FARM ENGAGEMENT

ANNUAL REPORT 2012
In 2012 we celebrated our 10 year anniversary. Looking back over the past decade it’s fascinating to see how far we, and the textile industry at large, have travelled. “Organic” has been the starting point for textile sustainability, acting as a beacon for the entire industry. These days, the entire supply chain; farmers, manufacturers, brands, retailers and consumers are on a journey to more sustainable production and consumption.

We are proud of the role Textile Exchange has taken – as leaders, hand-holders, and fellow travelers. We are even more proud of the farmers, companies, and citizens with whom we are sharing this path.

We used our 10 year anniversary to draw attention to the people behind the progress. We recognized retailers and brands that are shaping the future of textile sustainability as well as farmers and organizations dedicated to improving lives and protecting ecosystems at the beginning of the chain. We shared beautiful images and inspiring words from people who grow organic cotton or who are touched by it in their everyday lives. We more than likely introduced you to many of them this year through our Future Shapers series, Organic In Action commentaries, and Inspiring Moments images.

This year brought celebration but it was not without challenges. We reported in the 2012 Farm & Fiber Report that the harvest of organic cotton was down from the year before, unveiling an alarming discrepancy between supply and predicted demand. For a number of reasons, organic cotton farmers are not being incentivized to grow and certify their cotton as organic. On top of that, access to good quality non-GMO seed is increasingly difficult for farmers to find. In some countries, such as India and Burkina Faso, the threat of contamination from GMOs is another risk to carry. All the while, brands and retailers report that their consumption is projected to increase. In a “call to action” we developed an Organic Cotton Round Table in the fall. This powerful mix of people sharing ideas and issues will surely help us find new ways to improve the business model for organic.

It has been a busy, challenging, and exciting year for Farm Engagement. We know 2013 will be an important one for addressing the issues we face at the farm and finding market-driven solutions. We anticipate bringing good news to you this time next year.

We hope that this annual report paints a comprehensive picture of our continued efforts. We welcome your thoughts and ideas as we share this journey.

The Farm Engagement Team
OUR TEAM

Africa

Silvère Tovignan
Regional Director Africa, Benin
tsilvere@yahoo.fr

India

Prabha Nagarajan
Regional Director India, Chennai
prabhanagu@gmail.com

Latin America

Alfonso Lizarraga
Regional Director Latin America, Peru
Alfonso@TextileExchange.org

United Kingdom

Liesl Truscott
Farm Engagement Director
Liesl@TextileExchange.org

Hanna Denes
Program Development Manager
Hanna@TextileExchange.org
Chetna Organic is a smallholder farmer-owned and professionally managed organization working towards improving the livelihood options for smallholder households in the rainfed regions of India, through making farming systems socially, ecologically and economically more sustainable. Chetna Organic has a membership base of over 15,000 organic and fair-trade certified farmers at present and targeting to reach 30,000 farming households by 2015.

Arun Chandra Ambatipudi, Chief Executive, Chetna Organic writes from his office in Hyderabad, about Textile Exchange:

“Over a period of time, I watched Textile Exchange evolve into a truly vibrant sector building organization for sustainable textile value chains globally to improve the lives of people in the cotton supply chain. As a result of this effort, being part of sustainable textile value chains became the top agenda for a majority of the stakeholders in the supply chains.

More than the quantitative expansion of the sustainable textiles sector, the role of Textile Exchange has been to build the shared understanding and capacities, as well as cautioning the sector by raising awareness of critical issues such as integrity, seed security, financing value chains, and pricing policies among other issues.

Textile Exchange did not stop just with the efforts at an intellectual level but went on to partner and support the producer organizations world-over by bringing out stories, and issues from the field to the notice of the upper end of supply chain through well researched and quality documents.

Textile Exchange is able to establish well structured platforms such as the Sustainable Textiles Conference, a sector-wide Round Table and provides a global platform that strengthens the sector through high quality research, knowledge dissemination, and intellectual debate.

Textile Exchange works with us, Chetna Organic, extensively on several fronts and as a partner supports our organization to conceptualize and ground solid programs on seed and food security. Textile Exchange provides us the opportunity to present the issues from the producer’s perspective and Chetna Organics’ work before the industry through various platforms. We use the well documented and published case study, product profile, and other publications generated by Textile Exchange extensively. We value our partnership with Textile Exchange.”

Arun Chandra Ambatipudi
Chief Executive - Chetna Organic
Bergman Rivera is a Swedish-Peruvian company, and pioneer in the promotion of organic cotton and sustainable textiles since 1986. They work closely with many organic cotton farmers in different valleys of Peru and have strong partnerships with GOTS certified facilities. They empower small farmers to change their lives by transitioning to organic agriculture; helping them to be self-sufficient and develop sustainable businesses. Bergman Rivera’s objective is to supply the market with organic cotton products of the utmost quality, while preserving the environment.

Orlando Rivera, Chief Executive of Bergman Rivera and new Board member of Textile Exchange, reflects on his relationship with TE over the years:

“We have been members of Textile Exchange for 6 years, since it was known as Organic Exchange. I have witnessed the successful transformation of the organization from a promoter of organic cotton to a wide organization focused on educating the consumers, raising awareness among the industry, and supporting organic farmers. They give advice and inform all the members of the textile chain about the different sustainable alternatives there are out there. I have always been impressed by their level of commitment to being an agent of change in this industry and how they have managed to always be on the forefront of upcoming alternatives in textile sustainability.

In 2012, we had the chance to work closely with Textile Exchange in the Latin American region, searching for ways of improving the organic cotton farmers’ lives by promoting textile value chains. We have analyzed in detail the problems faced by organic cotton farmers, as the cotton price volatility was their worst enemy during 2011/2012. We have been able to suggest different alternatives to improve the lives of farmers, as well as learn from the problems faced by other farming communities around the world.

Also in 2012, I had the chance to get a closer look into the Textile Exchange organization, as I was invited to become a Board Member. The Board spent 2 days in Hong Kong analyzing the sustainability trends in the world, the main problems affecting organic farmers, integrity in the industry, certification alternatives, and planning the strategy for years to come. I was impressed by the level of professionalism and commitment from all the Board Members and the broad base of experiences and industry representation we had.

I am convinced that Textile Exchange will set the standard and show companies the path to Sustainable Textiles in the years to come.”

Orlando Rivera
Chief Executive - Bergman Rivera
HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation promotes the production and local processing of organic cotton and provides openings into the Fairtrade market. This means that women cotton farmers receive a fair price for their crop which also contributes to improving the soil health, the groundwater and their own health. They rotate cotton with sesame, among other crops. This diversification reduces their dependence on cotton and improves soil fertility.


“I am Lazare YOMBI. I have worked for the International NGO HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation for the past six years as a regional technical assistant. In this position, I assist small farmers’ associations engage in organic cotton production in West Africa and Madagascar on issues relates to organic farming, organic and fair trade certification, and primary marketing. For example in West Africa, these farmers are located in Mali, Burkina Faso, Benin and Senegal, and in number, they are more than 20,000 working on more than 15,000 ha of land.

Knowledge exchange is one important strategy on my working agenda. On my way I met Silvère Tovignan, the regional director of Textile Exchange in Africa who used to share with me the farm engagement newsletter named ENGAGE that I appreciate so much.

Through ENGAGE, I got the opportunity to share with readers, not only the experiences and initiatives that are being developed in West Africa with organic cotton projects but also the important work that is being achieved by HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation on the supply chains of organic products in the region. In this regard, I wrote some articles published in ENGAGE on: the expansion of organic cotton, the management of bio-pesticides, cotton plant topping technique, the engagement of women in organic farming and extension, the role of organic cotton in integrating marginalized communities like Fulani etc.

I have attended many Webinars organized by TE online. I have been invited by TE to attend some conferences on organic cotton. I contribute with Silvere to collecting data for the fiber report of TE.

I appreciate the work of TE and the collaboration with the staff (Silvère, Liesl, Hanna etc.) I am in contact with.”

Lazare Yombi
Regional technical advisor in organic and fair trade agriculture (certification systems)
HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation-Benin
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MISSION

Textile Exchange inspires and equips people to accelerate sustainable practices in the textile value chain. We focus on minimizing the harmful impacts and maximizing the positive effects of the global textile industry.

VISION

We envision a global textile industry that protects and restores the environment and enhances lives.

WHAT DO WE DO?

Our Aim:

The Farm Engagement team aims to help organic cotton producers build business capacity, gain access to sustainable textile and apparel markets and link to Textile Exchange’s large network of brands, retailers and manufacturers seeking organic cotton.

We aim to catalyze growth in more sustainable textile production and markets; promoting organic as the preferred cotton fiber. This means growth that is based on economic fairness and returns, transparency in the supply chain, ensuring ethical conduct and good relations between producers and the value chain, as well as environmental sustainability.

Our Key Objectives are to:

**BUILD VISIBILITY** for organic cotton practitioners by bringing a human face to the product, promote leadership, and best practice.

**RAISE AWARENESS** of the contribution organic agriculture makes to ecosystems and livelihoods.

**RESEARCH & REPORT** annually on cotton sustainability data, fiber production and trends.

**SUPPORT INNOVATION** and farmer friendly technology in an age of climate change and concern for energy-water-food security.

**CREATE TIES** by bringing people together and building bridges - to tackle farm-level issues, find market-driven solutions, and to increase the reach and impact of our work.
In 2012, the Farm Engagement Program continued to reach out to our members and the industry at large through creative and well-researched ways. The diagram below provides a snapshot of the year. Our initiatives are designed to meet our key objectives and are targeted to engage all our members from farmers to manufacturers to brands and retailers.

Table 1: Overview of 2012 Activities and Impacts

Over the next few pages we will tell you more about what we did in 2012 and what we achieved. Some of our work can be quantified which helps us demonstrate progress. Other things we do are difficult to put numbers beside so we have included feedback from our colleagues, target audience, and other stakeholders.
## THE YEAR AT A GLANCE

### Organic Cotton Sector

- **Countries Growing Organic Cotton:** 20
- **Number of Producer Groups:** 118
- **Number of Certified Farmers:** 218,966
- **Certified Organic Land:** 324,577 ha
- **Global Production Growth:** \( \downarrow \) 37 %
- **Countries Increasing Production:** \( \uparrow \) 65 % (13 countries)

### Farm Engagement

- **Farm Hub Visitors:** 1,500 hits each month
- **Farm & Fibre Report:** >1,000 recipients
- **Inaugural Meeting of the Round Table:** 89 (representing 64 organizations)
- **Global Organic Community Platform:** 624 members
- **Farm Newsletter:** 775 subscribers
  - English: 475
  - French: 75
  - Spanish: 225
- **Listed on Find A Producer:** 52 Producer Groups
- **Listed on Trading Post:** 12 Producer Groups
- **Number of Case Studies:** 28
- **Farm Blogs:** 25 (880 hits & 141 subscribers)
In 2012 we created visibility through our Future Shapers series, Inspiring Moments snapshots, and our Find A Producer tool.

Future Shapers

Summary

Our Future Shapers series provided a platform for 10 companies to showcase their sustainability journeys. We launched 10 in-depth case studies of our “Future Shapers” over the months leading up to our annual conference in Hong Kong. Where possible, the case studies aimed to illustrate the connection between farm activities and the final product for retail. Our 10 Future Shapers in alphabetical order were: Anvil Knitwear (USA), C&A (Germany/Belgium), Dibella (Netherlands), Ethicus (India), Gossypium (UK), H&M (Sweden), hessnatur (Germany), Nike (USA), Patagonia (USA) and Veja (France).

Outputs & Impacts

We phased in the release of all 10 stories online over the course of the year, leading up to our conference in October. Each story can be found on our website. At our conference we launched a beautiful book “Future Shapers: 10 years, 10 companies” as part of our commemoration.

“The ten stories in Future Shapers collected by Textile Exchange are truly inspiring, and provide a complete answer to anyone who says that it is difficult or impossible to source environmentally and socially sustainable textiles, and particularly organic cotton. These ten innovative and successful businesses are showing the way, and I hope they inspire many others to follow their amazing examples.”

- Lord Peter Melchett, Policy Director, Soil Association UK

INSPIRING MOMENTS

SUMMARY

Our Inspiring Moments stunning images and short commentaries were submitted to us by members and friends of Textile Exchange. The images and stories were submitted under the theme of “Moments in Organic Cotton that Capture our Hearts and Minds.”

OUTPUTS & IMPACTS

Each month, we added a new ‘Inspiring Moment’ to our online gallery, show-cased it on the Farm Hub homepage and in our newsletters for all to enjoy. We compiled all 12 images and produced a calendar for 2013 made up of these beautiful images and words of inspiration. For example February’s entry came from Vashuda, India: “The educated homemaker makes an educated family, and that makes the country’s future.”

“We were elated to share an organic cotton snapshot story for the Textile Exchange’s Inspiring Moments initiative. Each month, a different photo unveils a beautiful story from around the globe. Hanging in our office for all to see, the 2013 calendar acts as a source of inspiration.”

- Rita Luppino, Anvil Knitwear

Be Inspired! Go to: http://farmhub.textileexchange.org/learning-zone/inspiring-moments
Find A Producer

Summary

Our key tool for raising farmer visibility is the Find a Producer interactive database of organic cotton growers on the Farm Hub. Over the course of the year a different producer group takes pride of place on the Farm Hub homepage “Farmer In Focus.”

Outputs & Impacts

In 2012 we have continued to add groups and update content.

Table 2: Current Numbers listed in Find A Producer 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Countries</th>
<th>Number of PGs</th>
<th>Number of Farmers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali,</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>15,987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Asia</td>
<td>Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>672</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle East &amp; Nth Africa</td>
<td>Syria, Turkey, Egypt</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1,960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Asia</td>
<td>India, Pakistan</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>&gt;35,011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin &amp; Central America</td>
<td>Belize, Brazil, Nicaragua,</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1,552</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Paraguay, Peru</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>&gt;30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
<td>52</td>
<td>&gt;39,225</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: where you see the ‘more than’ sign this means some Producer Groups have not provided farmer numbers, therefore there will be more farmers than reflected here.

Find A Producer here: [http://farmhub.textileexchange.org/find-a-producer](http://farmhub.textileexchange.org/find-a-producer)
RAISING AWARENESS

We raise awareness of the contribution organic agriculture makes to ecosystems and livelihoods

In 2012 we raised awareness by collaborating with the United Nations to promote Co-ops within our Organic In Action initiative, through our website, blogs and farm diaries.

Organic In Action

Summary

Each year, Farm Engagement partners a related global campaign. In 2012, we partnered the United Nations “Year of the Co-op” and contributed wonderful stories of organic cotton cooperatives on behalf of our farmer members. Two of our stories were placed in the prestigious position of “story of the week.” This partnership proved to be an exciting way to leverage our work, extend our reach, and also to be part of a wide agenda.

Each commentary had been prepared by a leading figure or organization, dedicated to actively engaging in organic cotton programs, innovative research, ambitious partnerships, or exciting new ventures.

Outputs & Impacts

The Organic in Action stories were posted on the Textile Exchange Farm Hub throughout the year. The full series covers 18 initiatives from fourteen different countries around the cotton producing world.

“Cooperatives are a reminder to the international community that it is possible to pursue both economic viability and social responsibility.”

- Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary General

Want to know more? http://farmhub.textileexchange.org/learning-zone/organic-in-action
Farm Hub Website

Summary

The Farm Hub provides an online one-stop-shop for organic cotton by introducing organic cotton’s environmental, social and commercial benefits and raising the visibility of organic cotton producers and to provide an online marketplace for trade in organic cotton. To help our members and other interested parties keep up with the latest news, events, and publications etc. we refresh our homepage “latest news” frequently.

Outputs & Impacts

Visitor numbers to the farm hub grew quickly in the first year of its existence. In its second year monthly visitor numbers have settled at a steady average of approximately 1,500 visits per month. During particular campaigns and events increased activity is noticeable. For example during the month of the Textile Exchange conference, an increase in visitors; page views and length of stay on the website were all recorded.

The most used aspect of the Farm Hub varies depending on campaigns as well but for the regular functions, the ‘Learning Zone’ is the most visited section followed by ‘Find a Producer’, the ‘Farm Library’ and more recently also the “Trading Post.”

The visitor demographic shows a wide geographical spread. The majority of visitors tend to be from the US but in recent months the number of visitors from the UK has increased. India is also a key country of origin for visitors of the Farm Hub.

Figure 1 - Map showing locations of Farm Hub visitors

In 2012 we posted 20 news articles (with links to reports, articles, and video clips). News from 2012 are now archived here: http://farmhub.textileexchange.org/farm-library/news-archives/what-happened-in-2012
Our Blogs and Diaries

Farm Engagement Field Diary

A personal account of our travels and experiences... click on the following images to share our experiences.

Chetna Organic Farm Clusters Project, Odisha, India 21st – 22nd November 2011
bioRe, Meatu, Shinyanga, Tanzania 6th – 8th May 2012

Summary

Another way we like to reach out to our members and the wider community is by sharing some of our own experiences. Our “Farm Blog” grew in popularity throughout the year and our “Field Diaries” gave a personal touch, reporting on our travel and adventures.

Outputs & Impacts

We produced 25 farm blog entries over the course of the year receiving 880 hits, with 141 people now subscribed and regularly following our blog.

In May 2012 Farm Engagement director, Liesl Truscott, and Regional director for Africa, Silvere Tovignan travelled to Tanzania to visit two organic cotton producer groups: the pioneering and leading socially-orientated bioRe Tanzania and the dedicated entrepreneurial BioSustain. Liesl contributed to the TE Field Diaries with her account of the trip.

Want to read Liesl’s diary? [http://farmhub.textileexchange.org/farm-library/field-diaries](http://farmhub.textileexchange.org/farm-library/field-diaries)

“After having joined BioRe as an Organic cotton contract farmer, we were introduced to additional cash crops like sunflower and mung beans. This enables us to earn extra money over and above the cotton production. For example this year the maize crop failed due to poor rains but we were food secure because of the extra income from sunflower and mung beans, so we could buy our own food. Meanwhile we also eat mung beans which are nutritious ... although not our traditional food”.

- Devotha Masanja, bioRe Tanzania
We research and report annually on cotton sustainability data, fiber production and trends.

In 2012 we produced our Farm & Fiber global and regional reports, completed a survey of organic farmers sustainability practices, responded to our members need for qualitative data, and participated in a KPI study in Benin.

Farm & Fiber Report

Summary

We continued our Farm & Fiber reporting. This year, we expanded our net to capture data from other initiatives active in making cotton more sustainable: Fairtrade, Cotton made in Africa, and the Better Cotton Initiative.

Outputs & Impacts

Our global report included snapshots from all organic cotton growing countries, but as always with a special focus on our key regions: Africa, India, and Latin America. This year we published more comprehensive regional reports, in both English and the principal language of the region, alongside our global report.

In 2012 we delivered a copy of the report to all TE members, producer groups, and key stakeholders such as CottonConnect, Helvetas, Soil Association, ICAC, Cotton Inc. Etc. We also made the report available to other cotton sustainability initiatives: Fairtrade International, Cotton made in Africa, and Better Cotton Initiative - for their use and distribution to members.

Global and Regional Reports can be accessed here: http://farmhub.textileexchange.org/farm-library/farm-fiber-reports
Farm Impact Assessment

Summary

Over the years Textile Exchange has worked with organic cotton farmers, producer groups, and other organizations to better understand the benefits of organic agriculture at the farm level. There is no disputing the opportunities “good practice” organic farming can bring to farmers and their communities in terms of improved health and safety, better soils, more food security, lower farm input costs, and more income.

However, to achieve positive impact across this suite of environmental and socio-economic benefits significant investment and support is required at the producer group level. What is the reality? And are these organizations making a difference?

To drive convergence, we drew on the ISEAL Sustainability criteria and the new FAO guidelines for Sustainable Agriculture and Food Assessment (SAFA) in our survey design, and approach to measuring sustainability impacts. There is also an opportunity to contribute learning on the use of sustainability assessments and indicators to the wider agricultural and textile communities.

Outputs & Impacts

The TE Impact survey is an attempt by Textile Exchange and our survey partner CottonConnect to collect both quantitative and qualitative information at the producer group level (or within PG clusters) that will help the sector better understand the impact organic cotton agriculture and producer group investment is having on the sustainability of rural communities. During the year we made progress on our farm sustainability assessment, and collected data from over 30 producer groups around the organic cotton producing world. By mid-2013 we will be publishing our results.

“With the organic farming our field has become more fertile; we learned how to organize proper crop rotation. Besides, the income from organic farming is higher in comparison with conventional farming. This year I started working as village bio inspector (VBI). The work is difficult but very interesting. I want to prove that a woman can also work as VBI.”

- Shamshieva Sonunai, BioFarmers, Kyrgyzstan
Quantitative Key Performance Indicator (QKPI) West Africa

Summary

The improvement of quantitative KPIs has continued and in Koussanar, Senegal, August 2012, trials have been made in the field with both organic and conventional cotton farmers’ groups.

Outputs & Impacts

Results are revealing that the Household Coefficient of Dependency on Cotton (HCDC) of conventional farmers is higher than the one of organic farmers. From this we can say that conventional farmers are more dependent on cotton than organic farmers. The crop diversification strategy of organic producer groups such as “YNW” contributes highly to this good result for organic. See Appendix 1 for more details.

Responding to the Demand for Quantitative Data

The organic sector prides itself on holistic farm management (taking care of water, soil, atmosphere, people) however the Standard does not explicitly address all elements of sustainability.

The organic cotton sector needs to be able to quantify the benefits of organic production systems. We are beginning to emphasize the importance of this exercise. The great news is we have been able to support a number of our member companies and other stakeholders with information and raw data.
SUPPORTING INNOVATION

We raise awareness of the contribution organic agriculture makes to ecosystems and livelihoods.

In 2012 we supported innovation by working with technical and scientific NGOs and practitioners including FiBL, IFOAM, and Chetna Organic.

RTOACC - Climate Change

Summary

The Round Table on Organic Agriculture and Climate Change (RTOACC) is a multi-stakeholder initiative. It was founded on December 16, 2009 in Copenhagen, at the United Nations Climate Change Conference. The activities are supported by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Textile Exchange is an active member of RTOACC. RTOACC brings together stakeholders (research, standard setters, certification bodies, NGOs, trade, etc.). The goals are to initiate, support and facilitate research on organic agriculture and climate change; advise the international community on organic agriculture and climate change issues; and develop a measurement method to enable reliable quantification.

Outputs & Impacts

RTOACC members meet at least annually and keep in touch via group email. During a two-day RTOACC workshop in April this year, hosted by the Organic Research Centre and the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL) and IFOAM, participants discussed the potential for organic agriculture in carbon markets and the need to develop strategies for the role of organic agriculture in climate policy.

More about RTOACC: http://www.organicandclimate.org/
SOAAN - Sustainable Organic

Summary

The new Sustainable Organic Agriculture Action Network (SOAAN), led by IFOAM, is a broad collection of experts who have both knowledge and interests that cover the full range of organic and sustainability issues.

SOAAN’s work includes:

• A reference document, guide, or similar resource that describes best practices of sustainable organic production and value chains;

• A positioning paper with which leaders in the organic movement can strategically position organic agriculture and the organic movement as having a critical and central role in world ecological stewardship, economic, and social development;

• A strategy brief that organic actors worldwide can use to advance their own efforts;

• Foundational educational materials for the dissemination of organic knowledge, research, and training;

• Reporting mechanisms whereby progress and achievement of sustainable practices may be communicated and/or assessed; and

• Communication materials.

Outputs & Impacts

In November, Textile Exchange attended the Sustainability Camp at IFOAM HQ in Bonn, Germany, contributing to the metrics working group. The camp was designed to support the work of SOAAN. Camp participants worked to advance the agenda of IFOAM, and provide feedback to the Core Group and Secretariat to inform and shape their work and the ensuing manifestation of SOAAN’s impacts in the world.

Chetna Organic - Seed & Gender

Summary

Much of the cotton grown in developing countries is produced by small land-holders, on less that 2 ha of land per grower. Organic cotton has the advantage of being less reliant on expensive inputs (such as chemical fertilizer and pesticides). It is also a ‘female friendly’ crop since there are no toxic chemicals for women, infants, or unborn babies to be exposed to. Plus, food crops can be grown in conjunction with organic cotton, and cash received by women for the cotton crop they produce can go towards family needs such as health, hygiene, and education.

However, most cotton in India is produced using genetically modified seeds (not allowed under organic growing conditions). Furthermore, farmers are vulnerable to the availability, quality, and price of seed bought off seed merchants; particularly farmers, and tribal farmers, living in remote rural areas. As you can imagine, women farmers are potentially even more vulnerable still.

Textile Exchange has a long history of working closely with Chetna Organic in India. We are now collaborating to improve small scale organic farmers (particularly women) access to non-genetically modified seed - for both organic cotton production and food security.

With the generous financial support of one of Textile Exchange’s member companies we have entered a three year “Seed Guardians” program. The program involves establishing and expanding seed banks, multiplication of seed for distribution to Chetna farmers and local community, training and capacity-building for women to become Seed Guardians.

Outputs & Impacts

We are in the first phase of the Seed Guardians project. The project will run for three years. Over the course of three years a minimum of five viable seed banks producing at least 25 varieties of fiber and food crop seeds will be established. Between 40 and 60 women will be trained as Seed Guardians. Seed and food security will improve for over 500 families (on average each household has 5 members), - a minimum of 2,500 men, women, and children.

“We heard about the organic farming but were not very sure about the processes and the results. However, when we realized that at last we would be free from the pressure of debtors who are at our doorstep almost daily, we thought it is worth a try. We are now enjoying the benefits of organic farming through diversifying our crops, adding additional income and feeling more secure”

- Chandu Nikore, Chetna Organic

“When women control additional income, they spend more of it than men do on food, health, clothing and education for their children. This has positive implications for immediate well-being as well as long-run human capital formation and economic growth.”

- Women and Agriculture; Closing the Gender Gap for Development, FAO
CREATING TIES

We bring people together and build bridges - to tackle farm-level issues, find market-driven solutions, and to increase the reach and impact of our work.

BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

In 2012 we brought people together through the development of our Organic Cotton Round Table, annual conference in Hong Kong, global organic cotton community platform, Trading Post and our “Engage” newsletter. We also collaborated with Fairtrade to extend our reach.

Organic Cotton Round Table

Summary

The organic cotton sector has reached a point in its growth where we’re running into new barriers to growth, which can only be solved through whole value chain collaboration. The objective of the Round Table is to discuss and prioritize the issues and opportunities facing organic cotton and find ways to collaborate in order to grow the sector, share best practices at every stage, build supportive partnerships, and improve supply and livelihood security.

The Organic Cotton Round Table brings together knowledgeable and influential people, to collectively explore opportunities to grow the organic cotton sector. We hope to encourage more people and organizations to join us and be part of the solution.

“It’s clear that supply chain collaboration is needed to close the organic cotton supply-demand gap, and the Textile Exchange Organic Cotton Roundtable is a great way to catalyze this process. As industry assessments highlight the benefits of organic cotton, we all need to be confident in our sources of supply over time.”

- Eraina Duffy, Nike, and former Chair of TE

Want to know more? http://farmhub.textileexchange.org/learning-zone/round-table-on-organic-cotton
Inaugural Meeting of the Round Table

Textile Exchange hosted an inaugural meeting of the Organic Cotton Round Table in Hong Kong on the 3rd October, the day before the Textile Exchange conference officially began. The Round Table was delivered in partnership with Fairtrade International.

‘Organic’ and ‘Fairtrade’ initiatives share very similar values, objectives, and principles, and many grower groups in developing countries (and brands/retailers) choose to be both organic and Fairtrade certified. Both initiatives also share some of the challenges and barriers to growth such as access to non-GMO seed, and finding mutually beneficial ways to work together. With our shared interests we have continued to build stronger working relationships, including co-convening the Round Table in Hong Kong.

*We are delighted and thankful that Textile Exchange is taking the leadership to organize a round table to discuss the pressing issues in sustainable cotton production such as seed availability, need for new business models etc., It will also provide an excellent platform for knowledge sharing between various stake holders involved in cotton production as well as clothing supply chain.*

- Damien Sanfilippo, Fairtrade International

Outputs & Impacts

There were 89 delegates attending the Round Table meeting representing 64 brands, retailers, manufacturers, and producer groups. Collaboration with FT International enabled 4 Fairtrade organic farmers (from Mali, Senegal, Kyrgyzstan, and India) to attend.

It was agreed during the meeting that the next steps for the Round Table were to create two key working groups. The first, to focus on improving the business model for organic cotton value chain. The second to focus on seed security for organic cotton farmers located in countries where access to non-GMO seed and/or quality non-GMO seed is a challenge. Helping farmers avoid contamination by GMOs is also part of the remit.

Global Conference

Summary

The 2012 Sustainable Textiles Conference was held in Hong Kong in October. In attendance were 330 guests representing 36 countries and the entire textile supply chain. The conference was themed upon Innovation, Impacts, Investment, and Integrity: Inspiration for tomorrow’s solutions.

Outputs and Impacts

Organic cotton stories and speakers were woven into many aspects of the conference. A special platform for organic was given to: “Collaborative Innovation – Using your supply chain to achieve superior sustainability outcomes” and “Investment in tomorrow’s solutions – everybody’s business.”

Partnership with Fairtrade International allowed us to support the conference participation of four farmers from India, Mali, Senegal and Kyrgyzstan.
Summary

The “Global Organic Cotton Community” was conceptualized by the Organic & Fairtrade Competence Centre in late 2007. By 2008 Helvetas, ICCO, Textile Exchange and SECO (the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs) assured co-funding to establish and run this knowledge exchange platform in its initial phase.

Outputs & Impacts

In 2012, the platform continued being active with 624 community members. The Textile Exchange team continues to work with Helvetas on the delivery of the Platform dialogues. Currently Helvetas provide the overall project management and community facilitation while TE supports the community communications, French and Spanish translations, and other administrative support.

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

Figure 2: Breakdown of Platform Members by Country in 2012
Summary

We continue to produce “Engage” our online newsletter for the organic cotton community. Our goal is to keep growers and other stakeholders of organic cotton up to date with our work and current publications, news, and views from around the world. Engage is published bi-monthly and is available in English, Spanish, and French.

Outputs & Impacts

The 20th edition of Engage was published in September 2012 and saw a shift towards greater integration with the website content. Previous versions were distributed over email and saved as PDF files on the website. The new approach is based on an email of highlights and brief summaries and the full newsletter is available to read online.

The motivation for this change was to integrate the newsletter more fully with the website and extend the lifetime of the content. The French and Spanish editions continue to be distributed in a PDF format as well as being accessible online. This approach is designed to overcome any issues of limited internet access in some of our target areas, in particular West Africa where connectivity to the internet remains a challenge. Going forward we will be able to include visits to the newsletter section of the website as part of our website analytics.

The numbers of subscribers remain steady with 475 subscribers to the English language edition and 225 subscribers to the Spanish language edition. The mailing list for the French edition has recently been reviewed due to a large number of invalid email addresses. The number of subscribers to the French edition is now 75 individuals and organizations, primarily based in West Africa.

Engage is online here: [http://farmhub.textileexchange.org/newsletter](http://farmhub.textileexchange.org/newsletter)
Trading Post

Summary

This year we drew on the input and advice from suppliers to refine our online Trading Post. The Trading Post provides a place for organic cotton producers and traders to advertise their organic cotton products. In-conversion cotton and other cash crops, grown as part of the organic farm system, may also be listed here. Our Trading Post goes beyond the farm to support organic cotton yarn and textile businesses, including artisan and traditional textile specialists.

Growers and manufacturers of organic cotton can make a posting by simply downloading the product template and sending in the completed form to the Farm team.

Outputs & Impacts

Our Farm Hub Trading Post is now fully operational. We started off with 3 postings online (and a limited template). We now have 12 Producer Groups (representing close to 22,000 farmers), some with integrated manufacturing factories. Now that we have moved through the pilot phase and tested the template with members, we hope to raise the awareness of this tool even more, and encourage even greater use. Alongside the Trading Post we have 52 Producer Groups (representing over 39,000 farmers), displayed in our Find A Producer tool.

Table 3: Trading Post participation 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Countries</th>
<th>Number of PGs</th>
<th>Number of Farmers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>Burkina Faso, Mali, Tanzania</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9,669</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Asia</td>
<td>Kyrgyzstan</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>483</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Asia</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>&gt;19,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America</td>
<td>Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>661</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
<td>21,893</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: where you see the ‘more than’ sign this means some Producer Groups have not provided farmer numbers, therefore there will be more farmers than reflected here.

Organic – Fairtrade Africa

Summary

In November, Textile Exchange supported Fairtrade Africa in the delivery of a 2-day workshop in Dakar Senegal, to farmers from Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso, and Benin. The workshop focused on preventing GMO seed contamination, and aimed to generally build a closer network of FT/Organic farmers in West Africa to protect livelihoods, improve seed governance, and find ways to improve coexistence with their GMO cotton neighbors in Burkina Faso.

Outputs & Impacts

This meeting was the inaugural meeting with the objective to bring organic and Fairtrade farmers together. In collaboration with Fairtrade, Textile Exchange coordinated a workshop and training sessions for West African organic-Fairtrade cotton farmers, in part to discuss how seed governance could be realized.

Next steps are to find ways to generate the necessary funds and collaboration to hold capacity building workshops. Discussions are underway with TE, Fairtrade International, and FiBL in the West African region to jointly work to make this happen in 2013.

“More and more proof is coming in which confirms that the growth of yield - especially in India - is not due to GMO but due to improved agriculture and better seeds. The challenges for the organic sector - as the most promising way to reach sustainability - is the need for committed entrepreneurs to be able to come together and line up the needs of the market with this opportunity organic cotton presents.”

- Patrick Hohmann, Remei AG, Switzerland
The relationships we hold with others are vital to our work; including our understanding of global issues, trends, challenges, best practice, and bringing scale and scope to our initiatives.

Organizational Collaboration & Support

In 2012 we worked closely with a number of great organizations.

- **AgriLife** - Dr. Jane Dever provided advice and direction to our non-GMO seed task force.
- **CottonConnect** - supported our farm impact survey data collection in India and helped coordinate our Organic Cotton Round Table in Hong Kong.
- **Fairtrade International** - Brought Fairtrade Organic farmers to our conference in Hong Kong and helped run the event.
- **FiBL** - FiBL is one of our chief knowledge bases when it comes to organic production research and development particularly when it comes to seed, soil fertility, climate change, biodiversity, and other areas of science and innovation.
- **Helvetas** - TE and Helvetas share many common goals and ambitions. We work closely to align agendas, share information, and mutually reinforce our work.
- **IFOAM** - We continue to work closely with IFOAM as stakeholders in organic agriculture, research & development, and standards.
- **Soil Association UK** - TE supported the development of the Soil Association & GOTS “Cottoned On” campaign. The initiative and report “Have You Cottoned On Yet?” was launched in Hong Kong at our global conference.

Country-level Collaboration

We have regional offices which allow us to work directly in Africa, India, and Latin America. In order for us to reach organic cotton producers in other regions we work in collaboration with key local people and organizations, including the following:

- **China** - Yan Jia and Allen You, Ecocert
- **Egypt** - Matthias Keitel, Sekem
- **Israel** - Mali Shenitzer, Israeli Cotton Board
- **Kyrgyzstan** - Shaknoza Kurbanalieva, Helvetas
- **Syria** - Kees Maris, Mavideniz
- **Tajikistan** - Sherzod Abdurakhmanov, Helvetas
- **Turkey** - Atila Ertem, OTS
- **United States** - Angela Jagiello, Organic Trade Association

These relationships with colleagues and friends working hard within like-minded organizations, within our core ICCO regions, and cotton and textile organization from around the rest of the world are the life force of the farm engagement program at Textile Exchange.
Meetings

In 2012 Textile Exchange presented, facilitated, or actively attended many meetings, conferences, workshops, and other stakeholder events. Listed below in chronological order:

- **February** - Alfonso Lizarraga and Sandra Castañeda (TE Industry Engagement Director) hosted a meeting and workshop on textile sustainability in Lima during the Peru Expo.

- **March** - Fourth International Conference on the organic sector development in Central/Eastern Europe and Central Asian countries Textile Exchange curated the textile and cotton strand of the conference program. Hanna Denes presented at and moderated the workshop sessions on Cotton Production – organic and fair and Textile Product Chain Integrity.

- **April** - TE is a member of the Round Table for Organic Agriculture and Climate Change (RTOACC). The group met at the Organic Research Centre in Newbury UK in April.


- **September** - IFOAM Sustainability Camp - Liesl Truscott attended the IFOAM “sustainability camp” bringing together organic agriculture stakeholders to work together on the development of a broad sustainability agenda for IFOAM.

- **October** - Textile Exchange Annual Conference and Round Table, Hong Kong. 10 Year Anniversary. Presentation of Future Shapers awards.

- **October** - ICAC in collaboration with Helvetas ran a conference on cotton sustainability, Interlaken, Switzerland; attended by Liesl Truscott and Prabha Nagarajan. Prabha chaired a session on Tools and Platforms for Sustainability and Traceability.

- **November** - Cotton Futures Hanna Denes attended the Cotton Futures visioning event in Berlin organized by the Initiatives for Sustainable Cotton and moderated by Forum for the Future.

- **November** - Prabha Nagarajan participated in BioFach India.

- **December** - Shell Foundation Roundtable Liesl Truscott and Hanna Denes attended a Roundtable and a Roundtable Discussion on Sustainable Supply Chains – Opportunities & Challenges at the Shell Foundation.

- **Ongoing** - Sustainable Clothing Action Plan – UK Textile Exchange has supported the work of the UK Sustainable Clothing Action Plan by actively participating in the metrics working group.
The Farm Engagement team enjoys support and funding from the Dutch NGO - ICCO to run the farm program.

In 2012, Anvil Knitwear, a TE member company, sponsored the work of the farm team primarily in the development and production of our Inspiring Moments series, and contributing to website improvements, helping us improve farmer visibility via our Farm Hub.

At the end of 2012, we received funding which will enable TE and Chetna Organic to begin our Seed Guardian project in India.

There was some income/expense reclaim from sales, reports, and consultancy.

New funding opportunities are necessary to keep the work of the farm engagement program effective and financially sustainable.

Figure 3: Farm Engagement Program Income Sources 2012

- ICCO Farm Program: $290,255.65
- Seed Guardian Project Funding: $32,140.62
- Anvil sponsorship: $2,855.65
- Sales (T-shirts, calendars, etc): $4,710.14
- Consulting: $1,850.00
- Farm & Fiber Report: $25,000.00
In 2012 we applied for the following grants:

**Comic Relief**

An application for a knowledge exchange partnership project between East and West African organic cotton producer groups was submitted to the Comic Relief International fund. The partnership was made up of BioSustain, National Organic Agricultural Movement of Uganda (NOGAMU), OrganiMark and Organization Beninese pour la Promotion de l’Agriculture Biologique (OBEPAB). Unfortunately the application was not successful as the Comic Relief fund is heavily oversubscribed.

**Global Poverty Action Fund**

We submitted an expression of interest to the UK Department for International Development’s Global Poverty Action Fund under the Innovation Window for a project titled: “Improving seed, food and income security for 20,600 people (4120 households) in the Kalahandi district, India, by equipping women’s organic cotton co-ops to become ‘Seed Guardians’ in a global model.” The project was selected to proceed to full application. Unfortunately, after the full application had been made a change in the UK’s development policy with India was announced and applied to the Global Poverty Action fund making the project ineligible.

**New Farm Investment**

Support for a three year Seed Guardian Project in collaboration with Chetna Organic was secured from a Textile Exchange member. The Seed Guardian project is intended to equip women’s Self Help Group/organic co-operatives with the knowledge and tools they need to become more self-sufficient and secure in seed supply. Security of seed supply would reduce input costs thus improving income potential and livelihood, would improve income potential from cash crops and the production of nutritionally rich traditional food crops will improve the nutritional status of the communities.

**Funding - Forward Look**

Applications to a number of foundations are currently under development along with further sponsorship opportunities from brands and retailers to support the work and aims of the farm engagement program.
APPENDIX

SPOTLIGHT ON THE REGIONS

AFRICA

Quantitative Key Performance Indicator (QKPI), Senegal

The improvement of quantitative KPIs has continued and in Koussanar, Senegal, August 2012, trials have been made in the field with both organic and conventional cotton farmers’ groups.

The table below shows the example of two indicators compared between organic and conventional groups. The first indicator is the Household Coefficient of Dependency on Cotton (HCDC) that indicates the percentage of household income coming from cotton. The second is the Cotton Index of Living Conditions (CILC) that indicates how far cotton farmers are from the average Senegalese citizen. This indicator is the ratio between the per capita income of the household and the average per capita income of Senegal calculated each year by UNDP.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Conventional</th>
<th>Organic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HCDC (%)</td>
<td>11.08</td>
<td>7.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CILC</td>
<td>0.41</td>
<td>0.49</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The results reveal that the HCDC of conventional farmers is higher than the one of organic farmers. From this we can conclude that conventional farmers are more dependent on cotton than organic farmers. The crop diversification strategy of organic producer groups such as “YNW” contributes highly to this good result for organic.

In regards to the CICL, if a household has a CILC equal to one, that means that this household has the same living condition as the average Senegalese citizen. The figures in the table show that both conventional and organic growers are far below the average citizen. However, the living conditions of the organic farmer is slightly higher than the conventional farmer.

Research on comparing organic and conventional cotton production systems, Benin

This research is being undertaken by FiBL under their regional project “Syprobio.” Syprobio is a research project funded by the European Union with the objective to understand the differences of performance among cotton options in West Africa and to improve organic cotton production practices.

In this frame, many participatory research-development activities have been initiated to improve soil fertility and pest management techniques and to clarify the economic performance of organic and conventional cotton production systems. Silvere Tovignan, the TE regional director for Africa, is involved with many other institutions active in agricultural research in Benin. So far, a typology of farmers has been conducted; the data collection that started in September 2012 will finish in March 2013. The data exploitation will start in March and will be followed by writing reports and articles.
Governing cotton seed, West Africa

Seed is capital for any successful agricultural project. With the introduction of Genetically Modified Organisms, more opportunity needs to be given to farm groups to govern their own seed. In collaboration with Fairtrade, Textile Exchange coordinated a workshop and training sessions for West African organic-Fairtrade cotton farmers, in part to discuss how seed governance could be realized. Next steps are to find ways to generate the necessary funds and collaboration to hold capacity building workshops. Discussions are underway with TE, FLO and FiBL in the West African region to jointly work to make this happen in 2013.

Following the EOA initiative in Benin

Through AfroNet, the African Organic Network created in Lusaka last year, the African Union Commission is leading a program aiming to mainstream Ecological Organic Agriculture in the agricultural policies of its member countries. In West Africa, a planning meeting was held in August 2012, in Senegal. The regional representation of TE is actively involved in these positive evolutions. A blueprint is being developed in Nigeria, Benin and in Mali. When these initiatives reach their full implementation state, there will be official regulations for the promotion of organic cotton.

Scientific article on production cost of cotton options, Benin

During 2011, TE collected data in Benin to compare the production cost of cotton options (Organic, CmiA and conventional). These data have been used during 2012 to write a scientific article for publication. Currently, this article is in the final stage of reading and review, preparing for its submission to a scientific journal.
INDIA

Policy and Advocacy – New Indian Organic Textile Standard

Prabha Nagarajan, the Textile Exchange regional director for India, engaged in the introduction of the new Indian Organic Textile Standard, an initiative of APEDA or the Agricultural Produce Export Development Authority under the Ministry of Commerce. Despite the fact that this could pose a conflict of interest for the prevalent OE standards (now Organic Content Standard) and the GOTS standards, we felt there was a benefit in being in the know with reference to the Government of India’s plans for these standards and being able to influence key aspects such as the social factors. APEDA has claimed that it would be useful to have a Government owned standard in order to have full traceability from farm to finished product covered under the NPOP. Stakeholders also hope the Standard will better support domestic markets. It is expected that the Standard will be made mandatory by mid-2013.

Seed Issues – Awareness Raising and Key Linkages

In India, TE has remained in the forefront of focusing on the crisis of the unavailability of non-GMO seeds for organic production since 2009. With the Bt acreage in India having grown from 0.29 lakh hectares (290 ha) in 2002 to 95.04 lakh hectares (95,040 ha) in 2011, now representing over 90 percent of the total acreage, both private and public sector seed suppliers have been focusing only on Bt Hybrid production, leading to a scenario where producer groups of organic are unable to source non-GMO seed commercially.

The efforts for raising awareness of the problem with the Government of India continue. In addition we endeavor to: encourage producer groups to develop programs grow their own seed, create linkages between them, and also to raise awareness further up the supply chain – finding TE members to support key groups with funding.

TE also has a draft plan for using the learnings from India to create awareness and resolutions in other parts of the world for producer groups who are increasingly facing seed shortages and dwindling access to seed of adequate quality.

Integrity Watch

TE in India plays an active role in highlighting integrity issues. We have made APEDA aware of the seed shortage and tried to build in checks to monitor seed sources in a better way through the organic certification process. We continue to create awareness of the criticality of growing organic cotton with integrity, at every possible chance.

The Certifying Bodies (CB) Forum formation has been delayed but is well on the way to being formed, and we hope to have a role to play. We have also kept track of new developments such as Tracenet, and how it is progressing.
ICAC Sustainability Conference

As always this year saw us engaging in mainstream cotton events as well as those focused on organic production. ICAC held a Plenary on Cotton and Sustainability in Interlaken which was attended by us, and we actively participated, making mainstream players understand the business of organic cotton. We also learnt that despite differences in approach and value systems, it was important that all segments of the cotton industry understand and appreciate each other and attempt synergies, especially in the face of threats to cotton from synthetic fibres, which also posed grave environmental and livelihood threats to farmers globally.

BioFach India

TE participated in BioFach India. Exhibitors and visitors of BioFach India together with India Organic experienced the Indian organic product market in all its facets. For the 4th time BioFach India together with India Organic became the Indian meeting place for the organic sector. The event brought together 7,421 trade visitors.
Mexico initiative

Textile Exchange regional director, Alfonzo Lizarraga, provided support to Espintex, a yarn company located in Puebla State. Espintex produces conventional cotton thread, and one year ago launched a program to produce organic cotton thread. In 2011, they imported a container of organic cotton of from Aratex (Paraguay). This fiber is used to produce organic yarn for their client, Vertical Knits, who makes clothes for export. Both, Vertical Knits and Espintex, are motivated to generate a cluster of organic cotton in Mexico, and have identified Torreon city (Coahuila state) as an interesting location for organic cotton production. This mission helped to identify the characteristics of conventional cotton production in “Las Lagunas”, the potential for implementing organic cotton and delivered training to approximately 25 people involved primarily in cotton production, research and extension work.

Knowledge Exchange

A meeting and training event was held in Lima. The Lima meeting was hosted by Textile Exchange Europe and the Latin America office. The meeting was attended by major Peruvian organic cotton companies (Bergman Rivera, Ecotton, New Expo and Oro Blanco) and a mix of different countries (Chile, Argentina, Italia, Ukraine, USA). The meeting covered global trends, the international context of organic cotton, sustainability in textiles, and certification.

Organic Silk Farm Visit

The regional office of Textile Exchange in Latin America hosted visitors from CORSEDA (Corporation for Development of Sericulture of Cauca) to Peru. CORSEDA is an organization of 200 farming families and artisans working with cocoon silk from the Cauca valley in Colombia. Their activity is based on organic mulberry production, mass rearing of silkworm, cocoon production and yarn and woven fabric production. The work with CORSEDA identified the benefits of organic production and GOTS certification; and identified strengths, advantages, and weaknesses of organic farms. The farmers suggested activities and strategies to be implemented on their farms. The exchange experience was also very interesting for local Peruvian organic cotton farmers.

Research Activities

Research activities during the year in Peru included providing support and guidance to two farm projects about biodiversity and biological pest control focusing on the monitoring of lady bugs (Col.: Coccinellidae) and predator (Col.: Carabidae). This was carried out in collaboration with Frederico Villareal University. In addition, support was provided for the research of market opportunities for organic cotton export, specific to Germany, at Ricardo Palma University.

Patagonia Environmental Internship

Each year Patagonia offers staff the opportunity to take an internship focusing on the environment. An employee from the retail company Patagonia visited the TE regional office and visited three organic cotton farm groups in Peru.
Textile Exchange inspires and equips people to accelerate sustainable practices in the textile value chain. We focus on minimizing the harmful impacts and maximizing the positive effects of the global textile industry. Our signature program focuses on organic cotton value chains; improving lives for farmers, stimulating markets, and supporting best practice.

Website: farmhub.textileexchange.org/

Designed by Evonne Tan

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