion? Meaning of labels and certification". At the farmer's conference" she gave a lecture on "Organic textile -labelling and certification"



### CONSUMER EDUCATION

In Germany, Austria and Switzerland the GOTS Representative conducted a workshop with the employees in the GIZ department „Social and Environmental Standards“ in Eschborn and worked on the improvement of the „Siegelklarheit.de“ Internet-Platform (for more to Siegelklarheit read chapter Politics).

The German Institute for Quality Assurance and Certification (RAL) launched a brochure „ABC der Kennzeichnung“ including GOTS to support consumer and institutional education. As result of a circular more than 50.000 GOTS flyers „Compare - From Field to Fashion“ were ordered and sent to retailers. The retailers accepted the billing at cost for printing and posting.

### POLITICS

In India the Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), Ministry of Commerce, Government of India, issued a new Public Notice on 05.05.2015 informing that „the procedure for export of all the certified organic products, included in the NPOP document, except Textiles, will come into operation with effect from 01.06.2015.“

Accordingly GOTS certified and labelled textiles will not be affected by this procedure and the Indian Standard for Organic Textiles (ISOT), which already had been released as mandatory certification standard as part of NPOP by the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) finally did not become binding and thus will hardly gain any relevance. We appreciate this decision by the Indian Government as it avoids additional burden on the Indian organic textile industry and the international buyers of GOTS certified and labelled products. It is likely that the concerns raised by industry representatives and leading international brands and retailers were helpful in framing the decision of the Indian government. In the EU, the European Norming Organisation (CEN) approved the final draft of the CEN Technical Specification regarding the use of the term "organic" and other environmental mar-



keting terms in the labelling of textiles and textile products (title: „Textiles and textile products - Self-declared environmental claims - Use of the terms“) by formal vote. Accordingly it was sent to CEN for publication on 10 September 2015, its release is awaited. As reported previously, since the vast majority of the members were of the opinion that the term ‘organic’ must not be used with regard to textiles (product claims) at all, we succeeded to have the scope of the document limited to self-declared environmental claims. Thus, the use of the term organic in GOTS is not affected. While the document contains rather strict restrictions on the use of the term ,organic‘ in self-declared environmental claims, it is not a

CEN „standard“ but only a technical specification. Thus, its impact will be limited.

GOTS participated in a debate in the House of Lords, UK, hosted by the All Party Parliamentary Group on Ethics and Sustainability in Fashion and organised with Fashion Revolution and the Institute of Occupational and Safety and Health. This event highlighted the impact of the Rana Plaza disaster and the action that has been taken and the importance for improved transparency to drive improvement for the 60 million people employed in the sector worldwide. The importance of GOTS, and the potential for GOTS certification to improve transparency and drive improvements in the sector was outlined.

GOTS contributed to the development of the internet platform „Siegelklarheit.de“ which is directly connected to the German Partnership for sustainable Textiles and which allows consumers and others to compare and evaluate different sustainable textile labels - also via an app. The platform was developed by several German ministries, the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ); the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation; Building and Nuclear Safety; the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, and the Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection. The platform enjoys respect and a good reputation. GOTS is ranked the highest.

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Our organisation maintains a flat structure and aims to minimise administrative costs. The GOTS programme is self-financed. All income is used to reach our objectives. Accordingly the operating unit has legal non-profit status (Global Standard gemeinnützige GmbH).

### INCOME

#### Annual Fee

30 Euro per facility inspected and/or certified 107.548 €

#### License Fee

120 Euro per facility inspected for a certified entity 415.797 €

#### Registration Fee

15 Euro per approved trade name of an auxiliary input 83.775 €

Interest, Currency Conversion, Promotional Products 12.739 €

#### Total

**619.858 €**

### EXPENSES

● Standard and Quality Assurance System 100.169 €

● System Protection 71.459 €

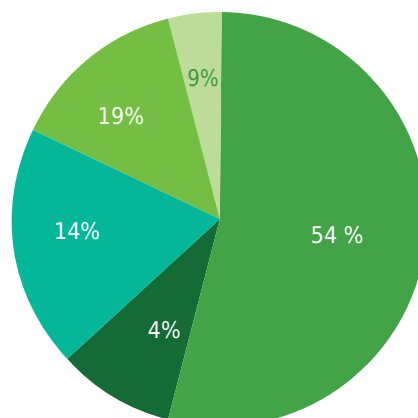
● Promotional and Marketing Tools 22.630 €

● Promotional Activities, GOTS Representatives 280.805 €

● General Administration 47.822 €

#### Total

**524.192 €**





# GLOBAL ORGANIC TEXTILE STANDARD

## ECOLOGY & SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

GOTS is recognised as the world's leading processing standard for textiles made from organic fibres. It defines high-level environmental criteria along the entire supply chain of organic textiles and requires compliance with social criteria as well. GOTS was developed by leading international standard setters in order to define globally recognised requirements that ensure the organic status of textiles - from harvesting of the raw materials through environmentally and socially responsible manufacturing all the way to labelling - in order to provide credible assurance to the consumer. Supported by the growth in consumption of organic fibres and by the remarkable demand for standardised processing criteria from the industry and retail sector, GOTS has already gained universal recognition. It enables processors and manufacturers to supply their textiles made from organic fibres with one certification accepted in all major

selling markets The Global Organic Textile Standard International working Group is comprised of four well-respected member organisations: Organic Trade Association (OTA), USA, International Association of Natural Textile Industry (IVN), Germany), Soil Association, UK and the Japan Organic Cotton Association (JOCA), Japan. Together with international stakeholder organisations and experts, they contribute their respective expertise in organic farming and environmentally and socially responsible textile processing to GOTS. The monitoring system is based on on-site inspection and certification performed by independent, specially accredited bodies. This assures the integrity of GOTS-certified textiles.

The GOTS licence entitles to participate in the GOTS programme, including use of the GOTS logo on its respective GOTS goods.



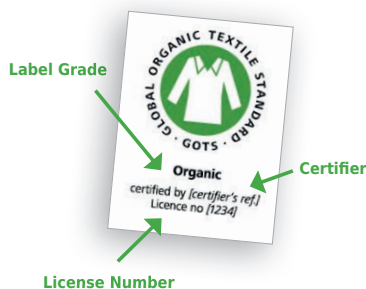
### Security Advice

#### for Consumers

**Do you want to be sure that a product is really GOTS certified?**

Please check for **complete labelling**.

Check our public database to verify [www.global-standard.org](http://www.global-standard.org).



#### for Retailers

**Make sure that products are actually GOTS certified and labelled correctly!**

**Wrong labelling is a trademark infringement!**

Retailers are liable for incorrect labelling

More information at [www.global-standard.org](http://www.global-standard.org)

Request from your supplier:

- **Scope Certificate (Certificate of Compliance)** proves that the supplier is able to process according to GOTS criteria
- **Transaction Certificate** proves that the actual products are GOTS certified
- **the certifiers release** for the valid GOTS logo use on the product