Only this dream of mine
To see this wonderful world more beautiful
Let me kindle the light to motivate others
To make this world more blissful

We are born in this land
Let us save it from pollution
Our land feeds us food
Grow only food full of nutrition

Let every farmer understand
Never to use chemicals in his field
To keep its fertility intact
Let them grow only organic yield

When Organic fruits blossom
Everyone would be healthy
To be free from any disease
Have hygienic food not filthy

If the land becomes green everywhere
Then life would be more joyful
We would overcome global warming
And my dream would be successful

Let me spread a campaign among all
To make tomorrow safe overall

Only this dream of mine
To see this wonderful world more beautiful
Let me kindle the light to motivate others
To make this world more blissful
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About Farm Engagement

Our Purpose

The purpose of our Farm Engagement work is to catalyze the growth of more sustainable fiber in textile production and markets, and to advocate organic as the preferred strategy.

Our Aim

Our aim is to help organic cotton producers build business capacity and to gain access to sustainable textile and apparel markets. TE aims to link our large network of brands, retailers and manufacturers seeking organic cotton to our large organic cotton producer base.

Our Objectives

Inform

- **Raise Awareness** of organic agriculture and the contribution it makes to ecosystems and livelihoods.
- **Build Visibility** of the benefits of organic by showcasing examples of leadership, innovation, best practices, and by sharing farmers’ stories.

Connect

- **Create Value Chain Partnerships** to improve communication from farmer to retailer, and build more secure ways to manage supply and demand, more responsible trade, and shared value.
- **Convene Industry Partners** to collaborate pre-competitively to tackle issues, find solutions, and increase the scale and impact of organic agriculture. This will make it easier for the industry to adapt to changing opportunities and requirements in textile sustainability.

Lead

- **Research, Assess and Report** on organic fiber production, impact on sustainability and industry trends.
- **Support Innovation and Technology** that is informed by current and emerging sustainability concerns such as energy, land use, water and food security.
The Team

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Leaving A Legacy

“Without continual growth and progress, such words as improvement, achievement, and success have no meaning.”  - Benjamin Franklin

On behalf of Textile Exchange I would like to take this opportunity to warmly thank ICCO for their support, partnership, and trust in us over the past eight years. During this time we have seen organic cotton production expand by 456%, with more brands, retailers, and consumers recognising the positive impact of organic farming, and as a result increase their demand for organic products.

Textile Exchange (formerly Organic Exchange) started life in 2002 – set up as a charity working internationally to improve the markets for sustainable textiles. The Farm Development Program (FDP) commenced in 2006 with the generous funding and support of strategic partners the Dutch development organisation - ICCO. The goals of the FDP were to build a network of organic cotton farmers globally, support the growth of organic cotton production and facilitate the market. After five years in development our role evolved into a focus on “engagement”. We recognised our strongest and most effective role for the organic cotton sector was to raise visibility and connect producers to the market.

When we set out we held a vision of farmers working within well-organized and well-informed producer groups, enjoying access to stable and rewarding value chains, and securing access to healthy and nutritious food by means of crop diversification and better incomes. We continue to see organic agriculture as the vehicle for delivering this vision and the work ICCO has funded has helped put that vision within reach.

Poverty and social inequality are huge and complex problems. Finding an answer is not simple. But by producing cotton organically the product is valued more than an anonymous commodity and individual producer groups have an opportunity to be engaged in the market.

The work of TE helps promote a more sustainable mode of production, especially for small scale farmers, within an industry that suffers wide ranging problems the world over. Our approach to business support ultimately benefits all players (farmers, processors, retailers and consumers) and is our contribution to a more sustainable world for all.

There is still more to do. But together with ICCO, improvement, achievement and success has come from our continual growth and progress – a journey that will continue!

Sincerely,

LaRhea Pepper
Managing Director
Textile Exchange
2013 At A Glance

The focus of 2013 has been to strengthen Farm Engagement’s position as a key connector and leader in organic cotton. A large part of this work has been accomplished through the Organic Cotton Round Table and its task forces on Seed Security, Business/Investment Models (Matching Supply and Demand), and Communicating the Benefits of Organic Cotton to Consumers.

The first phase of a Multi-Stakeholder Review, focusing on successful brand and retail strategies in organic cotton, has been completed and the results shared during the Organic Cotton Round Table pre-conference meeting in Istanbul in November. In 2014, the review will follow a similar process with producers and suppliers. Our ambition is to facilitate inclusive, “healthy” and “sustainable” organic cotton value chains that meet the needs of all.

Textile Exchange has come together with a small group of experts to establish the Organic Cotton Seed Advisory Team to help guide the OC Seed Task Force. The objective of the task force is to support the availability of seed suitable for organic cotton agriculture. We continue to raise awareness of the urgency to improve breeding and dissemination of good quality seed, and invest in smallholder seed security. This year the seed projects resulting from our collaborative work with Inditex, Chetna Organic (India), and Mecilla were showcased at the Seed Task Force Meeting in Istanbul.

This year we launched our first Collaborative Learning Series. The purpose of this series of webinars and learning packages was to raise awareness of sourcing issues and opportunities right back to the farm. We called on world experts to help guide our learning process.

This year, along with our annual Farm & Fiber Report, we produced the first of our new series of Regional Sourcing Guides. We plan to create a new guide each year focusing on different producer regions. This year our regional focus was Turkey.

For a second year in a row, we supported World Environment Day – the United Nation’s annual event aimed at being the biggest and most widely celebrated global day for positive environmental action. The theme for 2013 was: THINK EAT SAVE.

We continue to provide high quality, visually engaging material on our Farm Hub as the “place and space” for organic cotton. We work hard to ensure that the visibility of organic cotton, particularly at the farm level, is central to what Textile Exchange does.

In partnership with Helvetas, Textile Exchange engages the organic cotton sector through dialogue via the Global Organic Cotton Community Platform. This year the range of topics included the challenges of genetic modification of seed through to marketing and trade.

Textile Exchange remained active in our Regional Outreach and Support, particularly in Africa, India, and Latin America. All key Textile Exchange reports were sent out to our organic cotton growing community. We continued with our Engage newsletter in 2013 – published in Spanish, French, and English.

We have started work on a Life Cycle Assessment for Organic Cotton Cultivation (LCA) in partnership with LCA experts PE International, and the support from a number of our members. In addition, we are finalizing an Organic Cotton Sustainability Assessment for the purpose of bringing comprehensive, credible, and comparative data to light. Results for both projects will be launched in early 2014.
Our Impact

Activity: Inform

Farm & Fiber Report
- Executive Summary
- Comprehensive Report
- Highlights Webinar
- Members Webinar

Regional Sourcing Guide Series – Vol 1: Turkey
- Turkey Sourcing Guide distributed to all conference attendees
- Electronic version available online to all TE members

Farm Hub
- New webpages for 2013:
  - CLS – 6 topics
  - WED – awareness/highlights
  - OC Round Table
- New stories & blogs for 2013:
  - 68 stories on “Latest News”
  - 9 new blogs

Output

Impact

- 898 reports downloaded
- 69 attended webinars

- 310+ conference attendees received copy of Guide
- Approx. 20,100 site visits
- Peak visiting during June, when over 2,600 visitors linked to our World Environment Day pages
- 522 blog followers

Images: (Left) OC Round Table, Istanbul; (Centre) Appachi Producer Group meeting, India; (Right) Demonstration of farm practices, ADEC, Brazil.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity: Connect</th>
<th>Output</th>
<th>Impact</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TE Conference</td>
<td>• Organic Cotton Keynote (C&amp;A)</td>
<td>• 17 organic cotton producers attended conference</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>• FE Director Presentation</td>
<td>• 12 attendees at Turkish OC stakeholder meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• 2 OC Workshops</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Organic Cotton Round Table</td>
<td>• Business Models Task Force meeting and next steps highlights report</td>
<td>• 103 OC stakeholders attended Round Table meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Seed Task Force meeting highlights and next steps report</td>
<td>• 20 brands signed up to “Chetco” coalition trading scheme pilot for 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Open Forum Consumer Engagement meeting highlights and next steps report</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Organic Cotton Community Platform</td>
<td>• 6 discussion threads – involving online dialogue and topic summaries</td>
<td>• 767 community members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industry Support &amp; Advocacy</td>
<td>• Train-the-Trainer workshop for organic cotton field staff in Burkina Faso</td>
<td>• 40 field staff in Burkina Faso trained in mediation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Stakeholders meet to develop regional strategy for Peru</td>
<td>• Stakeholders to form knowledge sharing platform in Peru</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Student placement – Peru</td>
<td>• 587 Engage subscribers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Environment Day – THINK EAT SAVE campaign</td>
<td>• Participation in UN World Environment Day Learning activity for 12 schools and hundreds of students worldwide</td>
<td>• Collaboration between 12 TE member companies, 12 Producer Groups and 12 Schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Display of artwork on TE website and Pinterest</td>
<td>• Awareness raising and connection to issues of food security and biodiversity from farming community to consumer</td>
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<tr>
<th>Activity: Lead</th>
<th>Output</th>
<th>Impact</th>
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<tr>
<td>Collaborative Learning Series</td>
<td>• 6 CLS Webinars</td>
<td>• 118 attended webinar series &amp; downloaded learning material</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• 6 Topic Summaries</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• 6 Graphic Recordings (displayed at TE conference)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Multi-Stakeholder Review</td>
<td>• Insight and analysis of OC business success factors and challenges</td>
<td>• Knowledge sharing between 20 TE member brands</td>
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<tr>
<td>Collaborative Initiatives on Cotton Seed</td>
<td>• 2 seed projects initiated in India and China</td>
<td>• 1st year of seed projects completed – goals on track</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Expert seed advisory team formed</td>
<td>• Seed Task Force meeting attended by 43 stakeholders</td>
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<tr>
<td>Impact Measurement &amp; Assessment</td>
<td>• Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) approved and funds raised</td>
<td>• LCA Project confirmed – kick off meeting in March 2014</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Impact Assessment global survey and data collection completed and analyzed</td>
<td>• Impact Assessment reporting tool to be launched in Spring 2014</td>
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Annual Highlights
This year’s Farm & Fiber report, continued to provide unique data, trends and analysis of organic cotton production.

As with last year’s report we included annual snapshots of other cotton sustainability initiatives, including the Better Cotton Initiative, Fairtrade, Cotton made in Africa, Cleaner Cotton™, and Bayer’s e³™ program in order to give you the most comprehensive perspective on sustainability in cotton agriculture.

Our reports provide unique data, trends & analysis of organic cotton production, including snapshots of other cotton initiatives.

Key Findings

Global Production Stabilizing
From 2006 to 2010, there were four years of rapid growth in organic. After last year’s significant drop, this year’s relative parity brings some relief. While the challenges of the current business model and seed security for many farmers is far from resolved, progress is being made, e.g. some regions are forecasting growth or developing new projects. Furthermore, new value chain models and seed programs are starting to provide fresh solutions.

India Remains Biggest Producer
India remains the biggest producer for five years running. It experienced a one percent increase in production, and expanded from 102,452 mt to 103,004 mt fiber this year.

Africa Achieves Record Growth
Biggest growth this year was from Africa (103 percent growth over last year), and most dramatically from Tanzania (153 percent). In part due to favorable rains, Tanzania’s production leapt from 2,723 mt fiber to 6,891 mt on similar land area.
Turkish Farmers Respond To Markets
Farmers in Turkey increased the area under organic cotton significantly this year in response to good market prices. Production grew by 64 percent from 9,613 mt fiber to 15,802 mt.

Nicaragua Increases By 190 Percent
Nicaragua grows a relatively small amount of organic compared to other countries; however, that does not underplay the hard work of producer group, COPROEXNIC, who grew 122 mt of organic fiber up from 42 mt the year before, a 190 percent increase.

USA Production Hurt By Record Drought
In the USA, Texas organic cotton farmers (among others) suffered severe drought. Despite an increase in planting by 36 percent the actual area harvested plunged — with nearly two thirds of the planted crop abandoned to drought. As a result the USA saw a 45 percent reduction in the overall harvest from 2,893 mt fiber to 1,580.

Syria Civil Unrest A Barrier To Export
The second biggest producer of organic cotton, Syria, was not included in this year’s production figures. Syria grew 16,000 mt of organic fiber for the world last year. If production levels had remained the same this year the global total would have been in the region of 155,000 mt of fiber, representing a two percent growth on last year. However, due to civil unrest we have no clear understanding of production, except to say farmers are committed to their farms and certification has been frozen. We hope to welcome Syria back to the organic cotton market soon.
We publish a new guide each year focusing on different producer regions. This year the focus was Turkey.

Textile Exchange has completed the first of our new series of regional sourcing guides. We plan to publish a new guide each year focusing on different producer regions.

Each new guide will be launched at our annual conference. This year we had a perfect match – with the regional focus being Turkey and our conference location in Istanbul, we launched the Organic Cotton Sourcing Guide: Turkey. Next year, our second guide will most likely be focused on The Americas and will be launched at our conference in Portland, USA.

The Guide Aims To:

- Help with the basics – an “Organic Cotton 101.” Many of our members felt there was a need in the industry for more information on how to get started in organic and how to go about sourcing responsibly.

- Provide an introduction to Turkish organic – the Guide contains specific information on Turkey as an organic cotton sourcing country; where it’s grown, manufactured and some of the people involved.

The Regional Guides Are Designed To:

- Support our producer and manufacturer members by providing visibility and support for their investments in sustainability.

- Assist our member brands and retailers to source more sustainable materials and products.

- Act as an educational tool by providing basic information on organic cotton, and on responsible sourcing.

- Add membership value and help encourage more companies in the value chain (producers, manufacturers) to become members of Textile Exchange.

- Signpost to relevant resources across the Textile Exchange platforms (Integrity, Knowledge Center, Membership, and Farm Engagement).
Our Farm Hub website ensures the visibility of organic cotton.

We continue to provide high quality, visually engaging material on our Farm Hub as the “place and space” for organic cotton. We work hard to ensure that the visibility of organic cotton, particularly at the farm level, is central to what Textile Exchange does.

The average monthly number of visitors to the Farm Hub has remained a fairly steady average of 1500 visits for most months. As noted in previous years, particular campaigns led to increases in visitor numbers. This was clearly evident in 2013 when the World Environment Day THINK EAT SAVE campaign attracted over 2,600 visitors to the website.

During 2013, the Find a Producer section of the site was most visited followed closely by the Learning Zone and the Farm Library. The online content for the Collaborative Learning series also received a significant amount of traffic.

The visitor demographics show an increase in the geographical spread of visitors. The USA still retains the number one position for number of visitors but this is followed very closely by India (this has been a large area of growth). The UK audience has also grown significantly over the course of the year.

For articles from 2013 and before please refer to Farm Hub News Archive.
Our Annual Conference was held in Istanbul, Turkey in November. The conference covered a wide range of textile sustainability issues, including raw materials production and supply chain management. Experiences in organic cotton production, and practices within organic cotton value chains, provided examples of best practice for the industry. There are, of course, also challenges for the organic community and the conference provided the opportunity to explore a full range of topics and issues.

**Organic Highlights**

**Plenary**

Phillip Chamberlain, Sustainability Director of C&A, gave an inspiring keynote speech. Phil talked about the C&A organic cotton journey, the expansion of their organic cotton program, and their many achievements at both the farm gate and the retail door. C&A is now, proudly, the world’s biggest users of organic cotton and the company leads the way in supply chain development.

**Breakouts**

**Barriers To Growth:** This highly collaborative session allowed participants and representatives from the cotton growing community, including Organic farmers, Fairtrade, Cotton made in Africa (CmiA), Better Cotton Initiative (BCI), Bayer’s e3, and CottonConnect REEL, to explore issues and to start developing solutions for increasing the scope and scale for more sustainable cotton.

A key barrier noted across the majority of initiatives was the disconnect between supply and demand, and low uptake at the retail level. A range of solutions was explored, ranging from brands buying cotton instead of garments through to further developing the evidence base. As highlighted in the Organic Cotton Round Table, coherent sustainability messaging was seen as a key issue. (Highlights from the Round Table can be found here).

**Cotton Sustainability Strategy For Turkey:** Leaders in cotton, sustainability, and organic agriculture formed a lively panel to discuss the future of cotton in Turkey. The energetic discussion was steered by Alison Ward, the new CEO of CottonConnect.

Turkey is one of the global pioneers in cotton sustainability, being the first to introduce “Good Agricultural Practices” at the farm level and fully certified organic cotton value chains.

The panel shared their views on the strategic development of organic agricultural clusters in the southeast of Turkey (led by the GAP Regional Development Authority and UNDP). Organic cotton is positioned as a tool for socio-economic as well as environmentally sound development. Alongside organic in Turkey is the recent arrival of the Better Cotton Initiative. One of the over-riding conclusions was the huge opportunity for collaboration. Efficiencies in training and capacity building were put forward as suggested win-wins, as was the opportunity for BCI to support the transition of conventional farmers to organic.
The Organic Cotton Round Table was founded in 2012 to create a platform to discuss the key barriers to growth faced by the sector. A critical role for the Round Table is to identify ways forward for sustainable change and for the benefit of all stakeholders. The meeting comprised of two task force meetings and an open forum activity.

**Task Force 1: Business Models**

The emphasis of this meeting was on the need for reinvigorating the business investment model for organic cotton. Although the organic cotton sector experienced tremendous growth in the period 2002 ($240 million) to 2010 ($5.16 billion), the sector has stalled in more recent years. According to Textile Exchange research, textile retailers and brands report plans to grow their organic cotton products by more than 30 percent over the coming years. This, however, does not seem to be getting through to the supply side where production is falling. In preparation for the Task Force Meeting, Textile Exchange initiated further research into current sourcing practices and challenges to understand the key root causes for this disconnect. The findings were presented at the meeting and formed the basis for discussing more sustainable approaches to organic cotton trade and sourcing amongst retailers and brands. (See next section on the Multi-Stakeholder Review). Download our Business Models Task Force Meeting highlights.

**Task Force 2: Seed Supply**

The Seed Task Force Meeting brought together industry stakeholders with significant expertise, experience and interest in this topic. The increasing scarcity of high-quality, non-GMO seed poses an ever growing threat to organic and Fairtrade cotton farmers, integrity, and certification. The session was a chance for stakeholders from producer groups, manufacturers, NGOs, seed experts and breeders and representatives from other cotton initiatives to discuss the need for immediate action and investment in non-GMO cotton seed and supportive policy. This is particularly true in India where the need is urgent. Download the Seed Task Force Meeting Portfolio & Program and highlights.

**Seed Task Force Meeting Sponsors**

We are grateful to Pratibha Syntex, FiBL, and Bayer CropScience for sponsoring the Seed Task Force Meeting. These funds helped us to hold a truly representative meeting by enabling us to support some travel costs.
Open Forum – Consumer Engagement


The Round Table Open Forum was arranged to further progress our exploration of consumer engagement. During the event, we heard stories and statistics from industry representatives on successful consumer engagement projects and campaigns.

The Open Forum was chaired by Nicole Bassett from prAna. Harriet Lamb from Fairtrade International gave an inspiring opening speech, followed by a panel discussion with Vijayalakshmi Nachia (Ethicus), Phil Chamberlain (C&A), Kristie Cameron and Anne Gilligan (Eileen Fisher), Sarah Compton (Soil Association) and Stefan Dierks (Tchibo Germany).

Download our Consumer Engagement briefing and meeting highlights.
Our Round Table was sponsored by the GAP Regional Development Administration (GAP RDA) of Turkey. The GAP RDA works in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to help accelerate development that is both sustainable and economically competitive in the Southeastern Anatolia region. There is a special focus on organic agriculture.

Our partnership with Fairtrade International continued to thrive in 2013. Organic and Fairtrade initiatives share very similar values, and many grower groups in developing countries (and brands/retailers) choose to be both organic and Fairtrade certified. We also share some of the challenges and barriers to growth such as securing farmers access to non-GMO seed, and finding mutually beneficial ways for producers and brands/retailers to work together in a way that provides positive environmental impacts, long-term security for farmers, and opportunities for farming communities to flourish.

Images: (Top) Hanna Denes and Simon Copper at the Consumer Engagement Open Forum; (Middle) Dhwal Mane, Pratibha, and Arvind Rewal, CottonConnect at the Seed Taskforce Meeting; (Bottom) Sadrettin Karahocagil, President of GAP RDA, Turkey and Liesl Truscott at the OC Round Table.
Industry Support & Advocacy

We work closely with farmers around the world; providing training and on-the-ground support through to market connections.

Textile Exchange remained active in Africa, India, and Latin America. Activities ranged from advocacy, on-the-ground support and advice through to providing farmer visibility via our website and connecting growers to the marketplace. All key Textile Exchange reports, such as our Farm & Fiber and Market Report are sent out to our organic cotton growing community. We continued with our Engage newsletter in 2013 – published in Spanish, French, and English and sent to our mailing list of 587 subscribers (Spanish - 230, French - 75, and English - 482).

In addition to working with the Textile Exchange networks, we also connect with the wider organic agriculture and textile sustainability community through active participation in a number of networks and working group. These include:

**Soil Association Textile Standards & Trade Committee**
We sit on the committee of the TSTC. The TSTC plays an active role in contributing to the development of the Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS) for the Soil Association. The Soil Association are quarter owner of GOTS. The committee also assists in the development of the Soil Association’s textile strategy.

**Sustainable Clothing Action Plan**
SCAP’s ambition is to improve the sustainability of clothing across its lifecycle in the UK. By bringing together industry, government and the third sector we aim to reduce resource use and secure recognition for corporate performance by developing sector-wide targets. Textile Exchange participated in the Metrics Working Group of the Sustainable Clothing Action Plan and provided organic cotton cultivation data for the SCAP tool.

**Sustainable Fashion Academy**
Textile Exchange sits on the Advisory Board of the Global Leadership Award in Sustainable Apparel, supporting the 2014 programme. GLASA was launched in 2013 to inspire bold and courageous leadership in the apparel sector and to mobilize key stakeholders around promising ideas or practices that can significantly increase the sustainability performance of the apparel industry.

**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.

**The Round Table on Organic Agriculture and Climate Change**
Textile Exchange is a member of the RTOACC. It was founded on December 16, 2009 in Copenhagen, at the United Nations Climate Change Conference. Focus has been on research on carbon sequestration and emission reduction, climate change adaption, and incentivising carbon “smart” organic agriculture. The activities of the Round Table are supported by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and FiBL.
Africa

Training on community dialogue
The coexistence of organic and GMO cotton in Burkina Faso has led to new challenges for organic farmers such as: contamination of seed, withdrawal of organic from the more productive zones, violation of a buffer zone by GMO neighbors, and a loss of organic certification, and can result in conflict between farmers. Field agents have a role to play in mediation. Textile Exchange and the regional representative of Fairtrade International organized a Train-the-Trainer workshop aimed at strengthening the mediation capacity of the staff of the UNPCB. Training for over 40 people was held in Bobo-Dioulasso in November: The training was highly appreciated by the UNPCB and its field staff who recognized the existence of conflict in many communities and wanted to do something about it. In African tradition, dialogue and setting rules is a well-accepted way to address social problems.

Addressing the purity of organic cotton seed in Burkina Faso
A ready supply of pure non-GMO seed for organic cotton agriculture has become a challenge in Burkina Faso. TE has assessed the non-GMO seed strategy developed by UNPCB. UNPCB has developed a very ambitious plan of having an independent seed farm in remote areas free of GMO. Funding is being sought for this project.

Capacity building in West Africa
A concept note on capacity building in West Africa has been written based on a Needs Assessment developed in consultation with the main organic cotton stakeholders. The aim is to guide the establishment of future projects and programs by taking into account the priorities of actors involved in organic cotton and the textile value chain in West Africa.

Assisting in the organization of the 3rd West African Organic Conference
The next conference on organic agriculture will be held in Benin in August 2014. The TE regional director has supported the preliminary work (writing the announcement, drafting a budget, mobilizing actors and donors, etc.). Activities will continue in 2014 leading up to the conference.
India

Policy And Advocacy
TE continues to be the most reliable and trusted voice of the organic cotton sector in India, on account of our positioning as a neutral body serving the interests of the organic cotton community. TE plays a leading role in supporting integrity in the production and supply of organic cotton. Unfortunately, the formation of the planned Certification Board encountered serious road blocks.

The Government of India initiatives through APEDA, such as the proposed Indian Organic Textile Standards, in which Textile Exchange was involved, were expected to have been implemented in 2013, but will probably be fully approved in early 2014. The Government of India expects that the introduction will give them better control and offer full traceability of fiber from the farm through to the mill, thereby improving the integrity of organic cotton of Indian origin. The standards will also support domestic market initiatives which are slowly but surely starting to grow.

There was no progress reported in fund allocation for the 12th Plan as recommended by the Sub Committee for Organic Cotton, of which TE was a member. The recommendations cover vast areas of operation, ranging from funds for non-GMO seed research and production to marketing support and the creation of domestic markets. It will hopefully see some light in 2014.

Corporate Social Responsibility
In 2013, India became the first country in the world to make CSR compulsory through a statutory provision in the Companies Act. With the new law, companies reporting more than 5 crores (approximately 798 million USD) in profits in the last three years have to compulsorily spend two percent of these profits towards CSR, with freedom to choose their areas. This opens up big opportunities for the organic cotton farming sector, especially those associated with the larger mills. Textile Exchange can play a valuable role here.

Images: (Top) Arun Ambatipudi, Chetna Organic, on location at the cotton market; (Bottom) Spokesperson for Appachi Eco-Logic addresses the crowd.
Seed Issues

The non-GMO seed availability issue continued to pose a huge challenge in 2013 and emerged as the single biggest challenge for producers in India. While the situation is not unique to India the significant percentage (74 percent in 2011-12) that India contributes to the global organic cotton market calls for urgent intervention at various levels; from individual small growers looking to be self sufficient to large farm groups ensuring continuity and reliability in operations.

TE continued to network with government agencies, research institutes, and producer groups in the interest of improving the seed situation. TE also links producer groups, brands and other stakeholders to this key issue. At the Organic Cotton Round Table in Istanbul, there was the opportunity to communicate Indian policy and research initiatives, as well as the learnings, to other countries.

Systems Approach

2013 increasingly proved that projects needed to adopt a systems approach to cotton; supporting farmers in growing and selling food and oil seeds from rotation and intercrops. This demands additional resources in regards to quality seeds, cropping strategies, maintaining integrity for the food as well as the fiber and most importantly market support. There were good domestic markets for food crops in 2013 and emerging opportunities for crops such as soya. There is an urgent need for knowledge support and economic capital in order to maintain a good supply of organic cotton grown with integrity from India. There is a call for Textile Exchange to support work in this area as well as to organize an India regional meeting to revitalize the sector.
**Latin America**

In June, Liesl Truscott, Director of Farm Engagement, visited Peru and met with key organic cotton experts. Regional director Alfonso Lizarra and Liesl visited a number of farms and factories (including Bergman Rivera, New Expo, and Oro Blanco). The objective of the visit was to identify ways Textile Exchange can further support the region, and in collaboration with Peruvian organic cotton growers and textile leaders, develop a regional strategy.

Textile Exchange was fortunate to have Alice dos Santos, a student from Van Hall Larenstein, The Netherlands, base her internship at our Latin America office in Lima. Alice was a brilliant self-starter and ended up supporting us in so many ways! Including data analysis for our impact assessment. Alice also progressed our understanding of seed issues in the region and helped co-ordinate our seed task force meeting at our Round table in Istanbul. Below is an excerpt from Alice’s diary...

> I have lived the everyday life of an intern in the Farm Engagement Team for more than 16 weeks now. Time is running fast. From Lima, I dived into understanding the organic cotton value chain while helping Liesl and Hanna to write the Farm & Fiber Report. I got closer to the producer groups with the World Environment Day and have been amazed to see how genius the children can be at talking about heavy issues such as food safety in such an uplifting way. But the highlight of my intern adventure so far has been my week in Piura. For the first time in my life I met cotton producers, visited cotton fields and assisted in the transformation of the cotton fiber into yarn. After spending one day in the factory, I explored the farms for two and a half days. The Bajo Pura and its colorful, beautiful and fascinating landscape marked my mind forever. In the paths, we crossed mototaxis and carts pulled by donkeys or horses. In all the hamlets, there were bright posters promoting the village celebration as well as football pitches.

To meet farmers taught me a tremendous amount about Peruvian culture. In Piura, environmental practices are slowly entering the farmers’ habits but are not yet of the same importance as social progress. I realized that in such an environment, sustainability and organic agriculture are not seen as priorities for social progress. Making the farmers aware that sustainable practice goes far beyond a simple European whim but is of great importance for the long term future, appeared to be a very tough task. I now understand more than ever that in business it is of first importance to understand cultural context and that a vision is not always directly transposable and a perfect fit with the people.

Besides my enriching time at work I found some free times for tourism. I travelled to the South to Arequipa and the Titicaca Lake, I headed to the mountain to Cusco, the Sacred Valley and to the Machu Picchu and experienced the tropical forest in the center of the country visiting a coffee farm with Alfonso and his students.

As the days go on I realize more how rich Peru is in its diversity of nature and its people. I still have five more weeks here but my not-so-distant departure from this precious country will be heart breaking...
Images: Stakeholder meetings and site visits: (Left-Top) Oscar Mallqui, Oro Blanco, during visit to the ginnery, Chinchas Valley; (Left-Bottom) Javier Otoya, with mother Elsa, at their CMT facility; (Right) TE’s Alfonso Lizzeraga with Bergman Rivera’s Orlando Rivera.
What is World Environment Day?

The United Nation’s World Environment Day is an annual event that is aimed at being the biggest and most widely celebrated global day for positive environmental action. The World Environment Day celebration began in 1972 and has grown to become one of the main vehicles through which the United Nations stimulates worldwide awareness of the environment. This year the theme was THINK EAT SAVE. The awareness raising culminates on the 5th of June each year.

Linking With The Theme

We worked with the WED theme this year of THINK EAT SAVE to promote food security and nutrition in rural communities. We did this by raising school children’s awareness of the traditional food crops grown alongside cotton. These are nutritious edibles such as sorghum, millet, chickpeas, mubovora (pumpkin) and paddy. Some of these crops have been around a long time but are at risk of disappearing. They are important for the biodiversity of our food system, adaptation to climate change, as well as, for our nutritional needs.

We worked with the World Environment Day theme THINK EAT SAVE to raise school children’s awareness of the traditional food crops grown alongside organic cotton.
Our Partners

We partnered 24 organizations representing the entire cotton value chain (farmers, manufacturers, brands and retailers) from around the world. This partnership allowed us the unique opportunity to reach directly to the schools, support their education, and form a true partnership for World Environment Day.

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<tr>
<th>Sponsors</th>
<th>Local Champions</th>
<th>Schools</th>
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<td>Bobojon Gafurov, Tajikistan</td>
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<td>C&amp;A Foundation</td>
<td>Mahima</td>
<td>Swayam Academy, India</td>
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<td>Pants To Poverty</td>
<td>Bio Farmer Co-op</td>
<td>Secondary School No 24, Kyrgyzstan</td>
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<td>PUMA</td>
<td>Chetna</td>
<td>Tribal Residential School, Odisha, India</td>
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<td>Quiksilver</td>
<td>Pratibha</td>
<td>Vasudha VidyaVihar, Indore, India</td>
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<td>Textile Exchange</td>
<td>ESPLAR</td>
<td>Campanha de Fortalecimiento, Brazil</td>
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What We Did Together

Each child created a masterpiece of art or craft – “From the field to my plate” – looking at the different food crops, grown alongside the cotton, that they enjoy eating on a regular basis. The competition was not only about the various foods grown in organic cotton fields but how the child pitched the advantages of local, safe, fresh food production, cooking and the importance of nutrition, to their schoolmates, parents, and teachers.

The generous project sponsorship by the 12 TE members allowed each of the 12 schools to purchase school classroom equipment, books, and sports gear (to the value of £100). Each participator received a certificate from Textile Exchange.

Images: (Top) Judging entries, Kyrgyzstan; (Middle) Group activities, Brazil; (Bottom) Lazare Yombi from Helvetas handing out awards and sports equipment, Benin.
Textile Exchange World Environment Day Ambassador

Every participating child became an ambassador for World Environment Day. However, there was one little girl, Siddhi Kushwah aged 10, from Swayam Academy in India, who stole the hearts of all and was awarded: Textile Exchange World Environment Day Ambassador for 2013. Siddhi has since become a local hero in her community and gone on to use her ambassadorship to raise further awareness of sustainability and cotton farming in rural communities.

Visit our website for more information and a tour of the children’s beautiful artwork:
Farm Hub World Environment Day, Farm Hub WED Winning Entries and Pinterest Board 1 and Board 2.
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 2013, six years later, the platform continues to be highly active with 767 community members (growth of 23% on last year). As you can see in the figure below, the majority of members are located in Europe, Asia (i.e. India) and the Americas.

The Textile Exchange team continues to work with Helvetas on the delivery of the platform dialogues. Currently Helvetas provides the overall project management and community facilitation while TE provides strategic and content input, supports the community communications, French and Spanish translations, and other administrative support.

Our community platform is a popular place for people to meet and provides a forum for knowledge exchange amongst 767 members.
As a lead up to our conference in Istanbul, we introduced our Collaborative Learning Series (CLS) titled Rethinking and Reframing Sustainable Sourcing. We reached our community via blogs, thought pieces, and webinars. As summary document on each topic was produced to support each participant’s learning experience.

What We Covered
Over the course of eight months we explored six topics relating to raw material sourcing. We began each topic with a thought starter blog followed by a Q&A style webinar with a panel of two topic experts.

What We Produced
The webinars were all recorded and made available to participants. Each topic resulted in a Learning Summary for download, including a graphic recording of the webinar, at the end of each topic focus.

Our six topics and expert panelists included:

1. Creating Shared Value: How Could This Approach Work For Cotton?
Our first topic explored the principles of Creating Shared Value (CSV), how CSV has influenced other industries, and the benefits CSV could bring to more sustainable sourcing of cotton.

Thought leaders: Alison Ward, an independent consultant with experience in commodity value chains, and Helen Crowley, Conservation & Ecosystem Services Specialist at Kering, the parent company of Puma (among other brands). Since the webinar, Alison has been appointed CEO of CottonConnect.

For our second topic, we took a closer look at indexes and metrics and learnt how these tools can help guide supply chain investments.

Thought leaders: Laurence Smith, Senior Researcher at the Organic Research Centre in the UK, and Sabine Deimling, LCA expert specializing in agriculture and forestry at PE International.

We explored innovative approaches to sourcing raw materials and new ways of working in supply chains.
3. Holistic Value Chains: Moving From Disconnect To Integration.
Our third topic looked at the advantages (and challenges) of integrating raw material producers into the textile value chain – and how this can result in a more secure business for all.

Thought leaders: Orlando Rivera, CEO, Bergman Rivera, based in Peru; Shreyaskar Chaudhary, CEO, Pratibha Syntex, India; and Mani Chinaswarmy, Founder Appachi Eco-logic, India.

4. Three Dimensional Profit & Loss: The Next Big Thing.
PUMA set a new standard when they launched their Environmental Profit & Loss approach to accounting. In the fourth session, we examined how 3D Profit & Loss can add social capital to the mix.

Thought leaders: Cary Krosinsky author, educator, and environmental finance expert, and David Meyers, serial entrepreneur, Green Ant Advisors.

5. The Role Of Certification: Providing The Business Case For Sustainability.
In the fifth session, we looked at how certification can support the business case for sustainability.


The finale to the series “Consumer Engagement” was staged live in Istanbul on 11th November – as part of our Organic Cotton Round Table (Open Forum). Harriet Lamb of Fairtrade International provided an inspiring keynote address. See section on Organic Cotton Round Table earlier in this report and download the highlights report.

Images: (Left, Top-Bottom) Helen Crowley, Alison Ward, Laurence Smith, Sabine Deimling, Orlando Rivera; (Right, Top-Bottom) Shreyaskar Chaudhary, Mani Chinaswarmy, Cary Krosinsky, David Meyers, Claudia Kersten.
Multi-Stakeholder Review

We carried out an inquiry to determine common themes and approaches to bring organic cotton to the retail market.

Project Outline

The consulting firm Change Agency generously agreed to carry out an inquiry process pro bono for Textile Exchange. Essentially, the inquiry technique as a tool for strategy building is to find organizations which are successful in a particular endeavor – in this case, bringing organic cotton to the retail market – and ask them all the same set of questions in structured telephone interviews to discover common themes and approaches.

The interviewers were Simon Cooper and Alison Ward, and they conducted 25 interviews with successful companies. The interviews were transcribed and the scripts compared to see what common themes emerge. A number of analysts went through the transcripts and their combined findings were reported.

Headline Findings

A number of common themes and success factors emerged from the inquiry process. Although the participating companies vary greatly in size, geographic coverage and history, it is remarkable that so many of them share the same success factors. To aid understanding and transferability, the factors are grouped into three meta-categories: Reducing Risk, Price & Economics, and People & Motivation.

The factors of success also fall into two implementation types:

**Solo Initiatives that companies can implement themselves**
These are ideas that have proved successful in one context that can be adopted by another without much adaptation. They are not commercially confidential but will need cross-promotion and proper documentation to encourage the spread of ideas.

**Group Initiatives that require industry-wide coordination and organizing**
These are concepts that need a central coordinating body to make them work, such as collating demand predictions to ensure adequate supply or ensuring that economic benefits are shared fairly through the supply chain, particularly at the farm level.

The headline report can be read [here](#).
Collaborative Initiatives on Cotton Seed

We strengthened the structure and capacity of the seed task force by inviting a team of experts to work with us to prepare for the Round Table meeting in Istanbul.

Aim
To develop a seed strategy that protects and enhances the security of supply of cotton seed compatible with organic agriculture.

Objectives
- Strengthen a network of stakeholders through the work of a Seed Task Force.
- Share experiences, learn from each other, and communicate learning to escalate scale and accelerate action.
- Build a task force strategic plan that is global but tailored to address challenges and find solutions at a local level.
- Develop a framework for financial investment and partnerships.
- Share achievements and develop a culture of optimism – building on success!

Seed Task Force

The Textile Exchange Call to Action raised the issue of seed security for organic cotton agriculture, particularly in countries where GMO cotton has been introduced. In 2013, we strengthened the structure and capacity of the task force by inviting a team of experts to work with us in collaboration to prepare for the meeting in Istanbul. The expert advisors group will lead on the development of a seed “masterplan” in 2014.

Seed Expert Advisors to Textile Exchange & Multi-Stakeholder Seed Task Force
Edith Lammerts van Bueren
Professor of Organic Plant Breeding, Louis Bolk Institute and Wageningen University

Edith Lammerts van Bueren is a pioneer in plant breeding and genetic resources for organic and low-input agriculture and has put this subject on the European agenda. Through supervising master students in plant breeding, she became involved in setting up participatory cotton breeding approaches in Uganda in collaboration with Agro-Eco and Serrere Breeding Institute. She aims to build bridges between existing expertise among both farmers and professional breeders, and also to expand the commitment for cotton seed production and crop improvement.
Mans Lanting
Consultant, the Netherlands and Associate at Wageningen University
Mans Lanting has an MSc Agronomy from Wageningen University. He has worked for government, NGOs, and the private sector. Mans was involved in designing and setting up Chetna Organic, a producer company that cultivates and sells organic/Fairtrade cotton. He also investigated the usefulness of Bt cotton for small scale farmers in Africa, for APROCA (African Cotton Producers Association).

Dr. Monika M. Messmer
Senior Scientist for Organic Plant Breeding, FIBL
In August 2008, Monika Messmer joined the Research Institute for Organic Agriculture (FiBL) in Frick, Switzerland where she is responsible for plant breeding projects for organic agriculture. Since 2011, Dr. Messmer has been guiding participatory cotton cultivar testing and breeding projects in close collaboration with the research team of bioRe Association and Kasrawad in Madhya Pradesh, and Chetna Organic, Odisha, and with the great support of Prof. S.S. Patil from the University of Agricultural Science, Dharwad in India. Dr. Messmer’s motivation to join the Seed Task Force is to enhance the availability of optimized GM-free cultivars for the various farming practices and conditions. She supports alternative projects to the mainstream GM-focused plant breeding and all endeavors that improve the choice and the seed sovereignty of smallholder farmers.

Images: (Top) Seed Guardians Meeting, Chetna, Odisha, India; (Bottom) Seed expert Prof. SS Patil at work, University of Agricultural Sciences Dharwad, Karnataka, India.
**Seed Projects**

With the generous financial support of one of Textile Exchange’s member companies we have entered two 3-year seed security projects. The first year of the Chetna projects is now complete with excellent progress in numbers of trained farmers, seed breeding, and seed bank development. Mecilla has been running their project for six months.

**Chetna Organic – Seed Guardian Project, Odisha, India**

The Seed Guardian project is intended to equip women’s Self Help Groups/organic co-operatives with the knowledge and tools they need to become more self-sufficient and secure in seed supply.

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.

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 would improve the nutritional status of the communities.

**Mecilla – Agro-Ecology Demonstration Farm and Seed Development, China**

This project is developing an innovative and eco-friendly system with a special emphasis on the Mecilla demonstration farm as the nodal point of innovation, in the context of a community of farmer cooperatives in Shanxi Province, northwest China.

In 2012, there were no non-GMO cotton seeds in Yongji, Shanxi, so Mecilla procured over 200 varieties of non-GMO cotton seeds and put into place non-GMO seed trials and multiplication plans to avoid GMO contaminated seed use.

The demonstration farm takes full consideration of agro-biodiversity, in ways such as; diverse plantation, crop rotation, intercropping, composting, physical (as opposed to chemical) ways of controlling pests, efficient water irrigation, low-density animal breeding and the design of non-growing areas. The project emphasizes community collaboration and education on biodiversity concepts, principles and actual practices.

More information on TE’s seed agenda can be found [here](#).
Impact Measurement & Assessment

There is an overwhelming need for better data on organic cotton – this information influences materials ranking systems, sustainability strategies, and buying decisions.

Life Cycle Assessment for Organic Cotton Cultivation

We have started work on a Life Cycle Assessment of Organic Cotton Cultivation (LCA) with PE International and with support from our members for the purpose of bringing comprehensive, credible, and comparative data to light.

There is an overwhelming need to provide companies with better data on the sustainability of raw materials, such as organic cotton, because this is the information that is influencing materials ranking systems, sustainability strategies, and buying decisions. A strong demand signal for organic from the market, fair returns, and shared value are what keeps the farmers growing the cotton, investing in conversion, and keeping high standards in integrity.

The textile industry is working together more than ever before to better understand sustainability opportunities within their supply chain – broadening the conversation to capture impact at raw material production level. Specific examples include: Sustainable Apparel Coalition (SAC), The Economics of Ecosystems & Biodiversity for Business (TEEB) and Sustainable Clothing Action Plan (SCAP).

This project is designed to capture a global snapshot of organic cotton cultivation. It is pre-competitive and collaborative and builds on the earlier success of the work we carried out with PUMA and PE International to produce a Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) for organic cotton cultivation in India. This project was based mainly on the PUMA value chain and sourcing regions. The results are promising and indicate a clear advantage of organic cotton over conventional cotton in different impact categories such as global warming, energy demand and water consumption. This is why we decided to move forward with the study into a second phase, where the environmental impact of global organic cotton cultivation will be assessed. The results will be critically reviewed, so that they can be published and used for comparisons.

We invited our members to join this effort so that we can uncover better organic cotton sustainability metrics. This project will allow the entire industry to make more informed choices and support our efforts to better position organic cotton as the raw material of choice when it comes to sustainability. In the pre-competitive atmosphere, we plan to make these findings public so that the industry can then make the informed decisions they’ve been seeking. Results will be launched in early 2014.
Organic Cotton Sustainability Assessment

To date the organic cotton community has perhaps relied too heavily on the “model” of organic, drawing on examples of best practice to justify higher claims to sustainability. At this point, more data is required in order to be able to substantiate and communicate the proven benefits of organic cotton farming and its contribution to alleviation of rural poverty and protection of ecosystem services.

It is time to present hard data on the things that many organic producers take for granted in their lives such as better intercropping, responsible water usage and water saving techniques, community supported agronomy, food self sufficiency and better nutrition, improved co-operation though working in groups, access to technical and agronomic support and work that is based on self-respect and respect by others in the community. The above are all part of the organic life enjoyed by many farmers, but there is little data available to convince others further up the supply chain of it worth and value.

We have started work on an Organic Cotton Sustainability Assessment. Our qualitative and quantitative research is carried out in partnership with key expert organizations (such as COSA, FAO, IFOAM, and ISEAL) and a collaboration of producer groups, manufacturers, brands and retailers.

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.

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 2013, we made progress on our farm sustainability assessment and collected data from over 30 producer groups around the organic cotton producing world. Results will be launched in early 2014.
## Looking Back - 2013 Milestones

### January
- Launch of Farm Engagement Annual Report 2012
- Launch of 2012 Year in Pictures on Farm Hub

### February
- Release of Collaborative Learning Series Topic 1: Creating Shared Value: How Could This Approach Work For Cotton?

### March
- Release of Seed Projects (India & China) Quarterly Report 1

### April
- Launch of Farm & Fiber Report 2013
- Student placement with Textile Exchange commences

### May
- Release of Collaborative Learning Series Topic 3: Holistic Value Chains: Moving From Disconnect To Integration
- Finalized Organic Cotton Sustainability Assessment Concept Paper

### June
- Release of Seed Projects (India & China) Quarterly Report 2
- World Environment Day – THINK EAT SAVE campaign:
  - Launch of TE WED school poster entries
  - Announcement of TE WED Ambassador

### July
- Release of Collaborative Learning Series Topic 4: Three Dimensional Profit & Loss: The Next Big Thing

### August
- Launch of MSI: Organic Cotton Brand & Retailer Inquiry
- Finalized Organic Cotton Sustainability Assessment Concept Paper
- Schools award school children for efforts in WED (award ceremonies and gifting of books and sports equipment)
- Director Farm Engagement meets OC stakeholders in Peru

### September
- Seed strategy expert advisory group meets to plan Task Force agenda (for Istanbul)
- Findings of Multi-Stakeholder Initiative

### October
- Launch of Regional Sourcing Guide Series – Vol. 1: Turkey
- TE Conference:
  - Cotton Sustainability: Addressing Barriers To Growth
  - Future of Cotton Sustainability in Turkey
  - Meeting of Turkish Stakeholders
  - Organic Cotton Round Table
  - Task Force Meetings: (1) Business Models and (2) Seed
  - Consumer Engagement Open Forum
- Regional Director, Africa holds training in conflict resolution in Bobo-Dioulasso, Benin

### November
- Organic Cotton Life Cycle Assessment Project funds raised
- Organic Cotton Sustainability Assessment Survey Complete

### December
- Release of Collaborative Learning Series Topic 5: The Role of Certification: Providing The Business Case For Sustainability
- Organic Cotton Round Table
- Task Force Meetings: (1) Business Models and (2) Seed
- Consumer Engagement Open Forum
- Regional Director, Africa holds training in conflict resolution in Bobo-Dioulasso, Benin
- Organic Cotton Life Cycle Assessment Project funds raised
- Organic Cotton Sustainability Assessment Survey Complete
- Release of Seed Projects (India & China) Quarterly Report 3
Organic Agriculture

Organic Agriculture is a production system that sustains the health of soils, ecosystems and people. It relies on ecological processes, biodiversity and cycles adapted to local conditions, rather than the use of inputs with adverse effects. Organic Agriculture combines tradition, innovation and science to benefit the shared environment and promote fair relationships and a good quality of life for all involved.

The Principles of Organic Agriculture serve to inspire the organic movement in its full diversity:

The principle of health – Organic Agriculture should sustain and enhance the health of soil, plant, animal, human and planet as one and indivisible.

The principle of ecology – Organic Agriculture should be based on living ecological systems and cycles, work with them, emulate them and help sustain them.

The principle of fairness – Organic Agriculture should build on relationships that ensure fairness with regard to the common environment and life opportunities.

The principle of care – Organic Agriculture should be managed in a precautionary and responsible manner to protect the health and well-being of current and future generations and the environment.

The International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM)
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/