Pre Conference
Cotton Dialogues

2nd face-to-face meeting of the global organic cotton community

Sunday, September 18 at 10am in Barcelona, Spain

Hosted by HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation and Textile Exchange held prior to TE Sustainable Textiles Conference 19 - 20 September 2011
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Hosted by: HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation and Textile Exchange, funded by ICCO

Date: Sunday, September 18 at 10am in Barcelona, Spain

Venue: Princesa Sofia Gran Hotel Barcelona (dialogues held in the Tibidabo Room)

Held just before the TE Sustainable Textiles Conference (19 - 20 Sept 2011) in the same venue.

Agenda

9:30am Coffee and Registration
10:00am-10:20am Welcome and opening comments
10:30am-12:15pm Roundtable 1: Shaping the future of non-GM seed supply
12:15pm-1:00pm Lunch
1:00pm-2:45pm Roundtable 2: Developing guidelines for responsible business practice and trade
2:45pm-3:00pm Coffee
3:00pm-4:45pm Roundtable 3: Supporting sustainable growth
4:45pm-5:15pm Closing comments

(Translation provided: English, French, Spanish)
HOSTS

HELVETAS Swiss Intercorporation
http://www.helvetas.ch

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THEME ONE:
SHAPING THE FUTURE OF NON-GM SEED SUPPLY
SYNOPSIS

Obtaining non-GM cotton seed is becoming increasingly difficult. This is a problem affecting organic cotton growers globally. It is also an issue for Fairtrade farmers and conventional cotton growers wishing to use 'high performing' non-GM seed since choice is restricted and the majority of R&D goes into GM seed. This issue of non-GM seed shortage is well known to stakeholders within the cotton industry and there are a number of programs in place ranging from Institution-led research (specialising in improving non-GM seed breeds) through to seed banking (preserving local varieties or rare and endangered indigenous cotton). The roundtable will focus on arriving at a global program to help improve access to information in a more joined-up way and identifying opportunities for developing, improving and better supporting current and new initiatives.

DESIRED OUTCOME

Actions for improving availability and distribution of good quality non-GM seed, ie through seed ‘intelligence’ networks, seed breeding programs, and sector advocacy.

MODERATOR

For Prabha it has gone from farming to farming over two generations. Her grandfather Appaji Pillai was a farmer in Jolarpetti, North Arcot District Tamilnadu and farmed peanuts, paddy, sesame and vegetables on seven acres of land. Her father Appaji Varadarajan was the youngest of nine siblings and from that humble background rose to be a Judge of the Supreme Court of India. For his own family he had nothing but academic ambition and taught his children the values of Integrity and giving back.

Prabha was the second of his five children, completed her Bachelors in Sociology and Law (BA BL) and a Masters in Business Administration, married Nagarajan Mahadevan has 3 daughters and a son, and live in Chennai, India.

Prabha has been working with Textile Exchange since 2006 as Regional Director for India. She has also started farming the land her grandfather farmed, with the help of a local farmer. Two journeys, one destination - A sustainable world for us, our children and our children’s children.

Website: http://farmhub.textileexchange.org/
Dr Shreekant S Patil has a MSc from the College of Agriculture, Dharwad, a PhD from the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi and a diploma from CIMMYT (International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre), Mexico. He has over 27 years experience in Teaching Population Genetics, Quantitative Genetics and Plant Breeding. Dr Patil’s current ongoing major research projects include a collaborative project on developing heterotic populations and exploiting them in cotton and developing cotton varieties for organic situations. His areas of specialization and interest include quantitative genetics and plant breeding, varietal and hybrid research in cotton in both conventional and organic situations, developing heterotic groups and exploiting them in cotton and developing Compact cottons for machine picking and double cropping situation.

Website: [http://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/](http://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/)

Ben launched his underwear brand Pants to Poverty in 2005 while coordinating the youth movement for the Make Poverty History campaign. Ben previously worked for Amnesty International, directing 24 national offices across South America, Africa, South East Asia and Europe. He also managed both Amnesty Zimbabwe and Amnesty South Africa, developing new strategies, introducing funding and recruiting staff. Prior to his campaigning work Ben spent three years travelling and working in the developing world which drove him to embark on his mission to make fair trade and ethical consumerism a reality.

**Pants to Poverty**

Pants to Poverty is one of the leading ethical and sustainable fashion pioneers, who have introduced socially responsible supply chains with fair wages and extensive training programmes that aim to empower women. The brand has also worked to reduce the amount of pesticides used in production, helped establish a new programme working directly with tribal farmers in India and contributed to the AIDS Treatment action campaign in South Africa (TAC) and, through a new charity, are setting up a new scalable solution to taking kids out of forced child labour and into education.

Website: [www.pantstopoverty.com](http://www.pantstopoverty.com)
Jane Dever is an Associate Professor and Cotton Breeder for Texas AgriLife Research in Lubbock, and Project Leader for the Cotton Improvement Program. She is Principal Investigator for a USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture Organic Research and Extension Initiative grant to develop cotton cultivars for organic production. Prior to her appointment with the Texas A&M System, she was the Global Cotton Breeding and Development Manager for Bayer Crop Science’s Cotton Seed Business. Jane has a B.S. in Textile Technology and Management; M.S. in Crop Science; and Ph. D. in Agronomy; all from Texas Tech University. She has written one book chapter, several journal articles, 15 technical publications, 42 conference proceedings; given numerous U. S. and international presentations; and holds seven patent or invention disclosures.

Texas AgriLife Research
Texas AgriLife Research is the state’s premier research agency in agriculture, natural resources, and the life sciences. Research spans numerous scientific disciplines and is international in scope.

Website: [http://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/](http://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/)

Rajeev has a Masters in Social Anthropology from Delhi University. He chose a career in the tea plantations of North East India – Assam. 10 years later destiny brought him, in 1992, to organic cotton in central India and to `bioRe' - pioneers in organic cotton. He has been involved with bioRe since the very beginning and is now Managing Director of bioRe India. Rajeev is a founding member, and on the board, of the Bio Dynamic Assoc. of India and the International Competent Centre for Organic Agriculture. He has presented several papers at various national and international forums. For the past few years Rajeev has been working intensely on the non-GMO seed issue in India.

bioRe India Limited
bioRe India Limited is an Indian service and trading company procuring and selling biodynamic (certified organic) cotton. bioRe farms are the starting point of the bioRe chain, a unique international network for the production of quality textiles fulfilling strict ecological and social requirements.

THEME TWO:
DEVELOPING GUIDELINES FOR RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS PRACTICE AND TRADE
SYNOPSIS

There have been many discussions around the price of organic and how to arrive at a fair price for farmers. Ideally, guiding principles could be developed on responsible trade, that helps build business security and value chain social responsibility. The goal of the roundtable would be to gather input from the sector to develop a Sector ‘guideline’.

DESIRED OUTCOME

A responsible business guide, pragmatic business practices with a focus towards the future of organic cotton.

MODERATOR

Keith has over 20 years of environmental and development experience. Prior to joining PAN he was the Director of Programmes and Research at the Koru Foundation, an organisation which supported community-scale low carbon energy systems in East Africa and Latin America. He also spent eight years working on UK and EU environmental policy at the ENDS Report where his last role was Climate and Energy Editor. He ran the European arm of a three year international research and advocacy project on sustainable trade for WWF. He holds a Doctorate in Development Studies, and an MA in Environment Development and Policy – both from the University of Sussex. His doctorate examined trade policies and their impact on pesticide use by small banana farmers in the Caribbean and his MA included a study of integrated pest management in the Philippines.

Dr Keith Tyrell
Pesticide Action Network (PAN), UK

Pesticide Action Network

PAN UK is the only organisation in Britain dedicated to raising awareness of the problems with pesticides. PAN UK is part of a global network and works closely with partners in developing countries.

Website: [http://www.pan-uk.org/](http://www.pan-uk.org/)
Stephan Engel
Aid by Trade Foundation (CMiA), Germany

Born 1972 in Hamburg, Germany, Stephan currently lives in Hamburg, Germany. Has a university degree (German Diploma) in Economics. Before Stephan joined the Aid by Trade Foundation in 2009, he was Department Manager of a trading house in Hamburg that was importing garments from South-East Asia. Today he is Managing Director of ATAKORA GmbH, which is the commercial arm of the Aid by Trade Foundation, responsible for cooperation agreements with private companies that are using the Cotton Made in Africa standard.

Aid by Trade Foundation

The purpose of the Aid by Trade Foundation is to promote environmental protection and improve the social conditions in developing countries. Cotton Made in Africa is the first, and as yet the only initiative of the Aid by Trade Foundation.


Damien Sanfilippo
Fairtrade International, Germany

An environmental scientist by training, Damien has coordinated natural habitat restoration programs in Florida’s wetlands and biodiversity research programs in Madagascar, before working on the development and promotion of sustainable cotton production since 2005. He has worked with organic cotton producers in West Africa, contributed to the development of innovative sustainable pest management methods, and has also worked with fashion schools across Europe, educating the fashion designers of tomorrow about sustainable cotton. Executive Committee member of the Better Cotton Initiative until 2009, he contributed to the development of the BCI system before joining Fairtrade International as Global Product Manager for Fairtrade Cotton.

Fairtrade International

Fairtrade International is a non-profit, multi-stakeholder association involving 24 member and associate member organizations (labelling initiatives and producer networks), traders and external experts. The organization develops and reviews Fairtrade standards, assists producers in gaining and maintaining Fairtrade certification and capitalizing on market opportunities.

Website: http://www.fairtrade.net
Thomas Favennec was born on May 23, 1981. He graduated from ESSEC Business School in Paris, with a specialization in Social Entrepreneurship. Thomas then started working with smallholder organic farmers in Ecuador when he was 22. He later joined the Tudo Bom? project immediately after his studies. After 3 years spent in France and travelling regularly to Brazil, Thomas moved over to Rio de Janeiro in 2008. From 2010 onwards he started to also work for the company Veja and to participate actively in the coordination of the Brazilian Network of Agroecological Cotton.

**Tudo Bom?**

Tudo Bom? is a fashion brand made in Brazil, which offers clothing for men, women and children, made of organic cotton while respecting the rules of fair trade.

Website: [http://www.tudobom.fr/](http://www.tudobom.fr/)

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Satish Chukkapalli is a garment manufacturer and exporter who has been in the textile business for the last 15 years and specialises in structuring environmental, social, and sustainable supply chains.

Satish is Co-Founder and Director of Zameen Organic Pvt Ltd, a for-profit Fair trade & organic cotton trading producer company in which 51% of the share holding belongs to the farmers. He structured the supply chain by bringing organic cotton farmers, ginners, spinners, garment factories & brands on to a common platform to create a win-win situation by doing business directly and reducing costs. Establishing relationships with the cotton projects/farmer groups and assessing the economic, social, health & climate change impacts is another angle he has used to build a strong concept; increasing authenticity and integrity in organic cotton supply chains and making organic cotton main stream.

**Zameen Organic**

Zameen is a young Indian marketing company for Fair trade and organic products. Zameen provides branding companies and farmers with direct access to each other’s resources. Zameen produces Fair trade organic cotton lint and seed, yarn, fabric and ready made garments.
THEME THREE:
SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE GROWTH
SYNOPSIS

Access to suitable, timely, and affordable finance is an important factor throughout the entire Organic Cotton Value Chain. It is one of the crucial elements that can make or break a business. Here we explore what is available currently in terms of socially responsible and pro-poor financial investment and what is needed. We also explore the links between financial investment and ‘sustainable agriculture’ and how they work hand-in-hand to achieve sustainable growth. Dialogue goals would be to find ways to better connect producer groups to financial services, scale-up appropriate technologies, and encourage more corporate investment or partnerships through tri-partite arrangements.

DESIRED OUTCOME

Actions for improving access to timely, low-risk, socially orientated financial services.

MODERATOR

Lisette van Benthum
Fair and Sustainable Advisory Services, Netherlands

Lisette is a consultant with 12 years experience in Business Advisory and Financial Services for the SME-agricultural-sector in developing countries. She was Business Economic Officer for SNV in Guinea Bissau for 2 years and a Business Economic Advisor and Specialist Financial Services for ICCO for 10 years. Lisette has specific experience with financial administration, business planning facilitation & assessment, brokering access to finance for producer organizations & agricultural SMEs and fund management. Lisette holds a bachelors degree in Business Economics of the HEAO of Arnhem.

Fair and Sustainable Advisory Services
Fair & Sustainable Advisory Services offers consultancy services to organisations and companies working in developing countries that acknowledge the need to build partnerships in order to promote a sustainable use of resources and a fair distribution of benefits.

Website: fairandsustainableadvisoryservices.wordpress.com
Jane Nalunga
NOGAMU, Uganda

Jane Nalunga has an MSc. Agric. Economics and a BSc. Agriculture, Makerere University – Kampala, Uganda. Ms. Nalunga has more than 18 years experience in training farmers, farmers’ groups and extension personnel in production and quality management, for both the local and export market. She has worked with several farmers’ groups across Uganda to design Internal Quality Management systems suitable to specific producer groups. Currently, Ms Nalunga is the Senior Training Officer for the National Organic Agriculture Movement of Uganda (NOGAMU). She is responsible for organizing, preparing, and implementing training programs, as well as designing training materials.

NOGAMU
The National Organic Agricultural Movement of Uganda (NOGAMU) is an umbrella organization which unites producers, processors, exporters, NGOs and other institutions and organizations that are involved in the promotion and development of the organic sector in Uganda. Established in 2001, it is now one of the highly esteemed Business Support Organisations (BSOs) providing a range of services to the sector.

Website: [http://www.nogamu.org.ug](http://www.nogamu.org.ug)

Christa Suter-Schwaller
Remei, Switzerland

Christa Suter started her professional career in 2005 at bioRe Tanzania Ltd., in the quality management of the organic cotton company. Later on in 2005 she entered Remei AG, the Swiss company in sustainable textiles, in the field of CSR. Since October 2010, Christa Suter is CEO of the bioRe® Foundation Switzerland, which is supporting small holder farmers in India and Tanzania in organic agriculture, infrastructure development and institution building. Christa has a Masters degree in Social Anthropology, Environmental Science and Communication from the University of Fribourg, Switzerland and a Certificate of Advanced Studies in Business Management from the University of Zurich.

Remei
Remei AG is the Swiss company offering high-quality sustainable textiles, garments and yarns made of organic cotton under the quality trade mark bioRe®. Remei AG sells exclusively products made from organic cotton.

Website: [http://www.remei.ch/en/](http://www.remei.ch/en/)
**EXPERT**

**Jesse Last**  
Root Capital, USA

Jesse Last, Senior Lending & Strategy Associate - Mr. Last joined Root Capital in 2010 and supports portfolio diversification, pipeline generation, and strategic initiatives. As a member of the Strategy, Knowledge & Innovation Department, he performs R&D on new markets and financial products and sources innovative deals that expand Root Capital’s lending frontier. Before joining Root Capital, Mr. Last worked on renewable energy and economic development efforts at the Office of New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson. A 2006 Truman Scholar, Mr. Last graduated from Pomona College and is a candidate for his M.A. in International Relations from Ecuador’s Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar. He is fluent in Spanish.

**Root Capital**  
Root Capital is a non-profit social investment fund that is pioneering finance for grassroots businesses in rural areas of developing countries.

Website: [http://www.rootcapital.org/](http://www.rootcapital.org/)

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**Tobias Bandel**  
Soil & More, Netherlands

After graduating in agricultural sciences at University of Hohenheim, Germany, Tobias Bandel worked as cultivation and export manager for fresh fruits and vegetables at the Sekem Group, Egypt. Apart from his trading activity, he was involved in various agribusiness projects in cooperation with the IFC/Worldbank and USAID such as traceability and communication tools to link small-scale farmers to export markets. After a short employment at EOSTA BV, a Dutch trading company for organic fresh produce as business development manager, Tobias Bandel was co-founder and is since then managing partner of Soil & More International BV.

**Soil & More International**  
Soil & More International is a company with a world wide reach active in the set up and management of large-scale composting sites, emission reduction projects and sustainability footprinting.

Website: [http://www.soilandmore.nl/](http://www.soilandmore.nl/)
Textile Exchange is a non-profit organization. We envision a global textile industry that restores the environment and enhances lives. We inspire and equip people to accelerate sustainable practices in the textile value chain. Our work is unique in that we focus on the entire value chain, from production, through manufacturing, to retail.

Textile Exchange

www.TextileExchange.org

HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation is one of the most experienced and largest development organisations in Switzerland. Our vision is a just and peaceful world in which all human beings live in a self-determined way in dignity and safety, are able to satisfy their basic needs, have access to resources and services which are indispensable for life and take care of the environment.

HELVETAS

http://www.helvetas.ch/wEnglish/index.asp

ICCO is the interchurch organisation for development cooperation. ICCO’s mission is to work towards a world in which people live in dignity and prosperity, a world where poverty and injustice are no longer present. ICCO fund the work of Textile Exchange’s Farm Engagement Program.

ICCO

http://www.icco.nl/en/home