



GLOBAL ORGANIC TEXTILE STANDARD
ECOLOGY & SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



**ANNUAL
REPORT**
2022



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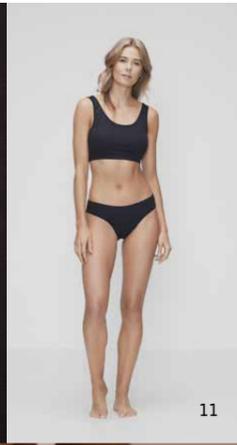
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PREFACE

Dear Reader,

In 2002, four wise and forward-thinking founding organisations harmonized several standards into one comprehensive standard that could serve the organic textile industry around the world, the Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS). Therewith they laid the strong foundation for a great success story in the name of sustainability. As we reflect on the past 20 years, we are proud of the significant progress that we could enable in facilitating sustainable textile processing through GOTS.

In 2022, GOTS had an exceptional year, as we continued to expand our reach and impact. A record high of 13,549 facilities (+10%) in 84 countries (+5%) were certified by 24 GOTS-approved Certification Bodies (+33%). We hosted our inaugural conference in Africa, released new criteria to improve transparency and integrity, launched the first-ever consumer-focused marketing campaign, supported the scaling of organic cotton production, and carried out the most inclusive and collaborative year-long revision process in GOTS history. The latest edition of GOTS, Version 7.0, which was launched in March 2023, is a significant step forward in sustainable textile processing. While key requirements are maintained, our new revision process and expanded criteria for risk-based due diligence and social responsibility have produced the most multi-stakeholder inclusive and user-friendly iteration of GOTS to date.

Through GOTS 7.0 and our collaborations, we continue to create impact as we build the framework for a more resilient organic textile industry that embraces a traceable supply chain, reliable and transparent sourcing, and operates with integrity. We are very grateful for the enormous commitment and ongoing support and look forward to continuing our work together to lead the textile sector in bearing our share of responsibility toward reaching the ambitious targets of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Sincerely,



Claudia

Claudia Kersten
Managing Director



Rahul

Rahul Bhajekar
Managing Director

HIGHLIGHTS 2022



13,549
Certified Facilities

Certified facilities experience a 10% growth, reaching 13,549 in 2022 from 12,338 in 2021.



24
Certification Bodies

GOTS approved six new Certification Bodies, bringing the total count to 24 to meet the rising demand for GOTS certification.



84
Countries

GOTS certified facilities expand to 84 countries worldwide, representing a 5% increase.

Projects

Cotton Integrity Initiative

A collaboration with the European Space Agency (ESA) and Marple aims to strengthen integrity in the organic cotton value chain.

Creating Jobs for the Disadvantaged

Working with a number of agencies, including GIZ, this GOTS program creates employment opportunities for physically impaired persons.

Controlled Supply Chain Pilot Project for Small Operators

This is an initiative designed to reduce certification barriers for small operators in low-risk countries, creating beneficial collaborations and a more inclusive organic textile supply chain.

Increasing Organic Cotton Production in Mexico

This partnership focuses on increasing organic cotton acreage in Mexico while promoting a more equitable industry for growers.

Read more about these and other projects on page 18.

+49%
media exposure

Positive sentiment towards GOTS surges as media exposure across print, online and social media grows by 49%.

>650
public comments

GOTS 7.0 development benefits from 650+ comments received during two public consultation periods.

> 5 Million
consumers reached

GOTS marked 20-year milestone with an anti-greenwashing campaign that reached well over 5 million consumers.



→ GOTS implements revised process for developing GOTS Version 7.0 to strengthen stakeholder engagement and transparency.

→ GOTS strengthens integrity and transparency by significantly raising requirements for certified gins.

→ US Department of State and the International Trade Centre recommend GOTS.

→ GOTS collaborates on efforts to fight greenwashing in industry.

→ GOTS and Organic Cotton Accelerator (OCA) work together to support organic cotton production.

DEVELOPMENT, IMPLEMENTATION AND QUALITY ASSURANCE

As the all-inclusive solution for sustainability-related challenges in textile processing, GOTS sets strict and binding requirements regarding ecological and social criteria. These are updated every three years in an open and transparent revision process which fosters continuous improvement towards the most sustainable textile processing.

Beginning in 2022, the revision process from GOTS 6.0 to 7.0 followed the newly

developed Standard Setting Procedure, which provides for the constitution of a Standard Revision Committee (SRC) for each revision. The group served as the pivotal force behind decisions about the revisions.

The GOTS SRC is comprised of international experts in organic production, textile chemistry and processing, human rights and social criteria, as well as representatives from industry, NGOs, and civil society organisations.

Throughout the revision, all drafts of the Standard were made available on the GOTS website, and two open comment periods for the public produced more than 650 individual inputs.

The result is a comprehensive solution for all companies that want to produce organic textiles while ensuring due diligence along their entire supply chain. GOTS Version 7.0 introduces new requirements to conduct risk-based

due diligence of Certified Entities' own operations and their supply chains based on the UN Guiding Principles for Business and Human Rights and the OECD's "Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains in the Garment and Footwear Sector".

GOTS 7.0 now allows recycled organic fibres as additional materials. Key requirements, such as certified organic fibre content, a general ban on toxic and harmful chemicals such as PFAS, conventional cotton and virgin polyester restrictions, and social compliance management, are maintained.

GOTS Version 7.0 was released in March 2023, allowing a transition period of one year. Full implementation by all Certified Entities must take place by March 2024.

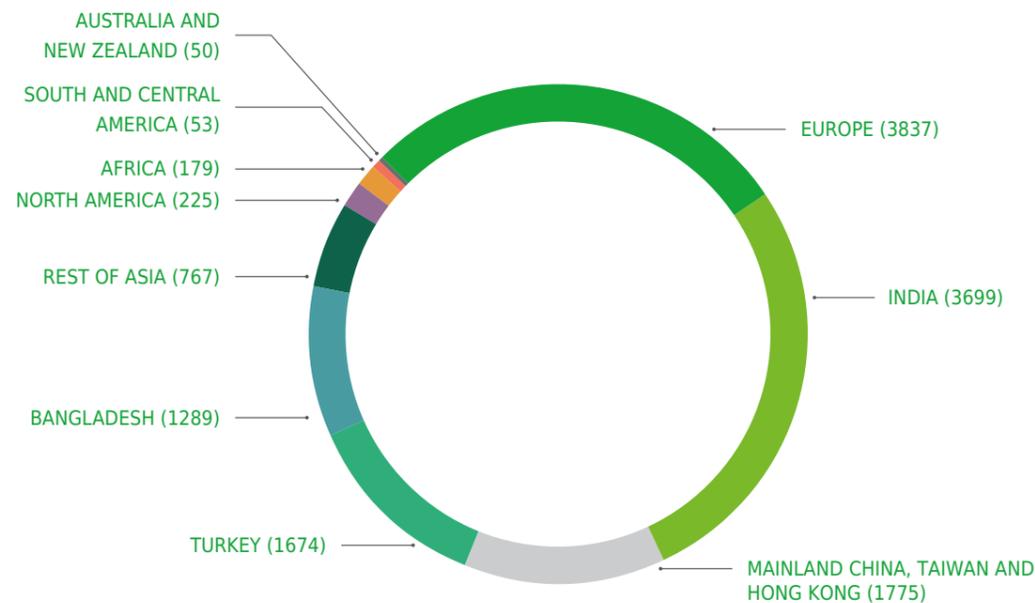
By coordinating with Certification and Accreditation Bodies, conducting fraud investigations, and updating certification procedures, the QA unit ensures that textiles in the GOTS Programme meet the highest environmental and social standards possible. Its work is essential in building consumer confidence in the authenticity and ethical production of GOTS certified products.

To safeguard the integrity of the certification process, the QA unit held regular meetings with industry representatives, including weekly conference calls with Textile Exchange (TE) to cooperate on fraud investigations and other issues that affect both organisations.

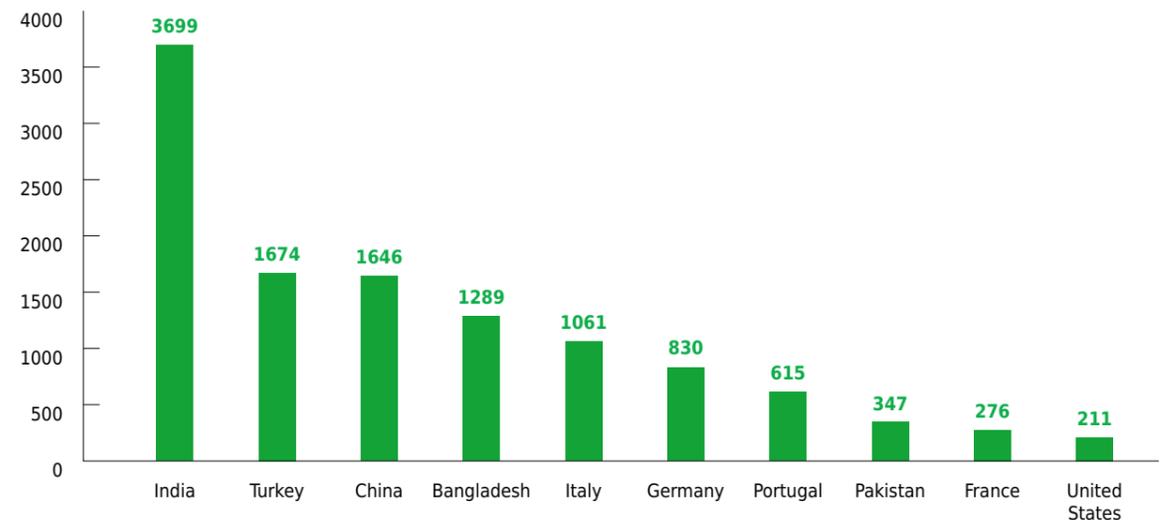
The QA unit provided training to assessors from Accreditation Organisations to improve the certification process,

including updates to GOTS Version 6.0, implementation requirements, and common noncompliance patterns, in response to recent regulatory changes in the EU. The meeting covered several topics such as the GOTS moratorium on new CBs, updates to related policies, the qualification of auditors, and data sharing relevant to certification oversight.

Distribution of GOTS Certified Entities in 2022



10 Countries with the Most GOTS Certified Facilities



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

NEW AND UPDATED RESOURCES

UPDATED DOCUMENTS

The following official documentation was released in 2022:

- Advisory on Policy for the Issuance of Transaction Certificates Version 3.0
- Approval Procedure and Requirements for Certification Bodies Version 3.0
- Certification and Operation Parameters for GOTS Certified Gins Version 1.1
- Changelog for Approval Procedure and Requirements for Certification Bodies Version 3.0
- Derogation For Small-Scale Operations in Low-Risk Countries v 1.0
- GOTS Measures Related to War in Ukraine
- Guidelines to Virtual Audits Related to COVID-19 Version 5.0
- Labelling Release Form for GOTS Additives
- Labelling Release Form for GOTS Goods
- List of laboratories that can carry out qualitative GMO testing
- Moratorium on new Certification Bodies
- Retailer's Declaration for the Use of GOTS Signs Version 2.0

NEW MATERIALS: 2022

GOTS released the following promotional materials and documents in 2022. Many of these are available for download on our website.

- Chemicals in GOTS Goods Flyer
- "Which Fibres are Allowed in GOTS?" Flyer (English, German, Japanese, Chinese & Spanish)
- GOTS Shop-Finder Flyer
- "Benefits of a GOTS Certification" Flyer
- Film Series "From Field to Fashion"
- Factsheet: WHY GOTS - How Consumers Benefit from the Global Organic Textile Standard
- Updated Simple Show Clip
- "Faces from Field to Fashion" Postcards for POS Promotion

DOWNLOAD NOW



SCAN ME

VERIFICATION

Trustworthy verification by independent, third-party Certification Bodies (CBs) guarantees the credibility of the Standard through objective assessments of a company's compliance with GOTS. CBs perform on-site audits and thoroughly review a company's production processes and practices to ensure they meet the strict criteria of GOTS. After the initial certification process, CBs perform yearly follow-up audits to verify continued compliance.

GOTS has developed its own accreditation system for this approval process as well as for continuous monitoring of the approved CBs, as outlined in the document "Approval Procedure for Certification Bodies version 3.0" (updated in

2022). GOTS currently has 24 approved CBs, 7 of which were new in 2022. Of those 24, 11 offer chemical input approval in their scopes.

GOTS works closely with CBs to maintain consistent and thorough training and implementation. This collaboration helps ensure that the certification process remains robust and effective in promoting sustainable and ethical practices in the textile industry.

There are 4 different scopes for approval of a CBs operation:

- **Scope 1:** Certification of mechanical textile processing and manufacturing operations and their products

- **Scope 2:** Certification of wet processing and finishing operations and their products
- **Scope 3:** Certification of trading operations and related products
- **Scope 4:** Approval of textile auxiliary agents (chemical inputs) on positive lists

The sustained demand for certification highlights the industry's commitment to sustainable and ethical practices, with more and more companies recognising the importance of GOTS certification.

2022 Surveys

ANNUAL SURVEY



of respondents reported that the GOTS certification offered them an increase in the business opportunities in 2022.

IMPACT SURVEY



of respondents reported that the increase in the cost of organic cotton was a major challenge in 2022.



was the average rating of the organisation and coordination of the audit with the control body (where 5 is the highest).



of participants said that GOTS Goods accounted for around 90% of their sales of organic products.



PROTECTION

In order to further protect the credibility of GOTS, we investigate and impose sanctions whenever there is evidence of misleading use of the GOTS label or reference to GOTS certification.

Anyone who intends to list, label or sell any textile product in retail with the internationally registered GOTS mark or any other reference to GOTS, must meet the criteria and follow the “Conditions for Use of GOTS Signs”.

Our strict labelling requirements ensure that the GOTS label placed on a product serves as a guarantee to consumers

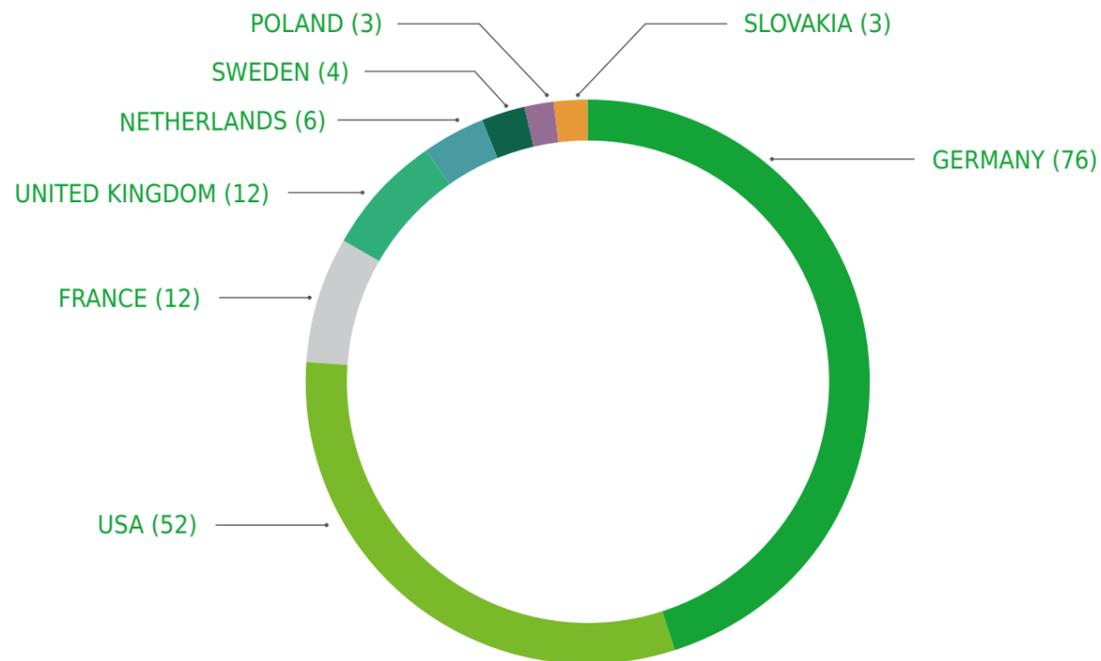
that all production stages have been compliant with the GOTS criteria - from field to fashion.

The GOTS Protection Unit monitors unauthorised, false or misleading use of the GOTS registered trademark and other GOTS-related claims advertisements and other promotional materials. The expert team educates brands and retailers on the proper listing and labelling requirements and takes corrective and/or legal action when necessary.

In 2022, GOTS received 212 complaints through our online form. The majority

came from companies and individuals in Germany (30%), followed by Amazon USA (28%) and Amazon Germany (11%), with most of the rest spread across North America and Europe. Those complaints resulted in one or more of the following: retailer certification; the receipt of proper documentation (Scope Certificates, Transaction Certificates and Labelling Release Forms) verifying the authorised use of GOTS signs and marks; the removal or correction of a product listing; the entire removal of all GOTS mentions, logos and marks from all retailer product listings and on-line content; and/or legal action.

Top Countries by Complaint Form Submissions



STORIES



GULU AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY FRAMEWORK, UGANDA

Gulu Agricultural Development Company (GADC) is an agribusiness based in northern Uganda. The company reports that “their processing facilities and worker-base are built upon principles of fairness and ecological integrity, ensuring that development in both the company and the region is socially and environmentally sustainable. Although the primary focus of the company is cotton processing, GADC has developed a framework to reach the many smallholder farmers from which cotton is bought.

“GADC conducts trainings to simultaneously ensure the cotton producers in GADC’s off-taking areas are cultivating high yields of good quality cotton and that the smallholders can manage their production in a manner that can most optimally benefit their households. The training sessions, focused on organic production, social and ecological awareness, nutrition, and financial literacy, are delivered by GADC extension field staff. Information is rolled out in such a way that all farmers receive the tools that equip them to increase their income and standard of living in a sustainable way. In addition, items such as drums, sprayers, and jerry cans are procured by the company for discounted sale to farmers who are educated on organic pesticide production using locally available vegetation.

“Through this framework, GADC can give back to the hundreds of communities on whom its cotton supply relies.”



VERITAS TEXTILE, TURKEY

Cotton fibre has a colourful fibre property due to the inherent structure of the plant. Natural cotton fibre colours include brown, green, tan and shades of these colours. Coloured cotton shades differ depending on geographical location, season, climate, and soil qualities. Because no dyeing occurs during the production process, water and energy are saved, reducing the environmental impact of production and offering a significant advantage to natural-coloured cotton products. Textile items created from naturally coloured cottons are ecologically friendly. One of the most significant advantages of natural-coloured cottons is that they reduce allergic reactions that occur, particularly in babies and certain adults, as a result of the effects of chemical dyes in textile items.

Veritas Textile is an innovative enterprise based in Denizli, Turkey, the region famous for Aegean cotton. Veritas reports: “Four years ago, we conducted organic standards-compliant experiments in our own fields to get natural coloured organic cotton to the point where it could be manufactured and certified in compliance with GOTS standards.”



GREENDIGO, INDIA

Greendigo is a female-founded, female-led company. The company reports: “We curate the wardrobe and nursery needs of babies, keeping their comfort and convenience for moms in mind. Our products are buttery soft, pure, and made from organic cotton that is safe for babies and healthy for the planet we live on. We believe in creating soft, safe, beautiful, and thoughtfully designed organic cotton baby clothing and nursery essentials to solve all our customer’s pain points.

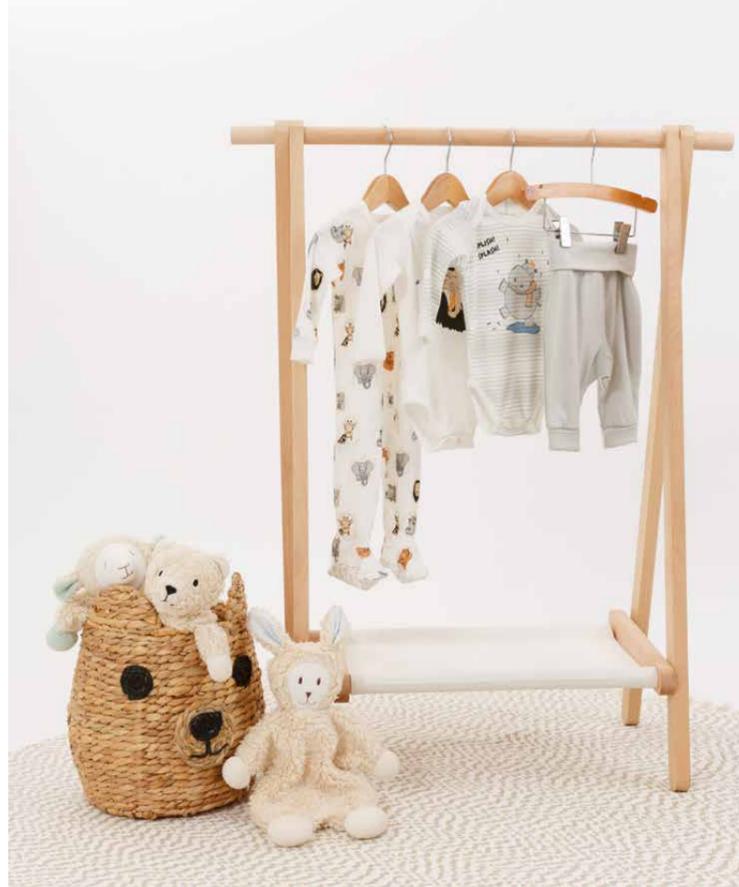
“Sustainability is the bedrock of our brand’s ethos. We have always believed in walking the talk and not merely paying lip service to do our bit for better human health and our planet’s conservation. In our journey of building Greendigo, building a tight-loop and closed supply chain which follows clean, green practices right from the farmer to the final product packaging have been a huge achievement. And having our end product certified organic by GOTS has been the cherry on top as it validates the authenticity and genuineness of our raw materials and processes.”

UNDER THE NILE, UNITED STATES

Under the Nile was the first baby clothing company in North America to be certified to the GOTS standard. It is now celebrating 25 years of producing organic cotton baby clothes, toys, accessories and home goods. It was important to Under the Nile to embrace a standard that set guidelines for every step of processing through production and included social criteria.

According to Under the Nile, “GOTS reflects the essence of who we are as a company and helps us to transparently communicate the values that we uphold. As a business that prioritizes ethics, we work to incorporate sustainable and just practices – from the cotton seed to the finished product. By creating organic and sustainable baby clothing, toys and rugs in harmony with nature, we seek to contribute positively to the environment. By promoting the wellbeing of the farmers, technicians and sewers that make our products, we seek to create opportunities for better lives.

“GOTS holds an important role in how Under the Nile strives to make our world better through sustainability and ethical production. Sure, the world is a big place, but we believe that compassion is borderless, and we should engage with people around the globe with the same care we show our own communities.”



PAUL SMITH, UNITED KINGDOM

Paul Smith is Britain’s leading independent design company and recently celebrated its 50th anniversary. As the company puts it, “A champion of positivity, curiosity, and creativity, we pride ourselves on quality pieces that are made-to-last. Our sustainability journey started around 25 years ago when a mini collection called ‘Natural’ made its debut. Crafted from untreated, unbleached, and undyed cotton, it foreshadowed the establishment of our Path to Sustainability which officially launched in March 2021. It outlines the steps we’re taking to minimise our impact on the planet and people who live on it.

“One of our first and most obvious targets was to achieve GOTS certification. We had been using organic materials since the ‘Natural’ collection was unveiled and knew that achieving certification would add credibility to our collections, alongside supporting a more ethical and environmentally responsible industry. We became certified in 2022 and began selling our first certified organic products in our Autumn/Winter 2022 collection. Since then, we have been working with an increasing number of certified mills and manufacturers to grow our offering and act as a pioneer for change in the industry. We value the rigorous nature of the standard and appreciate that it includes social criteria alongside environmental. We’re proud to be certified and look forward to continuing our journey with GOTS into the future across all Paul Smith collections.”



HÄNGEMATTENGLÜCK, GERMANY

HängemattenGlück notes: “We like to call ourselves pioneers in sustainability and fair trade. HängemattenGlück (HammockLuck) has been around since 2006. Founded as a two-person business, the team has grown steadily. There are six of us at our location in sunny Freiburg, and in South India, there are now about 50 people. Founders Christoph and Stefani wanted to make a difference on this planet, so all products have been made from organic cotton right from the start.

“It made sense for us to get GOTS certified, first in 2013 at the factory in India and then the factory in Freiburg. We wanted to show our customers that our products are ethically sound. And we prove that with the high standards of GOTS.

“We also show all stages of production in a film, where it becomes evident how many work steps and especially how much of the employees’ lives go into each hammock. Therefore, it is our top priority that this valuable time is paid fairly and that all those involved in production can lead a healthy and good life.”



JOHN PRESTON, FRANCE

The John Preston brand is back, thirty years after its initial creation, with a new approach to luxury. The company reports: “With social and environmental responsibility as the top priority, all our collections will be GOTS certified: a first in the world of luxury clothing. Our signature jacket is not a simple tee-shirt. With over thirty different components requiring validation, the journey has been long and complex. It has taken two years of work to get the first structured men’s jacket GOTS certified without sacrificing elegance or comfort: anything but wasted time if we are thinking about the future.

“John Preston jackets are made to order, with zero stock and zero waste. Three to four weeks after an individual fitting, our clients receive a garment which fits them – and the planet – perfectly. John Preston clothing represents timeless simplicity as the essence of modernity. No more greenwashing, no more social washing; constantly striving to be better. For a luxury brand to have its entire product range certified by such a demanding standard seems unthinkable. We want to prove that it can be done.”

PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

CREATING JOBS FOR THE DISADVANTAGED

According to the World Bank, over one billion people, around 15 percent of the world's population, experience some form of disability, with prevalence higher in developing countries. Further, persons with disabilities are more likely to experience adverse socioeconomic outcomes such as less education, poorer health, lower levels of employment, and higher rates of poverty. A partnership project was implemented by the UK-based charity Leonard Cheshire, with support from GOTS, GIZ, IVN, and Indian NGO Love and Acceptance, to promote the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the Ready Made Garment sector.

Located in Tiruppur, Tamil Nadu, India, the goals of the project included improved access to employment opportunities and training to create a more inclusive employment environment for those with disabilities. Implementation involved facilitated training as well as follow up support for both workers and employers. Stakeholders were oriented

on accessibility, workplace adaptations, safeguarding and occupational health through sessions facilitated by resource experts. Persons with disabilities who aspired to be part of the Textile and Garment supply chain were identified through the district rehabilitation office and given Entrepreneurship Development Programme training for the local industry.

GOTS was actively involved in this project from the start, reaching out to GOTS Certified Entities in the region as potential employers, with overwhelmingly positive results. In total, 57 people with disabilities were able to secure employment as a direct result of the trainings and collaborations offered by this project.

Additional objectives were to ensure contribution of the stakeholders to a number of global initiatives, including the 2030 Sustainable Development Goal Agenda which has a central principle to 'Leave No One Behind'; the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN 4 CRPD); the German

National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights and the German Lieferkettengesetz which refers to the inclusion of persons with disabilities; and from India, the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act of 2016 that emphasises equal opportunities in education, skills development and employment.

CONTROLLED SUPPLY CHAIN PILOT PROJECT FOR SMALL OPERATORS

In 2022, GOTS initiated a pilot project aimed at reducing the barriers of certification for the small operator groups that make up the supply chain of organic textile processing and manufacturing in low-risk countries. Because of their size, administrative tasks and fees related to GOTS certification can be a burden, which can exclude those groups from becoming GOTS certified. The pilot project intends to address this issue and ensure that these groups are not marginalised from the possibility of GOTS certification.

The project will test the feasibility of a controlled supply chain scheme (CSCS)

system which will, among other things, reduce inspection and certification costs, lessen the administrative burden, increase the level of understanding and compliance of GOTS within the supply chain, and prevent marginalisation of small operator groups.

To participate in the CSCS, a supply chain comprising at least 8 and no more than 30 small-scale facilities in low-risk countries, with 20 or fewer workers, can apply. Based on a risk assessment conducted by their Certification Body (CB), they may be considered a single Certified Entity.

Several companies were invited to be part of the pilot, with one test case taken up for certification through a GOTS-approved CB. The CB will make the final decision about the CSCS certification in early 2023, and the project will conclude shortly thereafter. Based on the results of the pilot project, GOTS will assess the practicability of the CSCS system on a larger scale.

Overall, the CSCS system represents an effort to create a more inclusive and cost-effective certification process that benefits small operator groups in low-risk countries. By reducing these obstacles, GOTS aims to promote beneficial collaborations and a sustainable supply chain for the textile industry while increasing the availability of certified organic textiles in the marketplace.

INCREASING ORGANIC COTTON PRODUCTION IN MEXICO

According to recent research, cotton was first domesticated at least 4,000-5,000 years ago in the Mexico-Guatemala-Caribbean region and from there started a global journey that would transform history. With 14 species, Mexico boasts one of the most diverse selections of the plant, including the widely grown "Upland Cotton" (*Gossypium Hirsutum*) and its wild relatives.

For many years, northern Mexico was an important global production centre for cotton, but due to globalisation, pest problems, and increasing prices, production began declining in the 1970s. The introduction of GMO production in 1996 reinvigorated the industry, making cotton the most widely sown genetically modified crop in the country.

However, the expansion of GMO cotton has been shown to endanger both the environment and the people growing the crop while introducing a high risk of contamination to the genetic biodiversity of native species. GMO crops also create a disparity between producers and suppliers, as growers are wholly dependent on providers for the seeds and inputs required to continue to grow the crop. Starting in 2019, the government of Mexico has not permitted the cultivation of GM cotton in the country, resulting in a drop of the production and seed scarcity. This is a challenge to

the farmers, but also an opportunity to transform the cotton industry.

Chihuahua is the largest producer of cotton in Mexico. It is here that GOTS partnered with local organisation Materia Consumo Sostenible, launching a bold initiative to prove that alternative approaches to cotton production are possible, as well as to develop the supply chains to allow farmers access to better prices and long-term commercial relationships. The pilot project targeted farmers already growing organic crops, who could easily include cotton in their crop rotation. It covered around 2.5 hectares and is expected to produce 11-14 bales of certified organic seed cotton.

The main challenge encountered was to find a ginning facility that was willing to process organic cotton in a region where the predominant production is conventional cotton. Other challenges associated with the small scale of the project were the usage of transporting vehicles or cropping machines that were not appropriate for the scale of the project.

The learnings of this project will be synthesised in a manual that can be used for educational and training purposes and will hopefully inform and enable others to scale similar initiatives in other regions.



GLOBAL TRACE BASE

To further strengthen the GOTS system, GOTS is developing the Global Trace Base, a central database that will track the origin of organic cotton and other organic materials. It will cover the entire GOTS chain of custody, from the first processing steps to the final products, including country or region of origin of the certified raw fibre material as well as volume reconciliation. With these and other measures, GOTS ensures that fraud within the textile value chain is increasingly difficult to engage in, and easier to spot.

STRENGTHENING DUE DILIGENCE REQUIREMENTS

GOTS already has a human rights centred approach to its social criteria. As one of the first stepping stones towards full compliance, GOTS Version 6.0 recommended using the Organisation for Economic Development and Cooperation (OECD) Due Diligence Guidance in the mandatory risk assessment for companies. The newly released GOTS Version 7.0 has introduced mandatory new requirements to conduct risk-based due diligence of Certified Entities' own operations and their supply chains based on the UN Guiding Principles for Business and Human Rights and the OECD guidelines.

FARM-TO-GIN REGISTRY CONNECTS THE DOTS

The Farm-to-Gin Registry has been implemented first in India in the current harvest season 2022/2023. Still under final development, the Farm-to-Gin Registry will collect organic raw cotton data, including GMO and stable isotope analysis, which is a technique that can verify the origin of a product on a country scale, down to the field level. Additional harvest details and information on the gin that will receive

the respective farm's cotton will also be recorded. This information will allow us to calculate input volumes for GOTS certified gins. Only organic cotton recorded in the registry is accepted into the GOTS supply chain. Certification Bodies will be required to use the Farm-to-Gin Registry to ensure input material is duly registered prior to issuing outgoing Transaction Certificates.

PUBLIC PROCUREMENT EXPANDS

With a new Public Procurement Specialist on board, GOTS has a number of upcoming workshops and initiatives in the area. That includes developing material for public procurement officials on proper legal and administrative ways to require GOTS certification in public tenders, representing GOTS in legislative/administrative bodies involved in creating/formally interpreting rules for public procurement relevant for textiles, organising seminars for public procurement officials, and conceptualizing information/training for suppliers of GOTS certified products to enable them to successfully participate in public tender processes.

GOTS COLLABORATES FOR ORGANIC INTEGRITY

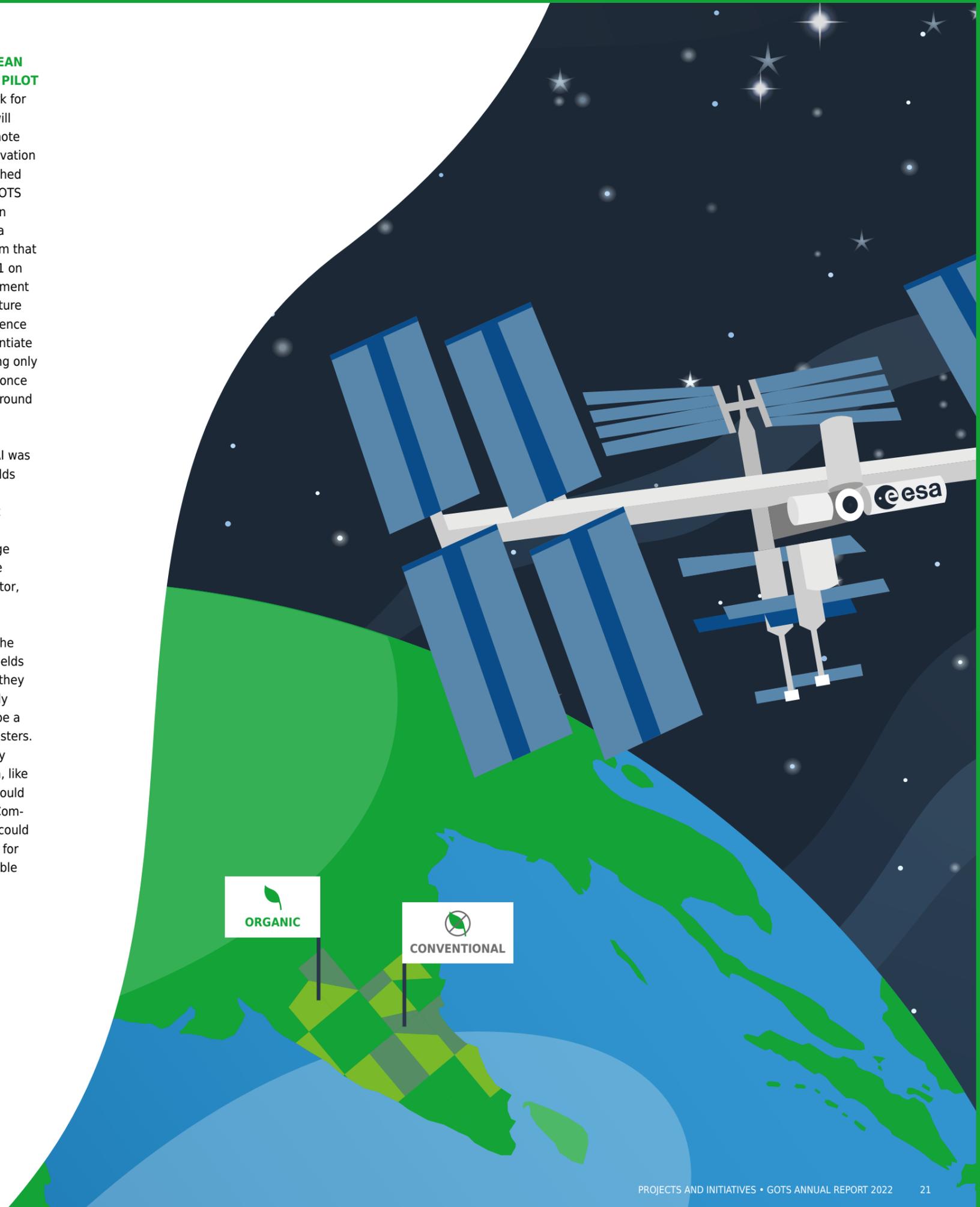
The Alliance for Organic Integrity (AOI) was founded in 2019 by IOAS to improve organic integrity in the sector. A 2022 collaboration with GOTS and Textile Exchange resulted in a research initiative focused on organic supply chains in India. The hope is to improve the trade's confidence in organic products and to help make the regulatory certification system more effective. The main outcome of the project will be the recommendations that will be provided to stakeholders, including Certified Entities, Certification Bodies and Standard Organisations.

GOTS TEAMS UP WITH EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY ON INTEGRITY PILOT

In 2022, GOTS laid the groundwork for an innovative collaboration that will demonstrate the potential for remote satellite monitoring of cotton cultivation systems. The project, which launched in early 2023, is co-financed by GOTS and the European Space Agency in collaboration with Marple GmbH, a German software development firm that piloted a feasibility project in 2021 on Cotton Cultivation Remote Assessment (CoCuRA) in Uzbekistan. That venture showed how their artificial intelligence (AI) was able to accurately differentiate cotton fields from other crops using only satellite images and sensor data, once the AI was trained on so-called "ground truth" data surveyed on location.

Furthermore, it seemed that the AI was able to determine if the cotton fields were under organic management. This spurred considerable interest from GOTS, which has committed to the development of cutting-edge technologies that can improve the integrity of the organic textile sector, especially cotton.

This project aims to further train the AI to use satellite data to detect fields of cotton and determine whether they are organic. Being able to remotely monitor cotton cultivation would be a great deterrent for potential fraudsters. It could also allow GOTS to identify risks for organic cotton cultivation, like the proximity of GM fields which could increase genetic contamination. Combined with farm data, the project could also generate realistic projections for yield and thus quantities of available (organic) cotton.



EDUCATION AND PROMOTION

A pivotal year for GOTS, 2022 was guided by two fundamental principles: substantial growth and productive collaborations, which were reflected in the organisation's expanded relationships with partners and the public. One of the driving forces behind this growth was the continued increase in interest for sustainable products in the post-COVID-19 era. This translated into daily inquiries from producers, consumers, brands, and media representatives who sought to deepen their knowledge of the Standard and certification.

To keep up with the increased demand, GOTS expanded its capabilities and implemented an enhanced marketing strategy, resulting in a significant increase in engagement. Outcomes included a rise in industry inquiries, close to 30% more social media followers, and over half a million unique website visits.

One major milestone for GOTS in 2022 was the launch of its first-ever consumer-targeted marketing campaign, "Say No to Greenwashing. Say Yes to GOTS." The campaign aimed to raise awareness about the importance of certified organic textiles and featured the "Faces from Field to Fashion" video series, which showcased some of the unique indi-

viduals behind the production of GOTS certified organic textiles.

By the end of 2022, the campaign reached over 5 million consumers worldwide and led to around 1,300 weekly mentions of GOTS in the media, a 49% increase in media coverage. The campaign videos on YouTube generated over 240,000 views in less than three months, with audiences watching more than 288,000 minutes of GOTS content.

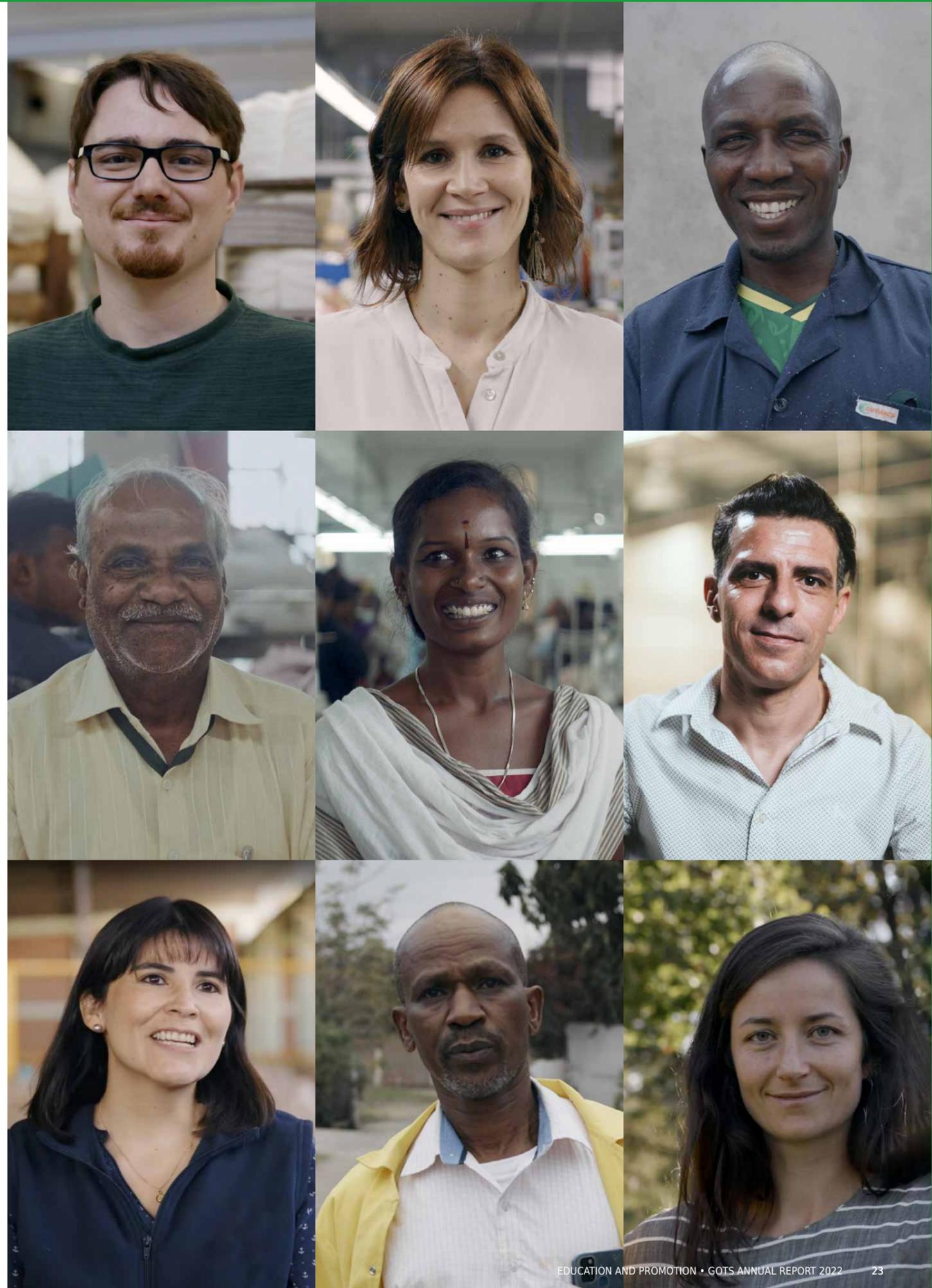
In addition to the marketing campaign, GOTS produced a number of new resources, including flyers, factsheets and postcards for point-of-sale promotion. A new scan card for trade shows and other events was designed to preserve resources while providing direct access of GOTS materials to attendees.

GOTS also engaged in partnerships to promote the industry, such as collaborating with the Organic Cotton Accelerator (OCA) to support organic cotton production around the world. Furthermore, GOTS hosted a webinar with the Organic Trade Association and Textile Exchange directed at brands and retailers looking for more information about how organic textile certification works.

At the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference, also known as COP27, GOTS was designated by the US Department of State and the International Trade Centre as a recommended standard for textile processing. This recognition was part of an effort by those groups to help scale small and medium enterprises (SMEs) while strengthening their environmental commitment.

In November, GOTS welcomed 112 attendees from 21 countries, including twelve within Africa, to the first GOTS Conference in Africa, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The conference, themed "Toward an African Value Chain", brought together producers, processors, brands, and certification partners for discussions, problem-solving, and networking. Topics included identifying gaps in the supply chain, highlighting opportunities and partners for collaboration, and increasing awareness of certified organic products within the African market. Moving forward, GOTS will continue to foster this important developing market by actively engaging and facilitating connections between brands, certified entities and other players who support organic fibre production in Africa.

→
Meet the faces
'From Field to Fashion'



GOTS REPRESENTATIVES

The GOTS Representatives work to promote GOTS, the organisation and its values across the globe. Regional Representatives are based in key regions including North America, Europe, Asia and Africa, and work closely with stakeholders across the entire textile supply chain. Moreover, GOTS employs Representatives with a specific focus, such as

the European Union and Global Brands. This targeted approach allows GOTS to effectively disseminate information and build partnerships in various regions, leading to the broader promotion of sustainable practices in the textile industry.

In 2022, GOTS Regional Representatives were exceptionally busy as they received hundreds of inquiries, offered a wide variety of educational opportunities, extended ongoing support, and collaborated with industry stakeholders.

Daily requests for information about GOTS came in from manufacturers and retailers, while companies undergoing certification sought advice and clarification about the process and requirements. In addition to individual consultations, the Representatives took part in panels, workshops, presentations, and educational sessions with brands, manufacturers, and other interested groups. Read more about how the Representatives spent their time in 2022.



GLOBAL BRANDS

The GOTS Head of Regional Representatives and Representative to Global Brands, Franziska Dormann, spent much of the first half of the year connecting with companies and brands via online meetings. Beginning in July 2022, trade shows, conferences and other industry events again took place in person, allowing numerous opportunities to educate and inform interested companies about GOTS certification. On her worldwide mission, Franziska participated in events from Paris and Milan to Ethiopia and the United States. Franziska facilitated a panel at the GOTS Conference in Africa focusing on issues of sourcing, integrity, traceability, quality and social accountability.



NORTH AMERICA

For GOTS Representative in North America Lori Wyman, in-person activities were a welcome change after the years of remote events due to COVID-19. Individual consultancies were largely with mid-sized companies and large retailers, where conversations focused on proper labelling and promotion of GOTS products. Lori was key in initiating and early planning for the project on organic cotton in Mexico (read more about the project on page 19).

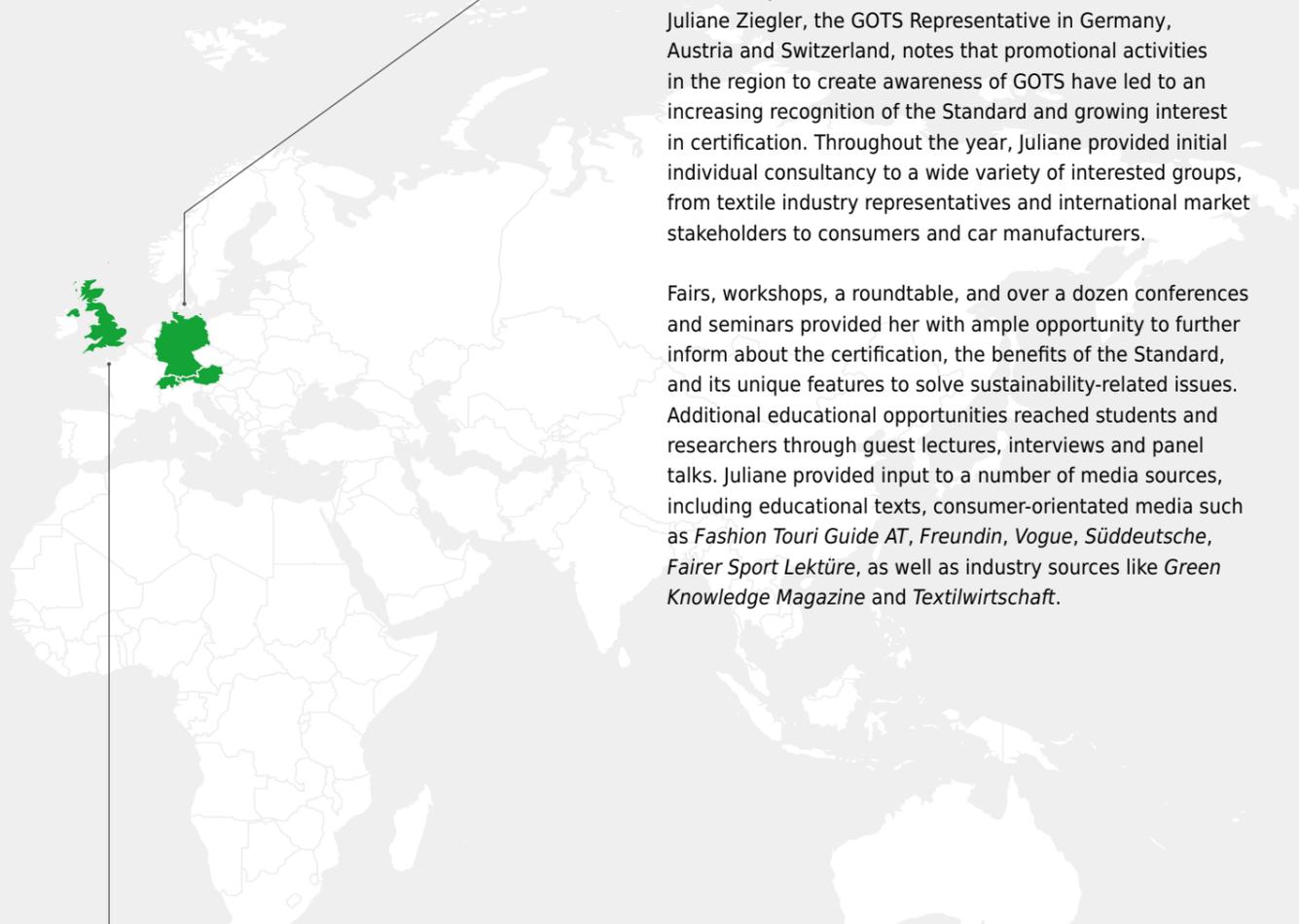
Lori participated in and attended a number of industry events, trade shows and conferences, including Texworld in New York City, Textile Exchange's annual conference in Colorado, the NYC Fair Trade Coalition, and a webinar titled 'Toxic Free Future'. One highlight of the year for Lori was hosting the first GOTS Roundtable in Canada, which took place at Seneca College in Toronto. Of the 45 attendees, 18 were students at Seneca's School of Textile Business and Textile Design. As a culminating experience, participants visited a nearby spinning facility to see organic textile processing in action, gaining valuable insights into the industry. A variety of media opportunities offered her a further chance to connect with consumers and industry professionals. Among those were a podcast for *Earth Hero*, *Healthline News*, and interviews with *Bridgewater Media* and *Home Textiles Today*.



GERMANY, AUSTRIA AND SWITZERLAND

Juliane Ziegler, the GOTS Representative in Germany, Austria and Switzerland, notes that promotional activities in the region to create awareness of GOTS have led to an increasing recognition of the Standard and growing interest in certification. Throughout the year, Juliane provided initial individual consultancy to a wide variety of interested groups, from textile industry representatives and international market stakeholders to consumers and car manufacturers.

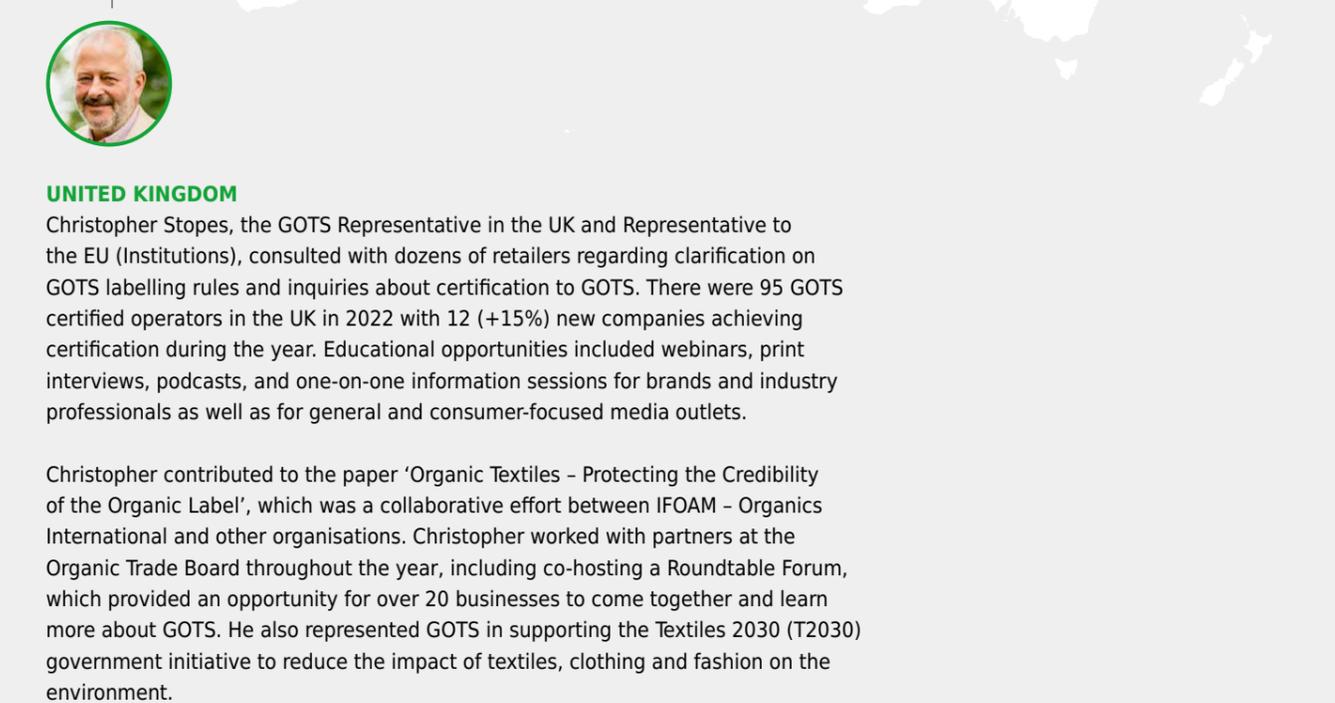
Fairs, workshops, a roundtable, and over a dozen conferences and seminars provided her with ample opportunity to further inform about the certification, the benefits of the Standard, and its unique features to solve sustainability-related issues. Additional educational opportunities reached students and researchers through guest lectures, interviews and panel talks. Juliane provided input to a number of media sources, including educational texts, consumer-orientated media such as *Fashion Touri Guide AT*, *Freundin*, *Vogue*, *Süddeutsche*, *Fairer Sport Lektüre*, as well as industry sources like *Green Knowledge Magazine* and *Textilwirtschaft*.



UNITED KINGDOM

Christopher Stopes, the GOTS Representative in the UK and Representative to the EU (Institutions), consulted with dozens of retailers regarding clarification on GOTS labelling rules and inquiries about certification to GOTS. There were 95 GOTS certified operators in the UK in 2022 with 12 (+15%) new companies achieving certification during the year. Educational opportunities included webinars, print interviews, podcasts, and one-on-one information sessions for brands and industry professionals as well as for general and consumer-focused media outlets.

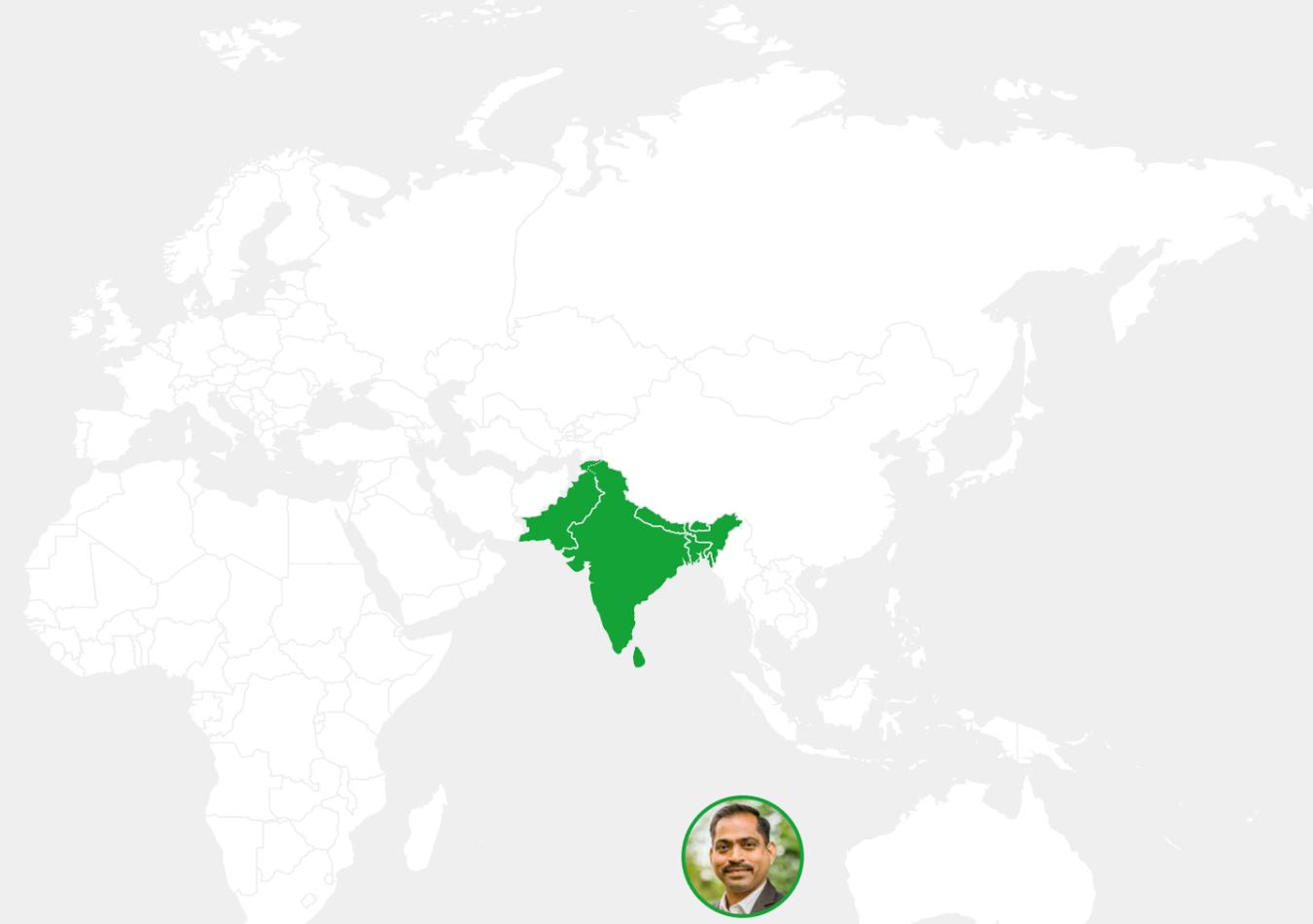
Christopher contributed to the paper 'Organic Textiles - Protecting the Credibility of the Organic Label', which was a collaborative effort between IFOAM - Organics International and other organisations. Christopher worked with partners at the Organic Trade Board throughout the year, including co-hosting a Roundtable Forum, which provided an opportunity for over 20 businesses to come together and learn more about GOTS. He also represented GOTS in supporting the Textiles 2030 (T2030) government initiative to reduce the impact of textiles, clothing and fashion on the environment.



SOUTH ASIA

With the last travel restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic lifted in early 2022, GOTS Representative in South Asia, Ganesh Kasekar, was able to meet with multiple brands and retailers across the region in person, as well as providing initial consultancy on over 200 queries. Ganesh's media engagement included articles and interviews for a variety of sources, including *The Organic Magazine*, the World Trade Centre Mumbai's journal, *On Trade* and the International Institute for Sustainable Development's news blog.

Industry events such as trade shows, conferences and online sessions were an opportunity to connect with companies and retailers. Some highlights of Ganesh's year were exhibiting at Chromatex in Mumbai, as well as multiple speaking engagements, including the Organic at a Glance event in Delhi, a GIZ-led Chemical Management program in Mumbai, and the Global Spin Conclave events in Mumbai and Chennai. Informational events for several colleges offered an opportunity to connect with students and consumers. See page 18 for more about the project Ganesh collaborated on to provide job opportunities for physically challenged people in Tirupur, India.





TURKEY

GOTS Representative in Turkey, Elif Yaraşık, had a busy year conducting informational sessions, answering questions, and providing initial consultation for many companies in the region. She participated in panel discussions and business forums, speaking on a variety of topics including GOTS, organic certification, and the cotton industry in Turkey.

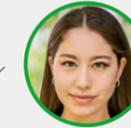
Elif had a number of contacts with government bodies throughout the year to promote the organic cotton industry within Turkey, including meetings to promote the sector for international trade.

Together with GOTS Organic Production Specialist Jeffrey Thimm, Elif attended the 4th International Conference on "Organic Agriculture in Mediterranean Climates". The two had valuable informational meetings with stakeholders and government officials, including Turkey's Head of Organic Agriculture, with whom they discussed the topic of traceability at the farm level, differences between Turkish national legislation and that of other nations, and how GOTS requirements on Transaction Certificates are relevant to organic farming.



AFRICA

For GOTS Representative in Africa, Muktar Dodo, it was an exciting year that included meeting with some of the biggest actors in organic cotton production in West Africa and continuing his work consulting brands and industry on the benefits of GOTS certification. In this important, emerging market, the focus remained on raising awareness and promoting connections within the sector. Numerous meetings with both African and foreign-owned entities focused on topics such as the GOTS certification process, cost of certification, allowed fibre composition, Letters of Approval and logo use. Muktar participated in webinars, trade shows and meetings with government officials to educate and promote the development of the organic textile industry throughout the year. In November, Muktar was the regional host of the first GOTS conference in Africa, themed "Toward an African Value Chain". The event brought together producers, processors, brands and certification partners for discussions, problem-solving and networking.



JAPAN

Fiona Matsumoto, GOTS Representative in Japan, had a busy year educating industry representatives, consumers and students about GOTS. She organised individual consultancies for brands considering GOTS certification and was able to connect with dozens of companies, answering questions covering a wide range of topics, including the Standard, logo use, chemical approval and fraud. She participated in industry events in Japan and Europe, both as a presenter and hosting informational booths for attendees. Among those events were the Organic Lifestyle Expo, the LCOY Japan online conference "Sustainable Initiatives in Fashion", and the JFW Textile Seminar, as well as webinars organised by the Japan Sustainable Cotton Initiative, the Japan Organic Cotton Association (JOCA), and many more.

Fiona had media engagements throughout the year as a speaker and panel guest at both live and online events, as well as providing input and articles for several media outlets, including *Rakuten Earth Mall*, *GINZA Magazine*, and *Huffpost Japan*. In addition to these engagements, Fiona also made an appearance on the YouTube channel of "Enter the E," participated in an Instagram live stream with "yagithical", and the non-profit organisation *Dearme*. The launch of the GOTS Japan Instagram account was established to keep companies and consumers in the country connected and informed about GOTS events and media appearances.



APAC

Felicia Shi, the GOTS Representative in the APAC (Asia-Pacific) Region, reports that the overall number of facilities in the region is increasing. There were 1,775 certified facilities at the end of 2022, including 66 in Hong Kong, which is recovering well after the supply chain interruptions of COVID-19. Along with participating in a number of informational webinars, Felicia responded to inquiries and had individual consultations with companies, advising them on topics ranging from technical questions and material sourcing strategy to chemical inputs and specific points of the Standard. Presentations and interviews about GOTS for audiences of industry professionals and students further increased awareness and interest in GOTS. Felicia spearheaded translating and sharing GOTS assets and media with a Chinese-speaking audience and was featured by the climate-focused media outlet *TMRW* in an interview about organic cotton and GOTS.



Bükra Kalayci, Responsible, Standard Development and Implementation (Ecology), joined GOTS Representative in Turkey, Elif Yarasik, at the Istanbul Apparel Conference.



Franziska Dormann, GOTS Representative to Global Brands, hosted a booth and participated in panel discussions at both occurrences of Premiere Vision in Paris.



GOTS Representative in South Asia, Ganesh Kasekar, spoke at Global Spin Conclave in Chennai. Attendees included officials from the Textile Ministry and Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers from Tamil Nadu.



GOTS Representative in the UK, Christopher Stopes, addressing greenwashing in the industry.



In November, GOTS welcomed 112 attendees from around the world to the first GOTS Conference in Africa, themed "Toward an African Value Chain". Producers, processors, brands and certification partners were among the participants at the GOTS Conference in Africa. Topics covered included: identifying gaps in the supply chain, highlighting opportunities and partners for collaboration, and increasing awareness of certified organic products within the African market.



GOTS Representative in Turkey, Elif Yarasik, and GOTS Organic Production Specialist, Jeffrey Thimm, met with the head of Organic Agriculture in Turkey at the 4th International Conference on Organic Agriculture in Mediterranean Climates.



GOTS Representatives Juliane Ziegler and Elif Yarasik at Munich Fabric Start.



Lori Wyman, GOTS Representative in North America, checking out some organic wool.



GOTS Representative in South Asia, Ganesh Kasekar, spoke at an ICT Mumbai Chemical Management program in September. The event was organised by GIZ along with PWC India.



GOTS Representative in APAC, Felicia Shi, at the Ecocert Seminar on Sustainable Textiles.



GOTS Representative in North America, Lori Wyman, hosted a GOTS Roundtable in Toronto. Attendees took a field trip to a nearby spinning facility.



The GOTS Family celebrated the 20th Anniversary of GOTS in Montabaur, Germany.



GOTS Representatives Fiona Matsumoto and Juliane Ziegler always have a minute to talk about how a GOTS certification ensures compliance with each of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals.



Fiona Matsumoto, GOTS Representative in Japan hosting a booth at the Organic Lifestyle Expo 2022.



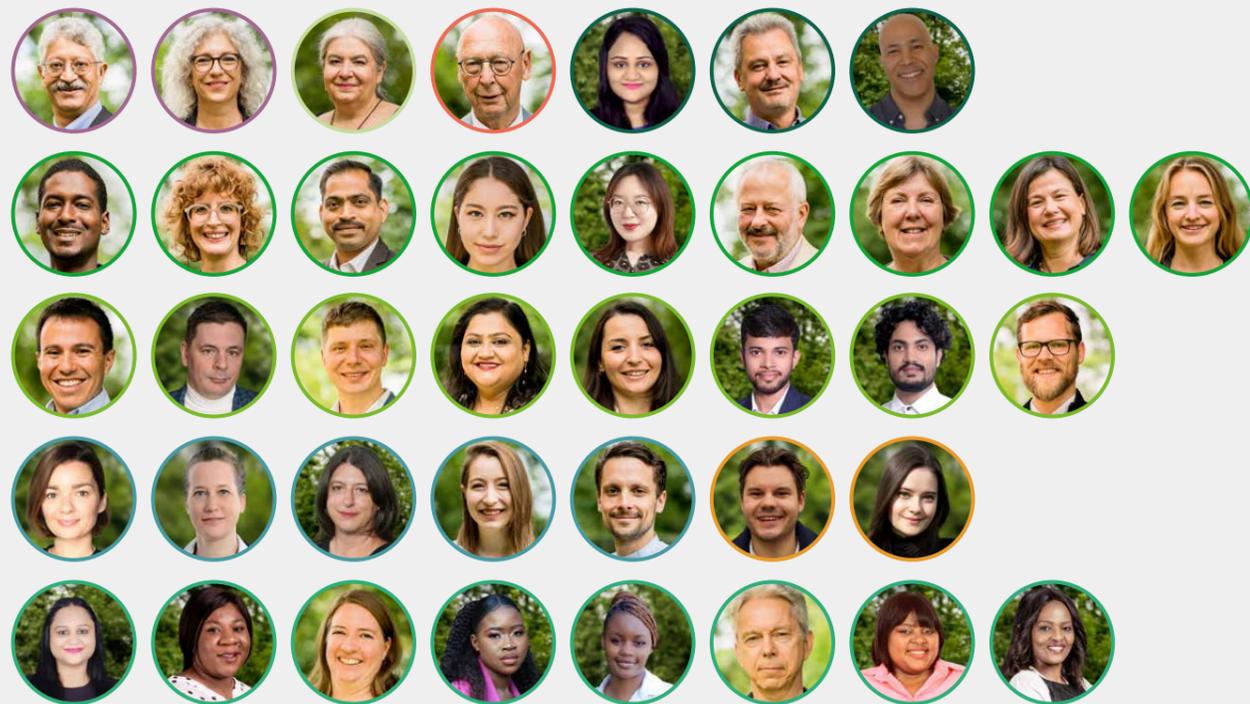
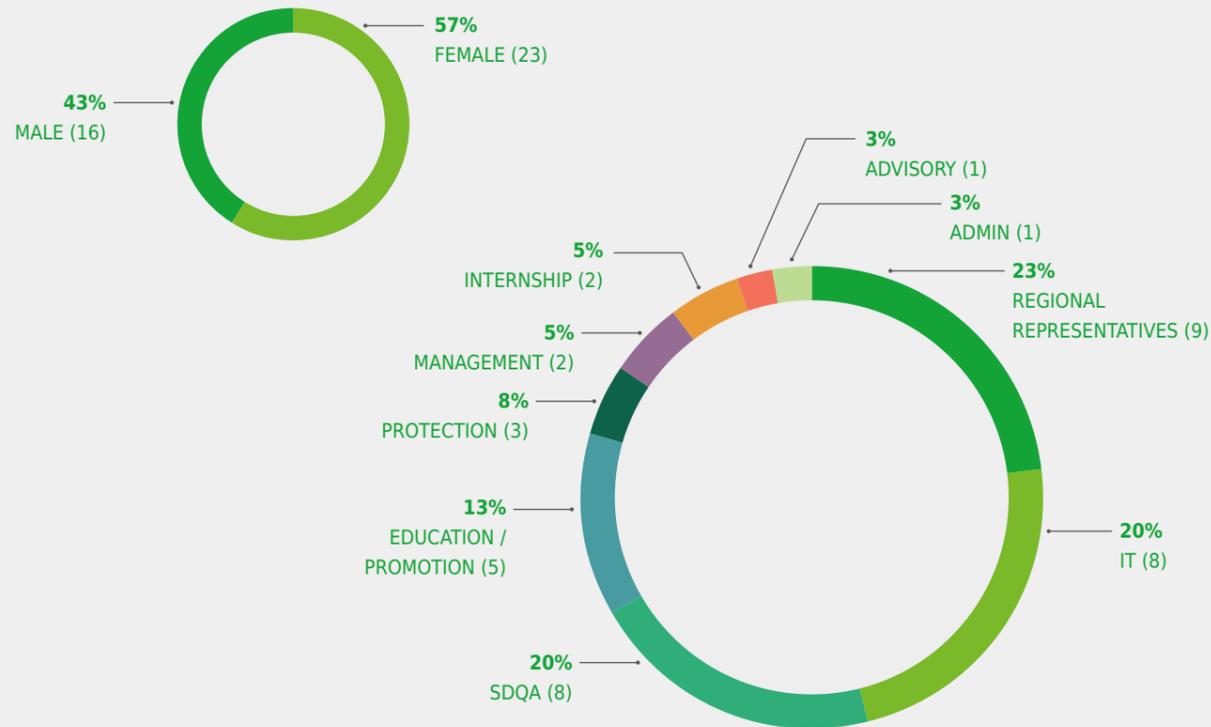
GOTS Representatives Muktar Dodo and Franziska Dormann.



GOTS flyers and fact sheets are available on our website: www.global-standard.org/resource-library/flyers-and-fact-sheets.



ORGANISATION



This is where we come from...



We speak...



For us, our work for GOTS in 2022 was...

- Challenging
- Rewarding
- Educational
- Interesting
- Exciting
- Versatile

Looking back at 2022, we are proud of...

- "Navigating uncharted territory with the new revision process for GOTS"
- "Being able to grow inside a safe haven, leading my own project, connecting to like-minded people"
- "I am proud that I have been able to learn new skills and deliver excellent results in all work I have been assigned"
- "Internal GOTS Teamwork"
- "Working and advancing with projects"
- "Directly connecting with people in the field again"

FINANCIALS 2022

GOTS is an independent, non-profit organisation which maintains a flat structure and aims to minimise administrative costs. The GOTS programme is self-financed, predominantly from small fees by participating companies. In 2022, these amounted to around 3.3 million euros. All income generated is used to reach our objectives.

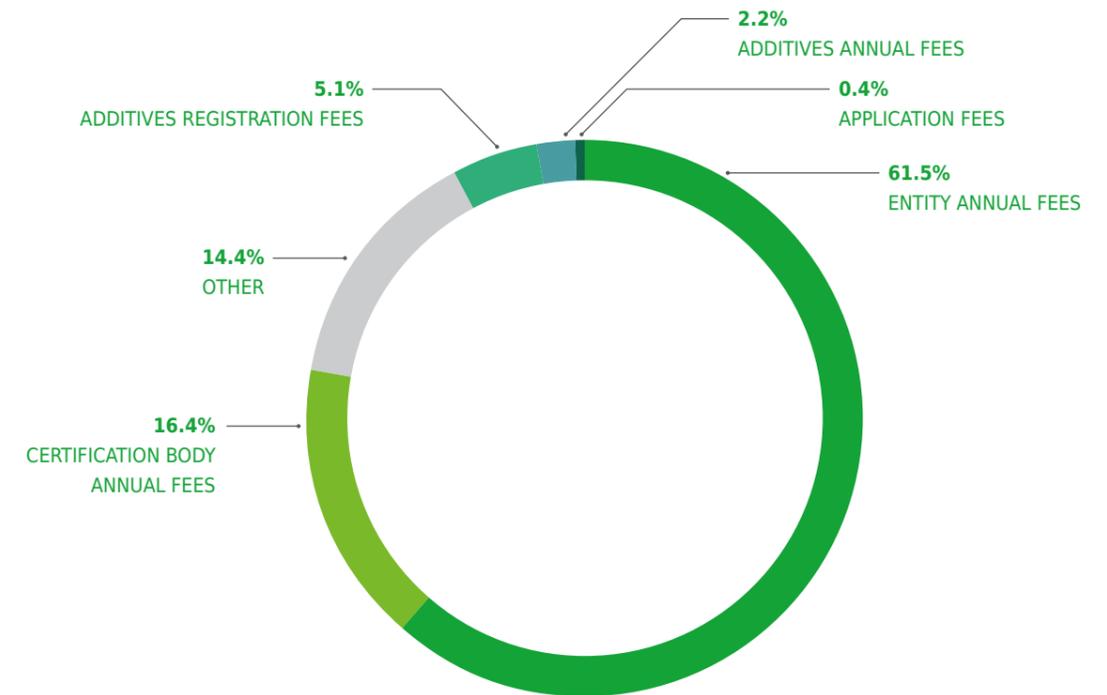
INFLOW 2022

CERTIFICATION BODY ANNUAL FEES €40 per facility inspected/certified	541,960 €
ENTITY ANNUAL FEES € 150 per facility inspected for a certified entity	2,032,350 €
ADDITIVES REGISTRATION FEES € 25 per trade name of GOTS Additives	171,950 €
ADDITIVES ANNUAL FEES € 5 per registered GOTS Additive, subject to a minimum fee of € 150	72,130 €
APPLICATION FEES € 5400 per Certification Body initially applying for GOTS accreditation	12,400 €
OTHER Shopfinder & Consultant Fees, Interest earnings, GIZ Funding, Health Insurance refunds, etc.	475,752 €
TOTAL INFLOW 2022	3,306,542 €

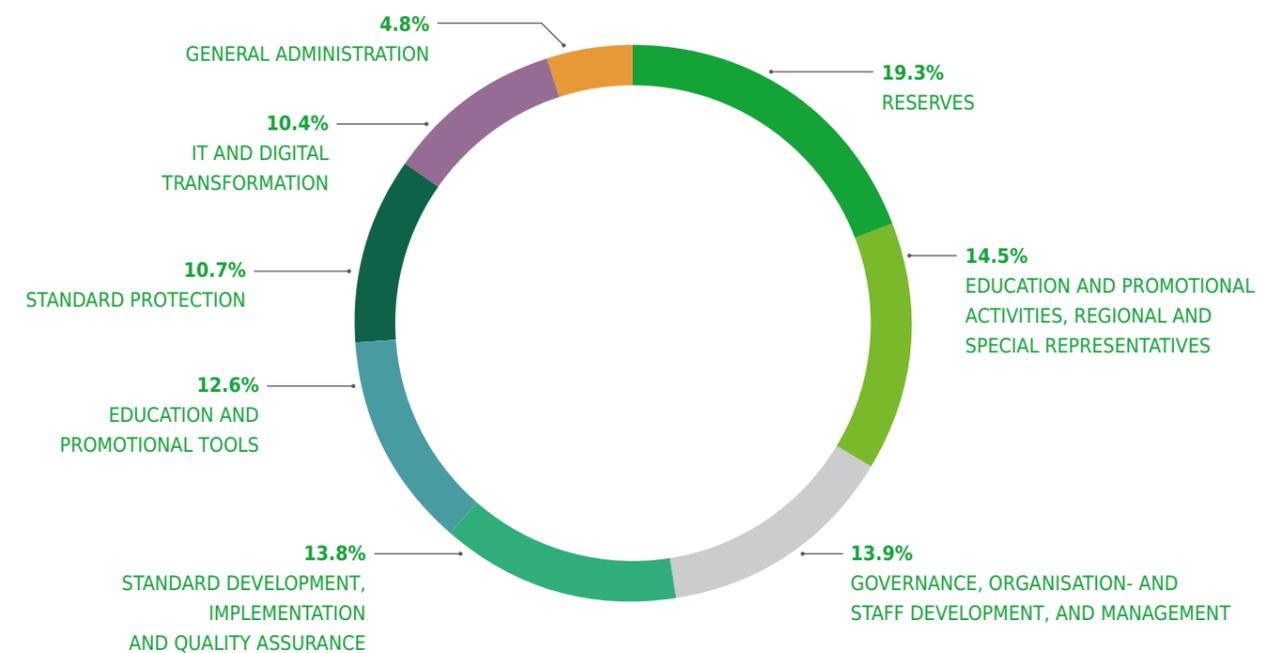
USE OF FUNDS 2022

STANDARD DEVELOPMENT, IMPLEMENTATION AND QUALITY ASSURANCE	456,693 €
STANDARD PROTECTION	355,262 €
EDUCATION AND PROMOTIONAL TOOLS	414,882 €
EDUCATION AND PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES, REGIONAL AND SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVES	478,545 €
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION	158,664 €
IT AND DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION	345,273 €
GOVERNANCE, ORGANISATION- AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT, AND MANAGEMENT	458,215 €
RESERVES	639,008 €
TOTAL USE OF FUNDS 2022	3,306,542 €

Inflow 2022



Use of Funds 2022



IMPRINT

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Germany

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Noel Laas, Kai Stoeckel, Daphne Sophie Laut
Global Standard gemeinnützige GmbH
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our newsletter



CREATE YOUR POSITIVE IMPACT WITH GOTS

HOW TO GET CERTIFIED

- 1 Inform yourself about GOTS**

Familiarise yourself with the GOTS Standard by having a look at our materials, our latest Standard version, and our Q&A section, all of which are available on the GOTS website. This will provide an overview of the requirements that must be met for your certification.
- 2 Reach out to the GOTS Representative in your region**

If you seek initial consultation, you can reach out to one of our GOTS Regional Representatives, listed on the GOTS website. If you require more detailed assistance or guidance on complex issues, a GOTS Approved Consultant can help.
- 3 Choose a GOTS-approved Certification Body**

On the GOTS website, we provide a list of independent GOTS-Approved Certification Bodies, responsible for the on-site audit and certification to GOTS.
- 4 Contact your GOTS Certification Body**

Submit an application to the Certification Body of your choice. The application may require you to provide details about the facility or product, including its location, scope of operations, and the goods it manufactures.
- 5 Prepare for the on-site audit**

The Certification Body will inform you about the implementation and schedule an audit. It is important to prepare all relevant documentation and records for review. In case of detection of non-compliances, those will be assessed and a timeline for correction will be given.
- 6 Receive your GOTS Scope Certificate**

Once you receive your GOTS Scope Certificate, you can leverage it to showcase your commitment to sustainable and ethical textile production. Your company will be found in the GOTS public database.



GLOBAL ORGANIC TEXTILE STANDARD
ECOLOGY & SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



**Organic
Fibres**



**Ecological &
Social Standards**



**Third Party
Certification**



**All Processing
Stages**