

# GOTS Criteria and New Requirements

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# Structure of Presentation

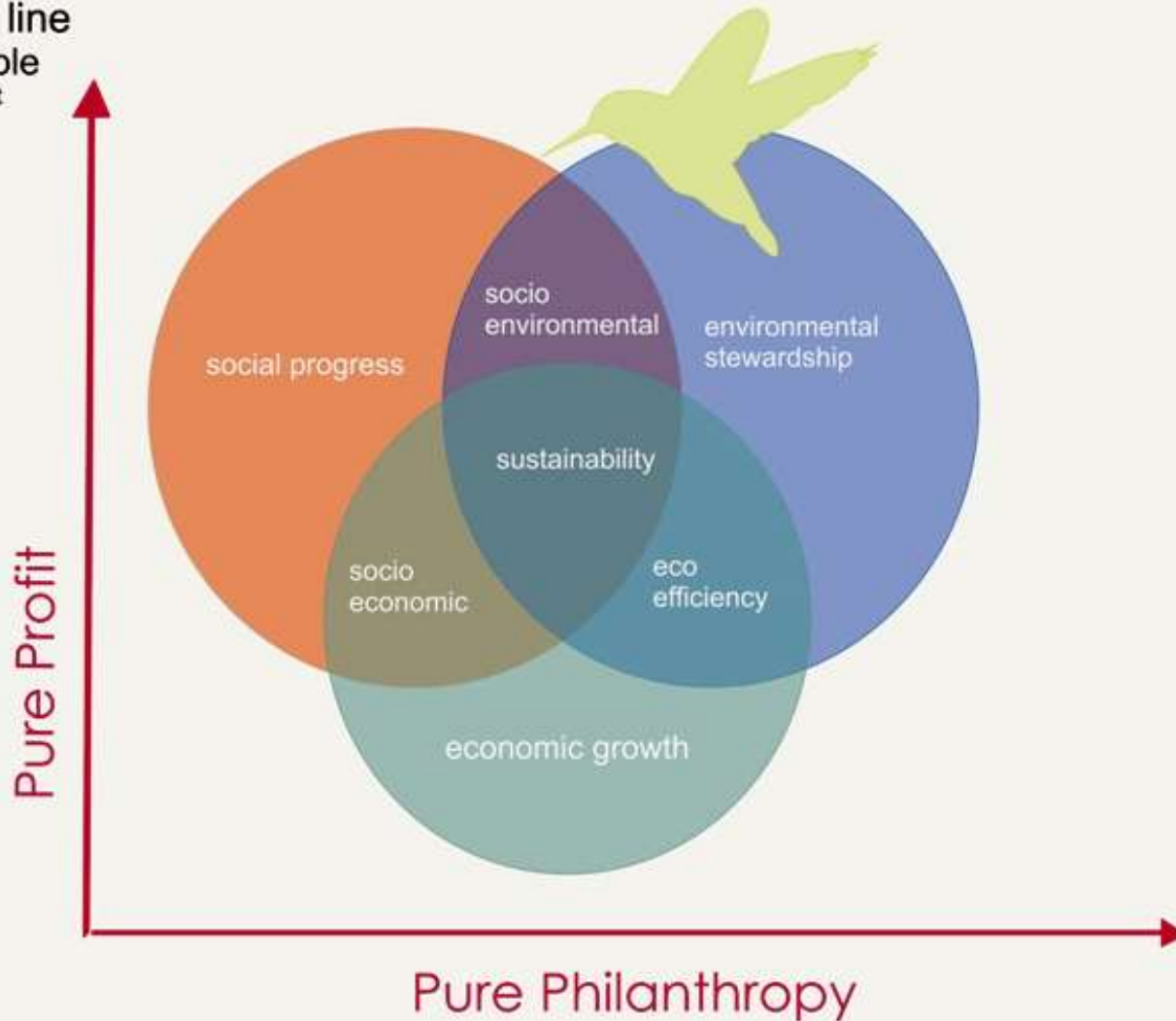


- **Sustainability definition and PPP**
- **GOTS Brief**
- **Requirements for Organic Fibres**
- **Environment Criteria for Textile Facilities**
- **Approval Criteria for Chemical Inputs**
- **Social Compliance for Textile Facilities**
- **Traceability**
- **GOTS Labelling of Products**
- **Other Sections/ Criteria**
- **Statistics**
- **International Recognition**
- **UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

# Sustainability: Triple Bottom Line



the triple bottom line  
Economic principle  
people - planet - profit



# Sustainability



**Sustainability is the ability to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of the future generations to meet their own needs.**

# Introduction to GOTS



- **Processing Standard** for textiles made from min 70% organic fibres.
- **ISO Type I Standard**
- **Environmental Criteria (RSL & MRSL)**
- **Social Criteria** as per ILO
- **Entire Supply Chain Covered**
- **Annual Onsite Inspection** and risk based **product testing**
- **Started in year 2002** with **harmonisation** of existing organic standards.



# Entry Level Criteria in GOTS for Organic Fibres



## Approved organic standards are:

- **Regulation (EC) 834/2007**
- **USDA National Organic Program (NOP)**
- **NPOP**
- **Any (other) standard approved in the IFOAM Family of Standards**

**for the relevant scope of production (crop or animal production)**

## CBs must at least have one of the following qualifications:

- **ISO 65 / 17065 accreditation**
- **NOP accreditation**
- **IFOAM accreditation**
- **IFOAM Global Organic System accreditation**

# Criteria for Fibres



## **Organic Fibres** (Minimum 70%)

### **Additional Fibers** (Balance 30% or 5% content)

- Non- GMO Natural Fibres
- Maximum of 10% synthetic or regenerated fibers (respective max. 25% for socks, leggings and sportswear)
- Maximum 30% of recycled synthetic fibres
- Organic and conventional fibres of same type **cannot be mixed** in same product.

# Environment Criteria- Textile Facilities



- **Energy & Water Consumption** **Data** must be available
- **Waste & Discharges**
- **Sludge Disposal**
- **Staff Training**
- **Max COD content of discharged water:**      **20 g/kg of textile output**
- **pH of discharged water**                              **6 to 9**
- **Max Temperature of discharged water**      **35 °C**





# Residue Limits for GOTS Goods (RSL)



- **RSL (Textile Products)**
- **Section 2.4.15:** Main material (yarn, fabric, etc)
- **Section 2.4.16:** Additional fibres, Accessories (sewing thread, buttons etc.).

# Restricted Criteria for Chemical Inputs



- **Section 2.3.1:** Prohibited and restricted inputs (incl. Azo dyes, PCP, APEOs etc.) - **MRS**L
- **Section 2.3.2:** Requirements related to hazards and toxicity (Preparations containing substances classified with any **hazard statements**)

# Assessment of Chemical Inputs (Dyes/ Pigments/ Inks/ Auxiliaries)



- **All Chemical Inputs** need to get **GOTS Approval**
- Preparations evaluated and their **Trade Names** have to be registered on approved lists prior to their usage
- **Alternative Trade Names** of same products also need to be separately listed in **Positive List**
- **MSDS** to be prepared according to a norm or directive recognised by **GOTS**
- Processors (like printing units) can request for a copy of **Positive List** from their Certification Body
- **GOTS logo** cannot be used by additive suppliers unless '**Additives Licence Fee**' is paid and label design approval taken from Certifier.



# Social Compliance



# Social Compliance Criteria



- **Social minimum criteria based on the ILO key conventions is compulsory for all processing and manufacturing stages.**  
**Building and Fire Safety**
- **The requirements include e.g.:**
  - **No child labor**
  - **Payment of Fair Remuneration**
  - **Working hours must not be excessive**
  - **Safe and hygienic working conditions**
  - **No discrimination, no harsh or inhumane treatment**
  - **Operators must establish social compliance management tools that support the implementation and monitoring of the social minimum criteria**

# Social Criteria- Audit Considerations



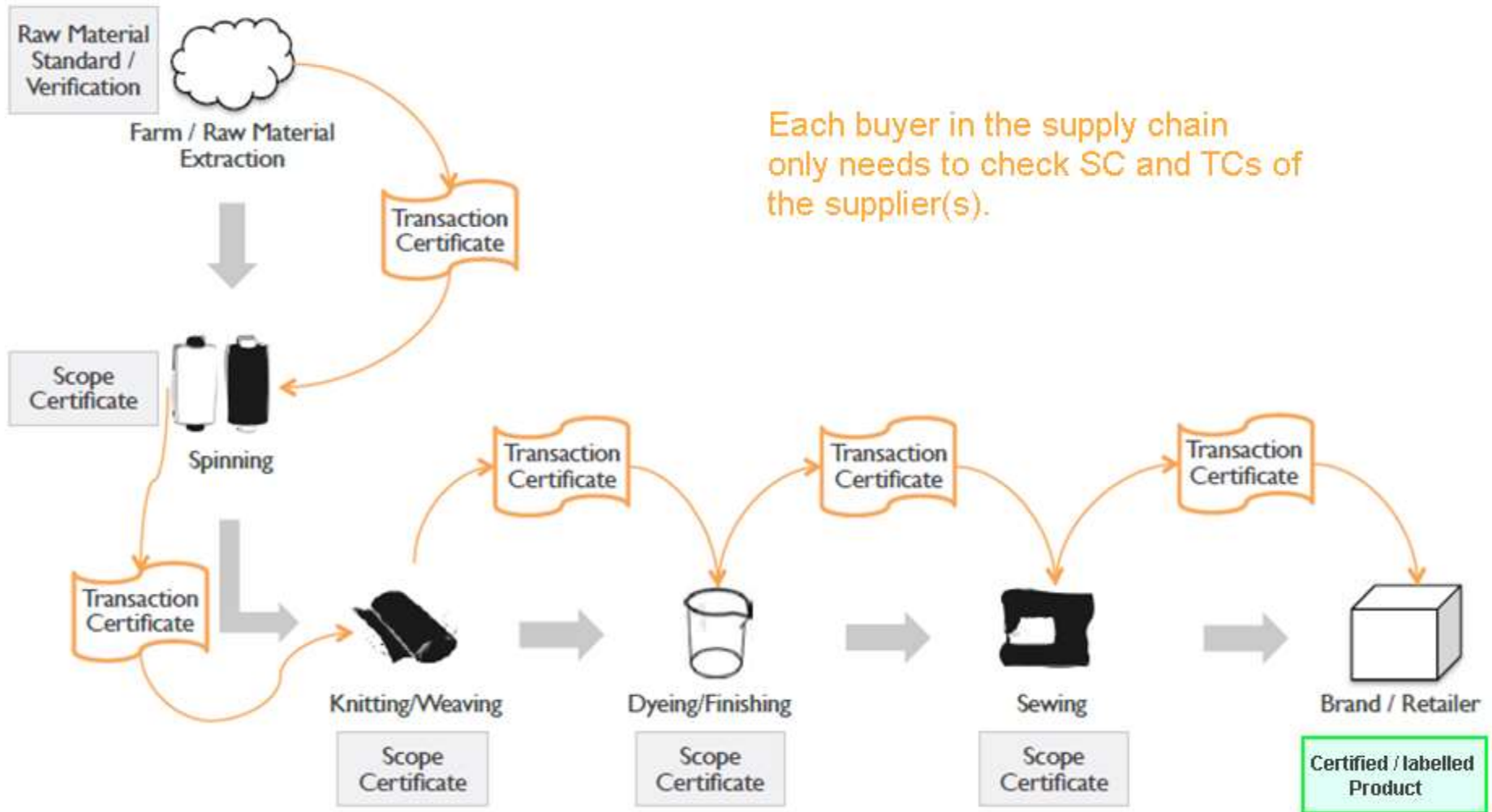
**Certification programs of which the results should be considered and recognised in the course of GOTS inspection:**

- **Fair Wear Foundation (FWF)**
- **Social Accountability 8000 (SA 8000)**
- **Worldwide Responsible Accredited Production (WRAP)**
- **Business Social Compliance Initiative (BSCI)**



# Traceability

# Traceability through Transaction Certificates (TC) along the supply chain





# TC & Exclusion



- **Transaction Certificates (TCs) are obligatory for each change of ownership**
- **Multiple shipments can be covered in a single TC for same buyer and same supplier for a period upto 3 months and upto 100 shipments.**
- **Wholly owned subsidiaries of a retailer are exempt from TCs for change of ownership within the subsidiaries.**



## Licensing System and Product Labelling

# Licensing system



- Logo can be used only when the **whole supply chain** is **GOTS** certified for a final product.
- The **GOTS** logo may be used as **on-product** and consumer label to market **GOTS** certified textiles
- **Intermediate Textiles** (like yarns, fabrics etc) may also carry the **GOTS** logo
- **Additives suppliers** can mention about **GOTS** approval status in text.
- Suppliers of **GOTS Additive** may use the logo after payment of additional 'Additives License Fee' and obtaining **label design approval** from their certifier, while the letter of approval is valid.

# GOTS Licensing and Labelling Guide



- **New issue released on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017**
- **Sets requirements for the correct on-product and off-product logo application and GOTS referencing**
- **Provides explicit clarification under which conditions GOTS labelling and referencing is not permitted (to reduce misinterpretation and misuse)**
- **All labels must be approved by Certifiers using the appropriate form for label release.**

# Labelling - Visible commitment to the end consumer



# Label Grades



**Using 95 - 100%  
organic fibers:**



**Using 70 - 94%  
organic fibers:**



# Consumer Facing Label- Examples





## Other Sections/ Criteria



# Key changes in GOTS Ver 5.0



- Viscose / Modal restricted to 10% as additional material
- More detailed Social Criteria
- Section on Ethical Business Behaviour added
- Simplification of the requirements for accessories (OTS100)
- Revision of residue limits and test methods for accessories (Babies / Personal Care & other products)
- No on-site waste burning or uncontrolled waste land-filling **should** be undertaken.
- **Guidance on contamination limits for chemical inputs**
- Guidance on testing / risk assessment by way of a suggested testing grid in manual
- Allowing GOTS certification on Combined Products
- Guidance on wastewater & social criteria tools

# Storage, Packing, Transport & Record Keeping



- **Contamination with non organic products is prohibited**
- **Chlorinated Plastics (like PVC) in packing materials is prohibited**
- **Paper/cardboard in consumer facing packing has to be FSC Certified or recycled**
- **Records relevant to the inspection must be kept for at least 5 years**
- **Pesticide/ Biocide use in storeroom/ transportation has to be in accordance with International/ National Organic Production Standard**

# Important Documents



- **GOTS Version 5.0**
- **Manual for the Implementation of GOTS (Issue 5.0)**
- **Licensing and Labelling Guide**
- **Labelling Release for GOTS Goods**
- **Labelling Release for GOTS Additives**
- **Policy and Template for issuing Certificates of Compliance (Scope Certificates, SCs)**
- **Policy and Template for issuing Transaction Certificates (TCs)**
- **Policy and Template for issuing Letters of Approval**
- **Approval Procedure and Requirements for Certification Bodies**

# Who needs to be certified?

- **Processing and Manufacturing**



- ***Processors and manufacturers:*** certification according to GOTS based on annual on-site inspection is obligatory
- ***All stages starting from ginning (cotton)<sup>1)</sup>, spinning, knitting, weaving, wet processing (pre-treatment, dyeing, printing finishing), manufacturing, packing and labelling must be certified.***

1) stages considered as first processing step that must be GOTS for other natural fibres listed in the Manual, chapter 4.1

# Who needs to be certified?

- **Trading and Retailing**



- **Traders (incl. import, export and wholesale entities):**  
certification is obligatory, if:
  - *they become proprietor of GOTS Goods (= buy and sell them, B2B) with an annual turnover of at least 5000€*
  - *they are engaged with (re-)packing or (re-)labelling of GOTS Goods*
- **Retailers:**  
certification is required only if:
  - *they have – beside their retail activity – also a B2B trade activity*
  - *they are engaged with (re-)packing or (re-)labelling of GOTS Goods*

-

# Check list for retailers to ensure they receive GOTS certified and labelled textiles



- Ask the direct **supplier** (manufacturer or B2B trader/ wholesaler) for its **valid GOTS Scope Certificate** before ordering
- Explicitly **order GOTS certified and labelled textiles** from this supplier
- **Ask for Transaction Certificates for the whole quantity of GOTS goods purchased** (on the TCs the supplier must be noted as seller and the retailer himself as buyer)
- **Check that the GOTS labelling is complete** (contains logo, label grade, certifier ref. and license number)





# Statistics

# Summary of GOTS Operations 2017



- **5,024 Facilities**
- **2,922 Entities**
- **62 countries**
- **17,905 Chemical Inputs (6897 colourants)**
- **1,759,943 workers covered under GOTS**
- **17 Approved Certification Bodies**

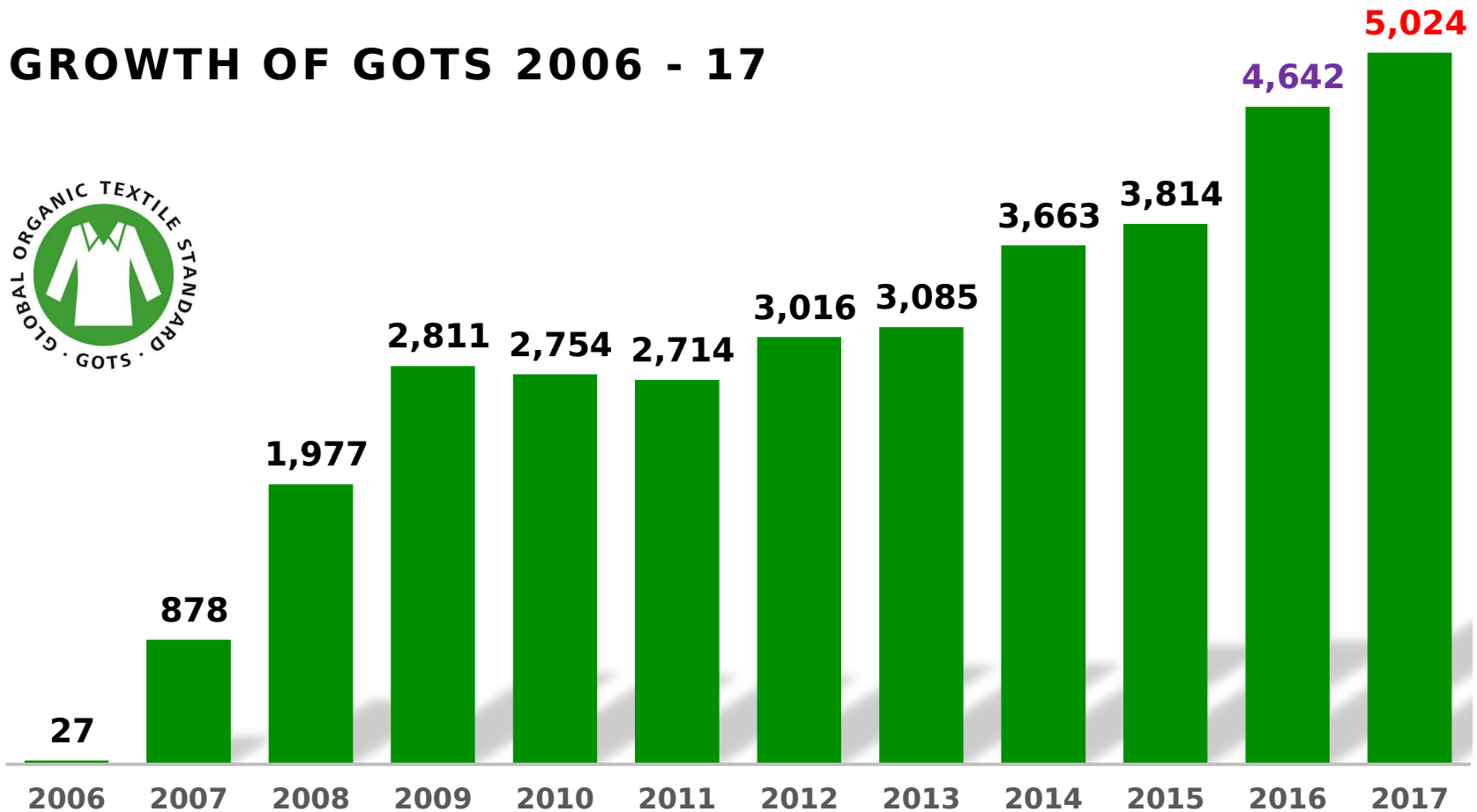


# GOTS Certified Facilities 2017

8.2% increase



## GROWTH OF GOTS 2006 - 17

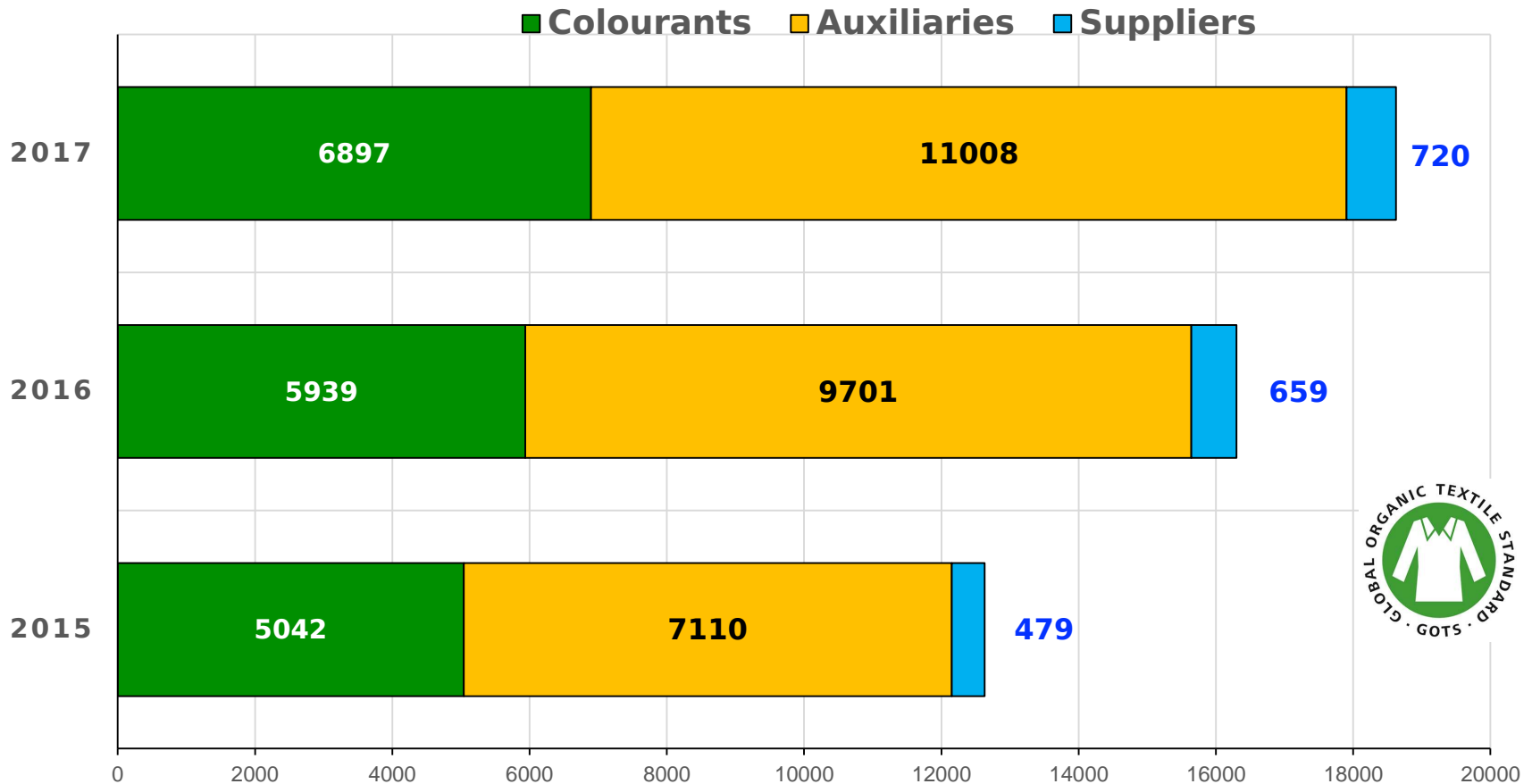


# Top 5 Countries as per 2017 data



- 1. India**
- 2. Bangladesh**
- 3. Germany**
- 4. Turkey**
- 5. China**

# GOTS Approved Chemicals Inputs (Positive List) 14% increase



# GOTS: International Recognition 1



## ✓ U.S. Department of Agriculture:

- policy memorandum (May 20, 2011) explicitly recognizes GOTS and its label grade 'organic': *"Textile products that are produced in accordance with the Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS) may be sold as organic in the U.S."* Note that this does not entitle use of the USDA seal.

## ✓ IFOAM

- endorses GOTS as the minimum reference for organic textile processing. The endorsement letter (April 23, 2014) includes the recommendation to governments not to start development of redundant standards and regulations but to make references to GOTS as processing standard for textiles labelled 'organic.'

## ✓ Italian Government

- In the Italian Green Public Procurement decree (Jan 2017), GOTS is explicitly mentioned as acceptable verification for products made with organic fibres.

*SERIE GENERALE*

*Spediz. abb. post. - art. 1, comma 1  
Legge 27-02-2004, n. 46 - Filiale di Roma*

Anno 158° - Numero 23

**GAZZETTA**  **UFFICIALE**  
**DELLA REPUBBLICA ITALIANA**

*PARTE PRIMA*

Roma - Sabato, 28 gennaio 2017

SI PUBBLICA TUTTI I  
GIORNI NON FESTIVI

- a) Per i prodotti con contenuto di fibra cotone (o altra fibra naturale) biologico tra il 70% e il 100% rispetto al contenuto totale delle fibre;
- b) Per i prodotti con contenuto di fibra cotone (o altra fibra naturale) biologico tra il 50% e il 70%, rispetto al contenuto totale delle fibre;
- c) Per i prodotti con contenuto di fibra cotone (o altra fibra naturale) biologico tra il 20% e il 50% rispetto al contenuto totale delle fibre;

**Verifica:** In offerta tecnica dovrà essere indicata l'etichetta posseduta, conforme alle caratteristiche previste dall'art. 69 del D.Lgs. 50/2016 e i riferimenti della licenza d'uso della medesima, tra cui il periodo di validità. In particolare si presumono conformi al criterio a) i prodotti con l'etichetta "Global Organic Textile Standard" (GOT) e ai criteri b) e c) i prodotti con l'etichetta "Organic Content Standard (OCS)", a seconda del contenuto di cotone (o altra fibra naturale) biologico che vi è riportata, rilasciata sulla base delle verifiche effettuate dagli enti terzi accreditati in base al citato schema di etichettatura.

Si presumono conformi altresì i prodotti in possesso del marchio di qualità ecologico Ecolabel europeo, nel caso riporti un contenuto di cotone (o altra fibra naturale) biologico sufficiente all'ottenimento dei punteggi<sup>23</sup>.

# GOTS: International Recognition 3



## ✓ ZDHC- Roadmap to Zero

- **GOTS approved chemical Inputs (dyes/ chemicals/ inks/ auxiliaries etc) are conformant to ZDHC MRSL Level 1. They can be listed in ZDHC Chemical Gateway (December 2017)**

## ✓ Greenpeace International

- **Textile Procurement Policy (October, 2012) states that all cotton-based textiles used by volunteers, activists, or staff must be certified to GOTS or the equivalent.**

# Linkages of the Standard with UN SDGs



- **SDGs are addressed by GOTS**
- **GOTS provides **robust framework** to evaluate company's sustainability claims**
- **Well-placed to become **evaluation tool** for SDG implementation by companies and other supply chain actors**
- **GOTS SDGs **FactSheet****



**SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS**



# Benefits to India from GOTS



- **One International Standard for all markets- trust for all stakeholders**
- **Generating market for organic textiles, benefiting whole supply chain till organic cotton farmers**
- **Premium for GOTS Certified Organic Textiles**
- **Limited Cost of Compliance due to worldwide acceptance**
- **Safe and hygienic working conditions in certified textile processing facilities; hence benefitting the poor workers**
- **Dyes / auxiliaries assessed for criteria like toxicity, biodegradability, ingredients, residues of hazardous substances for GOTS**
- **Only treated water discharged from GOTS certified facilities**
- **Aquatic animals saved from harmful chemicals like APEOs and restricting their entry to food chain**
- **Local residents saved from health hazards arising from toxic industrial waste**



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oved Certification B x GOTS Newsletter - Glob x Licensing\_and\_Labeling\_ x

www.global-standard.org/information-centre/letter/archive/listing.html

- GOTS FIRM
- Newsletter
- ABOUT US
- GOTS CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

## [GOTS News] - August 2013

Sent on 16 August 2013

## [GOTS News Special] Scientific support: Study Ecolabels in India and Norway

Sent on 17 June 2013

## [GOTS News] - May 2013

Sent on 22 May 2013

## [GOTS News Special] Have you cottoned on yet?

Sent on 05 October 2012

## [GOTS News] - July 2012

Sent on 16 July 2012

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**A post-toxic world is not only desirable, it's possible. Together we can create it.**

**Thank You!**



**Sumit Gupta**

**Deputy Director Standards Development & Quality Assurance**

**Representative in India & Bangladesh**

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