



GLOBAL ORGANIC TEXTILE STANDARD ECOLOGY & SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



MilliTomm



The Organic Company



Molo



Mundotextil



Organic by Feldmann



Noble House



Aseervaa



NUR



Maas



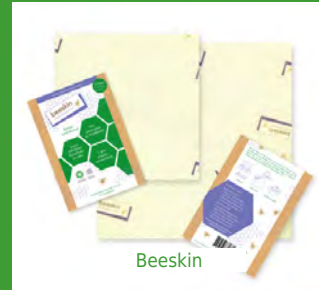
Storyfabrics



People Wear Organic



Loud and Proud



Beeskin

HIGHLIGHTS 2019

→ 7.765 certified facilities reported (an increase of 35% from 5.760 facilities in 2018)

→ Impact: number of workers reported in GOTS certified facilities over 3 million

→ 23.872 approved chemical inputs including 8.521 colourants from 871 suppliers which corresponds to an increase of 18% (20.331 chemical inputs, 8.242 colorants from 778 suppliers) over 2018

→ Revision of GOTS to Standard version 6.0 and corresponding Implementation Manual undertaken

→ GOTS announced winner in the test “Traceability of Clothing with Textile Seals” conducted by the German

consumer product testing organisation Stiftung Warentest

→ Release of Advisory for GM Screening of Cotton following the publication of ISO IWA 32 testing protocol

→ Progress development of the Centralised Database System with Textile Exchange. Chainpoint chosen as developer and Project Manager appointed in October

→ Start of GOTS Impact Assessment

→ Promotion of the tool GOTS Monitor (Water/Energy) 2.0

→ GOTS regional round tables and seminars successfully conducted in

Bangladesh, Germany, Japan, China, UK and Turkey

→ As part of the GOTS capacity building Social Accountability International (SAI) successfully held the third series of two day training for CB personnel in 3 countries for 36 certifiers/auditors

→ Increase of page views on the GOTS website of 37% (357.938 compared to 262.121 in 2018)

→ GOTS going live on Social Media

→ Release of revised TC and SC policies

→ 197 complaints received and acted upon

Ecology & Social Responsibility From Field to Fashion



DEVELOPMENT

The revision for GOTS Version 6.0 commenced from April 2019. 273 stakeholder inputs were received in the 1st consultation period and 82 in the 2nd period. After assessing and deliberating the contributions, the Standards Committee prepared a final revision draft of GOTS Version 6.0 and the corresponding Implementation Manual, as well as a document to record changes and inclusions from Version 5.0. The GOTS Version 6.0 and the corresponding Implementation Manual are released in spring 2020. The transition period for users of GOTS to fully comply with the new version will be one year. The GOTS initiated genetically modified organism (GMO) testing method project for cotton, picked up and sponsored by

the Organic Cotton Accelerator (OCA), was completed by the Dutch Standardisation authority NEN and released as an ISO International Workshop Agreement (ISO IWA 32) in April 2019. Following this, an advisory was sent to all GOTS Approved Certification Bodies (CB) to use this protocol for screening for the presence of GMOs at gins. The GOTS Position Document on GM Contamination in Textiles is available for download on the GOTS website.

The Indian government agency Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) continued to revisit the concept of a Chain of Custody standard for the entire organic textile supply chain rather

than a processing standard like GOTS, leading to dual audit requirements if the certification is made mandatory. A stakeholder meeting was called by the Ministry of Textiles, most attendees continued to resist mandatory regulation by APEDA and suggested to consider existing certification such as GOTS and OCS. APEDA has offered quarterly meetings to GOTS and Textile Exchange to discuss matters hereafter. It is likely that APEDA will possibly start a petition with the administrative authorities in the Ministry of Textiles at some opportune stage to promulgate a mandatory rule for all (exported) organic cotton products from India to carry their certification. GOTS will continue to monitor the situation.



IMPLEMENTATION

DEVELOPMENT OF BUSINESSES

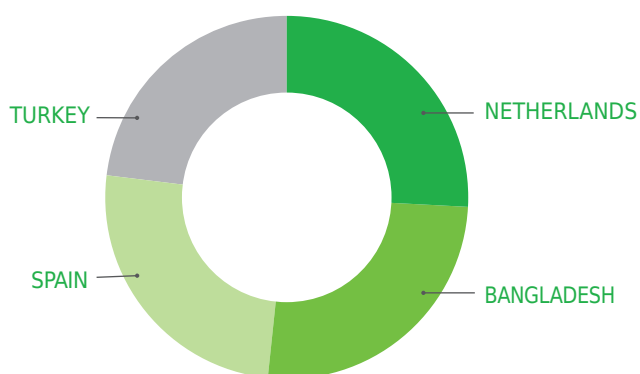
The number of GOTS certified facilities showed yet the greatest rise ever from 5.760 to 7.765 in 2019, the highest figure so far and an increase of 35%. The GOTS certified facilities are located in 70 countries with continuous growth in both production and consumption regions. Countries with the largest growth in GOTS certifications in 2019 (rank order in percent) are: Netherlands (73%), Bangladesh (73%), Spain (71%),

and Turkey (65%). In terms of total numbers of certified facilities, the highest increase is reported from Bangladesh (+505), followed by India (+438) and Europe (+396).

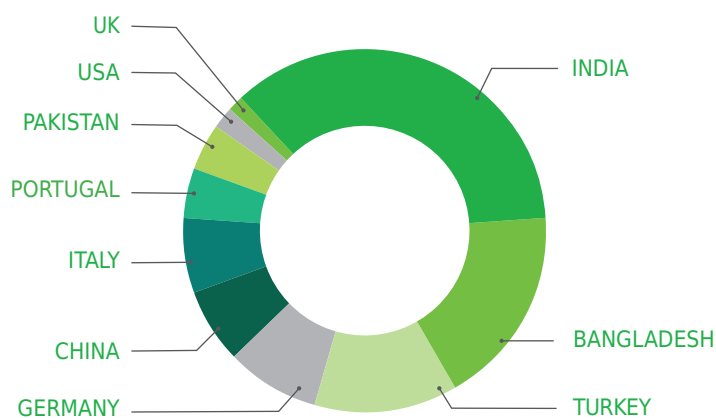
The top ten countries in terms of total numbers of GOTS certified facilities in 2019 are: India (2.411), Bangladesh (1.194), Turkey (858), Germany (565), China (448), Italy (444), Portugal (301), Pakistan (276), USA (147), and the

UK (75). More than 3 Million workers working in GOTS certified facilities were reported in 2019 by the 17 accredited independent Certification Bodies. The number of chemical inputs in the Positive List showed an increase of 18% to 23.872 from 871 suppliers. The GOTS Positive List contains trade names of approved chemicals that must be used by all textile processors for their GOTS certified production.

Countries or regions with the largest increase in GOTS certification in 2019.



Top ten countries in terms of total number of certified entities.



VERIFICATION

THIRD PARTY VERIFICATION

In 2019 GOTS operated with 17 approved CBs.

As part of the GOTS capacity building initiatives Social Accountability International (SAI) conducted a third set of two day training programmes on the Social Criteria for GOTS, 36 auditors underwent trainings in Hamburg, Izmir and Shenzhen. Certifiers expressed their satisfaction about the training and SAI is planning on updating the current training materials with GOTS based on the feedback. In the future GOTS exams will be administered online, thereby reducing the time needed to grade and communicate the exam results onsite. The Management is also developing Social Auditing Guidelines, to be released to all Certification Bodies.

To ensure competence of all Scope 4 Certifiers, at least one assessor from each CB must undergo a training to evaluate a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS). 'D1- Understanding of MSDS', a paid online training module by NimkarTek Technical Services Pvt Ltd, based in Mumbai, serves as course. In 2019, 15 participants took part in the online training. A Scope 4 Certifier training webinar (Approval of Chemical Input for GOTS) was also conducted.

As a part of the quality assurance initiatives, a questionnaire about the certification process was developed with the aim to improve the certification process, the competence of the CBs, reasons for selection of CBs by Certified Entities and their ease of doing business. The survey

is ongoing, feedback is gained through new- and re-certifications.

We counted 74 downloads of the tool GOTS Monitor (Water/Energy), a revised version and a webinar for all CBs explaining the advantages of the tool were launched.

We started to systematically measure the sustainability impact of GOTS in terms of social, environmental, and economic aspects. Therefore Prachi Gupta, GOTS Expert Quality Assurance and Impact, developed a questionnaire, using the framework of the ISEAL Impact Code. The "GOTS Impact Assessment Survey" is ongoing and addressed at all Certified Entities.

PROTECTION

We renewed and registered the trademark progressively also in African countries with increasing GOTS activities.

We received 197 complaints in 2019, far more than in earlier years (54 in 2018) of which 68 have been closed. Most complaints concern unauthorised use of our logo (trademark violations), false references to GOTS and fraudulent representations that companies or products were GOTS certified. Several cases (mainly in Europe) are

under legal proceedings with the help of our legal advisors. Contacting violators in the USA and Canada is often difficult since contact details are not public and legal proceedings in a few countries are more expensive.

The GOTS Protection Officer Otto Kersten held webinars with retailers and online shops to inform about correct labelling and how to identify GOTS certified brands to prevent trademark violations. Further, a resubmission (follow-up) system to handle complaints

and a more detailed complaint form to receive qualified information have been implemented. Two lawsuits, one in Germany and one in China, have been filed. In Germany, a court decision against a Textile Printer for trademark violation has been obtained.

The GOTS Management is continuing its enforcement efforts to ensure reliability and accuracy in use of the GOTS certification mark for the textile industry, including mattresses, fashion, and all textile products globally.

GOTS STORIES

KINGDOM HOLDINGS CO. LTD., CHINA

"Kingdom was founded in 1978 and is the world's largest manufacturer of linen and hemp yarn. Kingdom has always been committed to sustainable development and to integrate the concept into all areas of its corporate governance. *The strict and core focus on social and environmental standards advocated by GOTS in the global textile industry are highly consistent with the core philosophy of KINGDOM.* In the past 10 years, Kingdom has been growing and being GOTS certified served to become the world's leading manufacturer of organic flax fibre and organic linen yarn." Chairman of Kingdom Group Mr. Ren Weiming.



Organic flax field, Kingdom Holdings



Handpicked organic cotton People Wear Organic

PEOPLE WEAR ORGANIC, GERMANY

"Since day one, People Wear Organic follows the vision that fashion products can be developed respecting the resources of our planet and the dignity of the people. Today, People Wear Organic is one of the leading sustainable fashion brands in Germany, known for organic certified baby and kids clothing. *Sustainability is in our DNA, and we have been looking for an international independent verification of our work at the highest*

level possible. Therefore, we have chosen GOTS. All of our products are GOTS certified. The growing number of customers proves that comfortable and stylish organic fashion, created with expertise and responsibility, can compete with any conventional fashion line." Nicole Pällicke, Director People Wear Organic.

PEOPLE TREE, JAPAN

"People Tree is a pioneer ethical and sustainable fashion brand in Japan and in the UK and has been a top runner and leader of sustainable fashion for about three decades. From the start to finish, all of People Tree's products including clothing, home textile products, foods, and accessories are made and traded in an ethical way. From the production to the retail store, they keep integrity of organic through GOTS certification. *Since the start the focus was set on sustainability and social justice, getting certified was obvious.* People Tree is one of the first brands to get GOTS certified in Japan. Promoting ethical fashion is at our core." Ms. Harano, Marketing Executive People Tree.



Divine Textile Limited Organic kids clothing

DIVINE TEXTILE LIMITED, BANGLADESH

“During the commencement of Divine Textile Limited (Unit-2), we ventured into sustainable textiles. In this regard we have taken some necessary steps including the use of multi-scouring chemicals instead of H2O2 and caustic for water and chemical saving during production. We have a singeing machine to avoid the enzyme process, we established a hot water module and replaced all our previous dyeing machines with new technology-based machines to reduce water and energy. We also provide proper training to the workers about how to use less water and energy. From the very beginning of the journey of Divine Textile Limited we have been exporting a lot of organic products worldwide. Our company is one of the best companies in the world for organic products. Over the years we have been trying to establish ourselves not just as a brand but a lifestyle movement. *We are trying to implement sustainability where possible, looking for green and renewable energy and getting GOTS certified to assure compliance with stringent social and environmental criteria.*” Md. Saiful Islam- Asst. Manager (HR, Admin & Compliance), Divine Group.

DE TASARIM, TURKEY

“We produce garments in İzmir since 1994. In GOTS we saw a solution to our concerns about the production methods. *The GOTS criteria enable us to produce environmentally and socially responsible and to ensure this to the end consumer.* It was very exciting to see the increasing sensitivity of the team towards environmental and social issues, after taking part in the GOTS training. Our customers are conscious people and we realized we all do have the same concerns. How to produce with spending less material and energy? How can we produce without harming the environment?” İsmail Ertan, Owner DE Tasarım.



Manufacturing at DE Tasarım



Seasalt Womenswear

SEASALT, UK

“From the very beginning Seasalt understood the importance of organic cotton and has always been committed to high standards in quality and business practices within production where possible. These efforts were recognised by winning The Queen’s Award for Enterprise in Sustainable Development, the first time ever for a fashion company, and the UK’s highest accolade for business success. In 2005, Seasalt became certified to GOTS. *In 2019, 20% of our womenswear is fully GOTS certified and we are committing to growing this year on year.*” Deap Khambay, Head of Sustainability.

EMULSION PRINT HOUSE, US

“Emulsion Printhouse is a boutique apparel printing and design studio with over ten years of experience. The company was formed by two graduates of Massachusetts College of Art and Design (MassArt), Chris Fital and Dave DiAngelis. They are one of only two GOTS certified printers in North America. *Being a company with a strong sense of environmental and social responsibility, deciding to become GOTS certified was an easy decision and proved to be a great fit.* Our clients and partnerships span from larger corporations, to small brands, to family reunions and everything in between. We consider our GOTS certification something unique and important to offer our customers.” Chris Fital, Co-Owner.



Apparel printing at Emulsion Print house



PROMOTION

DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

The joint Centralised Database (CDS) project of GOTS and TE is nearing completion of development. The development from GOTS' side is now being overseen by Project Manager Mark Sebastian, who was appointed in 2019. The soft launch of the database is scheduled for the first quarter of 2020, and after completion of live tests, the database will be made operational with all Certification Bodies.

After the modernization of the GOTS logo in 2018, we developed new GOTS Design Guidelines and started the evolution of the GOTS website, to be completed in 2020, supervised by Juliane Ziegler, appointed as Communication Executive in 2019.

The GOTS Shop Finder, listing retail shops selling GOTS products in Germany, Austria and Switzerland went live on the GOTS website. Shops in other countries will be included in the future.

The first GOTS image clip was filmed at the GOTS certified Armstrong Knitting Mills in India. The aim of the image clips is to tell the story of the employees in GOTS certified factories and to introduce the different steps of the supply chain, from field to fashion.

The web analyzing tool Matomo recorded a higher number of visitors 95.817 compared to last year (2018: 262.121) with more than 1.708.530 page-views (2018: 1.129.743). It counted 57.650 (2018: 38.824) Downloads, most of them Standard Documents followed by the Licensing and Labelling Guide. 821.185 (2018: 736.855) page views were counted on the GOTS Database.

MEDIA

To monitor daily GOTS Media Coverage globally, a media monitoring tool was installed and reportings show an average of 180 GOTS mentions worldwide, reaching over 220 Million potential viewers. With the release of the Press Release 'GOTS being acclaimed test winner by Stiftung Warentest' media coverage

reached its peak. Top Ten Countries of GOTS Media Coverage 2019 are: US (5.918), Germany (1.443), UK (358), Spain (260), Australia (232), India (226), France (209), Italy (169), Japan (168), and Canada (127). Top News Languages: English (7.302), German (1.493), Spanish (280), French (241), Japanese (169), Italian (168), Polish (125), Dutch (83), Danish (61), and Portuguese (57). Further, GOTS was covered in numerous industry media worldwide such as Apparel Views, Eco Textile News, Fibre2Fashion, Textilwirtschaft, the Indian Textile Journal, Vogue Japan and Vogue UK. Publications were also seen in Just-Style, the Wall Street Journal, the Sierra Club Magazine and the Women's Wear Daily.

There has been a steady number of media queries in 2019. Publishing houses, blogs, sustainability agencies, and educational institutions continuously asked for logo use permission to increase awareness amongst consumers, which was also supported by GOTS advertisements and interviews for example in Textilwirtschaft, the Apparel Times and the International Textile Market as well as 4 GOTS Newsletters and 11 GOTS Press Releases globally. GOTS went live on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn @globalorganictextile-standard in July 2019. The overall sentiment of GOTS going live was very positive, the follower base is continuously growing on all channels. According to the Media Reporting, GOTS was mentioned on average 300 times weekly. Top Ten Languages on Social Media: English (11.600), German (1.517), French (946), Spanish (485), Italian (392), Danish (206), Swedish (167), Polish (139), Dutch (133), and Japanese (92).

GOTS regional round tables and seminars were successfully conducted in Bangladesh, Germany, Japan, China, the UK and Turkey. The GOTS regional representatives organize the events around the world to bring together stakeholders and to receive feedback on the specific needs of market participants



to further develop, protect and promote GOTS.

In September, the GOTS Bangladesh Seminar 2019 (GBDS19): 'Connecting for Success' took place in Dhaka, the second regional GOTS event in Bangladesh. More than 300 attendees, including decision makers along the supply chain as well as buying houses, international brands, certification bodies, testing laboratories, media and academics from 6 countries joined. The seminar included presentations and panel discussions, highlighted the importance of traceability within the supply chain; the necessity of communication of workers' rights; and an increasing mutual consideration of certifications. Overall, it showed that GOTS helps to improve the conditions in manufacturing units and serves as sustainable solution.

After the seminar, a factory visit at Epyllion Fabrics Limited, Gazipur was arranged for the GOTS team.

The first regional seminar in Izmir, Turkey took place as well, bringing together more than 150 participants from local brand offices, manufacturers, certifiers and academics. Topics such as 'How can GOTS help to promote certified products', 'Challenges with GOTS certification', and 'GOTS in the Turkish Market' were discussed. Generally the event brought very positive feedback, resulted in great interest in GOTS and increasing consultancy about GOTS certification.

The GOTS team attended numerous international events and conferences to represent GOTS and establish relationships, like the Stakeholder at ISO IWA Meeting, Delhi; the OECD Conference, Paris; the Circular Apparel Innovation Factory (CAIF) workshop on blockchain; the meeting at Bureau of Indian Standards Sub-committee, Mumbai; the Green Fashion India preconference workshop, Mumbai; Organic Cotton Summit, Nagpur; the Asia Youth Forum Nagaland India; Origin Africa Conference, Dar es Salaam; Textile Exchange (TE) Conference, Vancouver; Trade for Sustainable Development Fourm (T4SD) by International Trade Centre (ITC), Geneva; All India Textile Conference, Chandigarh; the Ethiopia and China Textile Summit, Addis Ababa; IVN Technical Committee Meeting, Frankfurt; SU.RE Meeting of Indian Retail, Mumbai; China's National Textile and Apparel Council Annual Conference; the Swiss Textile Forum, Zurich; IFOAM Asia congress, China; International Congress on Wool and Luxury Fibres - ICONWOOLF 2019, Corlu; Amsterdam International Sustainable Apparel Conference; and India and Sustainability Standards - International Dialogues and Conference, New Delhi.

GOTS Representatives hosted booths at leading fairs worldwide, at the Global Textile Technology & Engineering Show (GTES 2019) Mumbai, the ChromaTex-Chem Mumbai, the Intertextile Shanghai Apparel Fabrics Spring and Fall edition, where GOTS Greater China Representative Felicia Shi gave a presentation in the All About Sustainability Zone. Furthermore, we had booths at the Neonyt and Xoom Berlin, the Munich Fabric Start, and the Innatex in Wallau, talking



on panels about 'Textile Seals' and 'How to establish sustainable merch'. At the SDGs PARK Organized by Junior Chamber International Japan (JCI) GOTS had a booth together with international sustainable standards such as FSC and MSC and at the Organic Lifestyle EXPO (OLE) in Tokyo, GOTS and Japan Organic Cotton Association (JOCA) hosted a booth. GOTS also provided information at the ECO Products Expo Tokyo by Japan Sustainable Label Association. In the US, GOTS was at the L.A. Textile Show Los Angeles, the Materials Show (footwear) Wilmington, and the Texworld NYC. At the Pure Origin London Fashion show in July GOTS UK Representative Christopher Stopes hosted the GOTS booth and participated in a panel.

APPROACHING RELEVANT TEXTILE OPERATORS AND INITIAL CONSULTANCY FOR GOTS CERTIFICATION

In India, Sumit Gupta attended and contributed as speaker to numerous events such as the India and Sustainability Standards - International Dialogues and Conference 2019, joining the panel on 'Why Credibility matters and what it means to you?', the Denim Talks 2019, talking about 'Sustainable Wet Processing of Denim'. He further presented GOTS at the Vibrant Terry Towel Expo and Knowledge Summit, at the IntexCon Ahmebadad, talking on the Panel 'Specialty Dyes, Chemicals & Auxiliaries', at the round table on Sustainable Fashion by SourcEco in Mumbai, the Sommet-De-Couleur, Gandhi Nagar, joining the panel 'brands response to call of Sustainability'.

Sumit provided initial and intermediate consultancy to more than 150 companies in India, including textile and chemical input companies. Fibre composition and verification of GOTS approved chemical inputs remain important topics. 2019 has been good for GOTS in the Indian retail market, with more than ten Indian brands now labelling GOTS such as D'Décor, Zodiac and SuperSox.

Besides organising the GOTS Bangladesh Seminar, Sumit provided initial consultancy to more than 80 companies in Bangladesh. Moreover, Bangladeshi testing laboratories requested information about testing in GOTS. Currently, there is no retail sale of sustainable textiles in Bangladesh, but Sumit talked to local offices of international brands, like Stanley & Stella (Belgian) and conducted a training session for the ETAM International team in their sourcing office in Dhaka.

In China, Felicia Shi was on the panel at the H&M Conscious Collection Launch in Shanghai, reporting on the latest updates of GOTS and stressing how organic agriculture can serve as carbon sink. She joined the Ecocert Seminar Beijing, the TE Round Table Shanghai, and the China National Textile and Apparel Council (CNTAC) Fashion Industry Climate Summit. Felicia provided initial consultancy to a list of leading companies about GOTS updates and the next steps in China in terms of labelling and promotion. Amongst the companies were

Index, C&A, El Corte Ingles (Shanghai), Kaufland (HK) and Target Sourcing (HK). Besides national consultancy requests, Felicia received enquiries from other regions like Mongolia, Indonesia and Thailand. She conducted an in-person training for Carrefour Global, Migros in Hong Kong and Falabella and contributed to the Organic Cotton Sector Mapping Study-China by the C&A Foundation.

In Germany, Franziska Dormann took over the role as GOTS Representative for Germany, Austria and Switzerland from Lina Pfeifer, who has been appointed GOTS Organic Production Specialist, to create fields of activities in organic production addressing GOTS vision and mission. Franziska presented GOTS at different events such as the Organic Textile Forum by it fits Konstanz, the Swiss Textile Forum Zurich, and at the Plastic Free World Conference Frankfurt. She joined the panel 'Paradigm Shift in Fashion and Textile Industry' by Hess-Natur Foundation in Berlin, and 'Impacts of Fast Fashion for the environment and human rights', by oikos in Tuebingen. Franziska organised the GOTS round-table 'Advertise and communicate with GOTS' for GOTS certified companies, retailers, and brands from the German speaking region. Attendees discussed GOTS consumer communication and strategies, agreeing that targeted consumer communication serves to promote GOTS. Franziska provided initial consultancy for big retailers and brands including Aldi-Süd/Hofer, Takko, C&A, Jak-O, Tchibo and Kaufland, as well as the online shops Avocadostore and AboutYou, and conducted in-person trainings for EMP (Exclusive Merchandising Products) and Seidensticker. Requests for consultation about GOTS from Germany and Scandinavia were increasing.

In Japan, Miyoshi Satoko attended and talked at different events like the Dialogue session 'Insight For Next Era', the Apparel learning SDGs seminar talking about SDGs and GOTS certification, the Jurlique seminar talking about Organic lifestyle, and she also moderated an event by JOCA on microfibres, with over 100 attendees. She organized a GOTS round table for different GOTS stakeholders to discuss challenges and



opportunities of certification. In Japan, big retailers increasingly showed interest in the UN sustainable development goals (SDGs) which led to more consultancy about GOTS certification. Enquiries came from the Sazaby League Cooperation, Seven&i Holdings, Ryohinkeikaku (muji), and Rakuten the biggest e-commerce platform in Japan. Further consultancy was provided for denim companies, such as Nihon Mempu, Sakamoto Denim, Kuroki and Showa. Miyoshi also provided input for consumer orientated media, government media and educational books, such as

the Tokyo Metropolitan video and leaflet, Vogue Japan and the Ethical Guide Book by the National Institute on Consumer Education.

In Turkey, GOTS Representative Elif Yaraşık took part in the panel discussion on 'the Organic Cotton Sector' in İzmir, by Egedeniz Textile and presented GOTS at the 'Sustainability Talks' in Istanbul. She provided training to the Royal Danish Consulate trade council about GOTS certification to help their investors in Turkey, and the Greencotton Group from Denmark, at their sourcing office in Istanbul. During the promotion of the GOTS regional seminar, Elif visited H&M and Nike sourcing offices and talked to Inditex, Otto, Williams Sonoma, LC Waikiki and C&A, both to give information about GOTS and to promote the GOTS Turkey seminar. Elif also provided initial consultancy for manufacturers, brands and chemical suppliers such as Yarn supplier Fillux, Chemical supplier Printoteks, Hometextile production and retail company Evtteks and responded to international requests from Australia and Bulgaria.

In the US, Lori Wyman gave a presentation about GOTS at the Canadian Organic Summit in Ottawa, participated in Organic Trade Association's (OTA) Organic Week in Washington, represented GOTS at the Common Ground Fair in Maine, the L.A. Textile Show Los Angeles, Texworld in NYC, and the Textile Exchange Conference in Vancouver together with Rahul Bhajekar, GOTS Managing Director. Lori provided consultancy for numerous brands and retailers such as Everlane, Patagonia, Outerknown, Brooklyn Bedding, Fashions Group, Costco and Walmart. Lori also responded to regular interview requests by consumer press and bloggers.

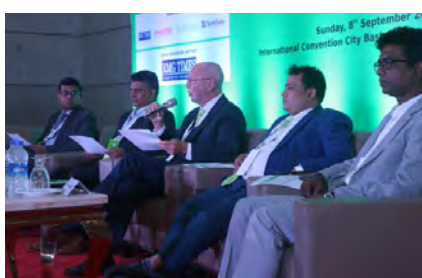
In the UK, Christopher Stopes, attended the Fashion Africa conference, and a Sustainable Fashion debate organised by the Danish Embassy in London. A report from the UK Circle of Lawyers on the scope for a legal framework for enabling the living wage was launched, Christopher participated in the conference and outlined how the social provisions in GOTS would be strengthened with legal basis for a living wage. Christopher hosted the GOTS UK round-

table in London, bringing together 40 industry representatives. Priorities for action identified included the need for developing GOTS communication to emphasize the benefits of GOTS certified organic textiles. Interest amongst large retailers with GOTS certified product ranges, especially in baby, infant and children's wear increased and Christopher provided support to several brands and retailers including Tesco, ASOS, Next, New Look, M&S, Selfridges, the global retail supplier Li & Fung and the uniform manufacturer Mathias Ltd.

The GOTS Representative to Global Brands Peter Born, appointed in 2019, provided consultancy for numerous global brands such as People Tree, H&M, Levis and Polo Ralph Lauren. He conducted in-person visits and held webinars with Bogner, Burton, Brax, s.Oliver, VF and Chloe. Peter also participated in relevant events and fairs such as Biofach, ISPO, View Premium Style, Green Style Munich, Munich Fabric Start and Neonyt. He is further analysing market potential in terms of challenges and opportunities for GOTS certification.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES UNIVERSITY AND SCHOOL EDUCATION

Sumit lectured at the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) in Kharghar India about Eco-Labels and GOTS Certification. Felicia was invited to give a Master class about 'How sustainable fashion might thrive in the Chinese Market' at the New Parsons School of Design Strategies, Shanghai. Franziska was teaching a Master Class in 'Transparency along global supply chains' at the University of Freiburg. In the UK, GOTS is involved with the London College of Fashion (LCF) in the initiation of a new post-doctoral research project which will explore the relevance of GOTS to the fashion industry. Bachelor, Master and PhD candidates are increasingly approaching us, requesting information about GOTS for their research.



POLITICS

In China, Felicia Shi attended a meeting by the Multi-stakeholder Advisory Committee (MAC), built by eight global sustainability organizations in Shenzhen, to exchange latest views on global and China's policy in terms of sustainability, working hours and living wages. She joined the launch of the MAC Handbook for continuous improvement in social performance in China, during the 2019 China's National Textile and Apparel Council Annual Conference, jointly produced for companies and industry players.

To protect the use of the GOTS logo, a law firm in Beijing was consulted for further case fact-checking of fake certificates. An initial investigation on the case of two forged certificates was facilitated.

GOTS is now listed on the Chinese National Platform on Voluntary Sustainability Standards (VSS) by UNFSS, after attending meetings with the China Association for Standardization (CAS). Relationships with China Chain store and Franchise Association (CCFA) and China National Textile and Apparel Council (CNTAC) are maintained and it was agreed that GOTS and CNTAC will update the 7 year old Memorandum of Understanding.

The engagement with the Working Group of Fashion Industry Charter for Climate Change (UNFCCC) continued and GOTS attended 4 conference calls.

In Japan, Miyoshi advised the Ministry of Environment (MoE) on how to include the sustainable textile industry within their plan, Organic Business has now

been included in their policy plan.

Further she educated the Ministry of Agriculture (MAFF) about organic certification for cotton, and maintained conversations with the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI).

In India, the Agricultural Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA / NPOP-Textiles) under Ministry of Commerce worked on reviving their plan to include organic textiles under an export regulation for mandatory NPOP certification. APEDA's current plan is to bring organic processing standard in two phases, in the first phase a Traceability Standard, will cover volume reconciliation of organic fibres and its traceability in textile supply chain. Textile companies will have to become certified and apply for a Transaction Certificate. The second phase will include processing criteria. Therefore, Sumit visited the Bureau of Indian Standards to learn about their mandate to develop an organic textile processing standard. Sumit also provided text inputs to the Ministry of Textiles on their position paper from textile associations (TEXPROCIL and CITI).



Claudia Kersten, GOTS Managing Director is serving in the Steering Committee of the Partnership for Sustainable Textiles. The GOTS Roadmap for the Sustainable Textile Agreement was submitted. The establishment of the Green Button in September 2019 will bring more ongoing activities for 2020.

In the US Lori participated in OTA's Organic Week in Washington DC and lobbied on Capitol Hill for supporting the National Organic Programme (NOP). At the Canadian Organic Summit in Ottawa Lori gave a presentation on GOTS and interfaced with certifiers and Federal and Provincial Organic Programs.

In Turkey, Elif met with the National Cotton Council of Turkey UPK to discuss the position of organic cotton agriculture. Subsidization to organic farmers in the country decreased, some organizations are concerned that the ministry lost its interest in organic which might affect the adoption of the new EU 2021 regulation. A new Textile Label has been introduced named as 'Turkish Organic Cotton' by Ekoteks lab which is an

investment of Exporters Association and serves as a testing lab.

IFOAM Organics International (OI) made steady progress on implementing Motion 61 on organic textiles, proposed to the IFOAM OI General Assembly in India in November 2017 by GOTS and supported by an almost unanimous vote. GOTS will establish early in 2020 if a further motion should be put to the 2020 General Assembly.

The EU Commission - Textile Names and Labelling Expert Group held one meeting during 2019. GOTS EU Representative Christopher Stopes gave a presentation on GOTS, highlighting the need for a regulatory framework on organic textiles and clothing. However, the EU commission believes that the current provisions are adequate through different pieces of legislation, covering organic related aspects. With the new European Commission and Parliament now active there will be opportunities to press the case for a regulatory framework for organic textiles.



The UK Government's Sustainable Clothing Action Plan (SCAP), a cross-industry partnership to reduce the environmental impact of the UK's fashion and clothing industry with 50% of the UK high street retail, reported on their carbon, water and waste footprint using a 'footprint calculator'. GOTS is represented on both the SCAP Steering Group and the SCAP Metrics Group. Footprint reduction targets for 2020, set in 2012, have been largely achieved in the case of carbon and water with one year to go. The waste reduction target has not been met, with the consumer disposal habit continuing. A new post 2020 textiles voluntary agreement has been under development in 2019.



ORGANISATION

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 gemeinnuetzige GmbH).

MANAGING DIRECTORS



Rahul Bhajekar



Claudia Kersten

POLICY & LEGAL ADVISOR



Herbert Ladwig

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT



Jacqueline Schneider

REPRESENTATIVES



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TO GLOBAL BRANDS



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Felicia Shi
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Christopher Stopes
IN UK & TO THE EU



Lori Wyman
IN NORTH AMERICA



Elif Yaraşık
IN TURKEY

SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS



Prachi Gupta
EXPERT QUALITY
ASSURANCE AND IMPACT



Otto Kersten
PROTECTION OFFICER



Lina Pfeifer
ORGANIC PRODUCTION
SPECIALIST



Mark Sebastian
PROJECT MANAGER
CENTRAL DATABASE SYSTEM



Juliane Ziegler
COMMUNICATION
EXECUTIVE



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. GOTS 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 value chain partners to participate in the GOTS programme, including the use of the GOTS logo on its respective GOTS goods.

OUR VISION

Organic textiles will become a significant part of everyday life, enhancing people's lives and the environment.

OUR MISSION

The development, implementation, verification, protection and promotion of the Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS).



**Organic
Fibres**



**Ecological &
Social Standards**



**Third Party
Certification**



**All Processing
Stages**