



# GLOBAL ORGANIC TEXTILE STANDARD ECOLOGY & SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



Organic by Feldmann



Schoeller Wool



Aquarelle India



Lässig Fashion



Farm to Home



Ambica Cotton Mills



Denim Authority



Mightly



Comazo Earth



Olala Cotton



World of Textiles



Simple Ecology

## 10,388 certified facilities

reported in total (following 7,765 facilities in 2019), a 34% growth, despite the severe restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic

## 'GOTS Connect - Screen to Screen'

series recorded by the GOTS Staff in their home offices

## Global Market Development Projects

in Japan and Africa

## Staff

7 Regional Representatives (China, Germany/Austria/Switzerland, South Asia, Japan, Turkey, UK, North America), 4 Special Assignments (Policy and Legal, Organic Production, Protection, Impact and Quality Assurance) 2 Executives (Communication and Administration), 1 Head of Quality Assurance and Implementation, 2 Managing Directors

## >4 Million workers

reported in GOTS certified facilities

## Evolution of GOTS Website

## Social Audit guidance

document for Certification Bodies released

## GOTS participation in UN projects

through United Nations Fashion Industry Charter for Climate Change (UNFCCC) and United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

## Increasing visits and downloads on GOTS website

## 16 approved GOTS Certification Bodies

9 of whom have chemical input approval in their scopes

## GOTS Version 6.0

and corresponding Implementation Manual released

## COVID-19 measures

regarding certification: Audit guidelines for virtual (remote) audits released for Certification Bodies, Scope Certificate validities extended for 3+3 months in 2020

## GOTS signed the open letter on COVID-19 recovery initiated by WWF

## GOTS endorsed 'Better Work and Covid-19' initiated by ILO

## Capacity Building Programme

Social Accountability International conducted the fourth series of two-day training for Certification Body personnel virtually in two sessions

## 25,913 Approved Chemical Inputs

including 10,146 colourants, from 900 suppliers, an increase of 13% (23,872 Chemical Inputs, 8,521 colourants from 871 suppliers)

## DEVELOPMENT

GOTS version 6.0 and the corresponding Implementation Manual were released in March 2020, after a year-long revision process that saw the highest number of comments and inputs. Based on discussions and decisions made at the GOTS Advisory Council meeting in February 2020, the Standard is in force 1 March 2021. Regarding GOTS Social

Criteria Certified Entities must calculate the gap of paid wages to 'Living Wages' (according to recognised calculations methods) and are encouraged to close this gap. Further, specific references to OECD Due Diligence Guidance and Good Practice Guidance for Social Criteria and Risk Assessment as well as Ethical Business Practices have been included.

More and more laboratories are in the process of accreditation according to the 2019 completed genetically modified organism (GMO) testing method project ISO IWA 32 for cotton, funded by the Organic Cotton Accelerator (OCA).

## IMPLEMENTATION DEVELOPMENT OF BUSINESSES

The number of GOTS certified facilities showed yet the greatest rise ever from 7,765 in 2019 to 10,388, the highest figure so far and an increase of 34%. The GOTS certified facilities are located in 72 countries with continuous growth in both production and consumption regions.

Countries and regions with the largest growth in GOTS certifications in 2020 (rank order in percent) are: China (114%), Sri Lanka (103%), Hong Kong (87%), France (82%) and Portugal (49%).

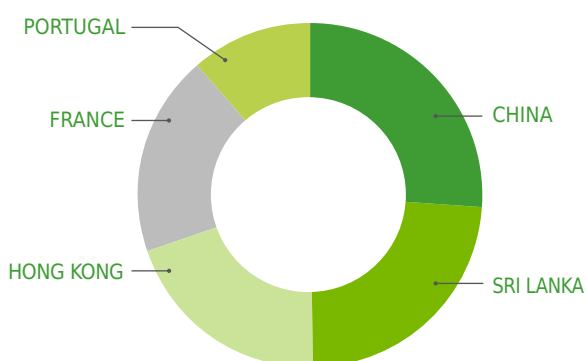
Regions with the largest growth in GOTS certifications in 2020 (rank order in percent) are: Africa (68,18%), Europe (30,73%) and North America (13,5%). In terms of total numbers of certified facilities, the highest increase is reported from India (+604), followed by Europe (+594) and China (+513).

The top ten countries in terms of total numbers of GOTS certified facilities in 2020 are: India (3,015), Bangladesh (1,584), Turkey (1,107), China (961), Germany (684), Italy (588),

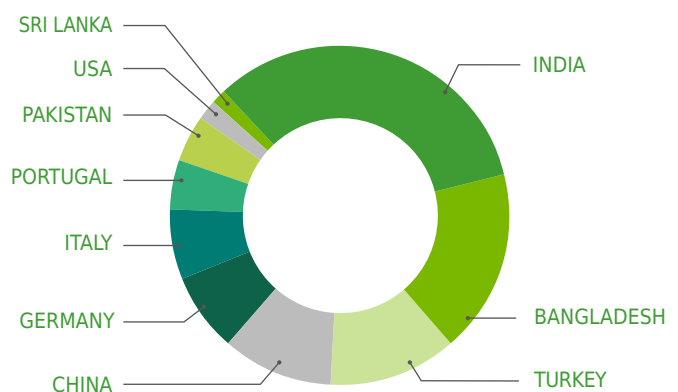
Portugal (449), Pakistan (391), USA (167), and Sri Lanka (126).

4,220,838 workers working in GOTS certified facilities were reported in 2020 by the 16 accredited independent Certification Bodies (CBs). The number of chemical inputs in the Positive List showed an increase of 13% to 25,913 from 900 suppliers. The GOTS Positive List contains trade names of approved chemicals that must be used by all textile processors for their GOTS certified production.

Countries and regions with the largest increase in GOTS certification in 2020.



Top ten countries in terms of total number of certified entities.





# VERIFICATION

## THIRD PARTY VERIFICATION

The COVID-19 pandemic necessitated a temporary change of GOTS annual on-site audits. Due to restrictions in travel and operations, GOTS decided to extend the validity of GOTS Scope Certificates by 6 months from the date of expiry, to ensure that certification remains valid. GOTS also permitted remote audits for GOTS Certified Entities. Guidelines were set-up and are still in force until the situation is back to normal.

GOTS operates with 16 approved CBs, 9 of whom have chemical input approval in their scopes. In January, GCL International has been approved as Certification Body. We received applications from different organisations worldwide and are in the process of accreditation.

The GOTS-Social Accountability International (SAI) training programme for Social Audits of GOTS Certified Entities continued in 2020. Due to the pandemic, SAI moved the SAI-GOTS training to an online platform limited to 16 participants each, 2 sessions were held with 33 participants. New training will be held in 2021.

In October, the GOTS Guidance Document 'Auditor Guidance for Auditing Social Criteria of GOTS 6.0', put together through expert inputs from GOTS Standard Committee members, and created by an external expert, was released to all CBs to provide uniform implementation of Social Audits under GOTS.

GOTS approved two consultants, to offer expert consultancy services to the textile industry to achieve certification to GOTS.

### QUALITY ASSURANCE

Sumit Gupta, former Representative in India and Bangladesh, has been appointed GOTS Head Quality Assurance and Implementation. In his position, he conducted training for Certification Bodies, the GOTS staff and participated as a speaker in several webinars.

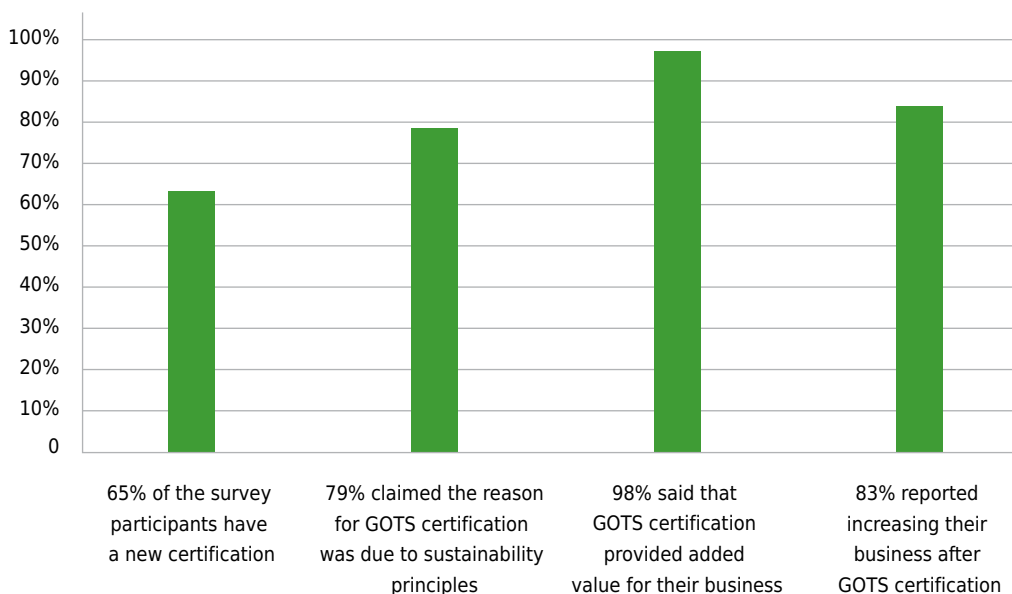
Sumit held regular correspondence with our main cooperating partner IOAS, for the approval process and continuous monitoring of the GOTS approved Certification Bodies. He observed more than 10 surveillance audits, 2 witness

audits, and attended 2 quarterly virtual meetings together with Textile Exchange (TE) to discuss topics related to assurance and CB oversight. He also provided inputs to finalise policies and documents such as Version 2.0 of the document 'Policy and Template for Issuing Letters of Approval for GOTS Additives' and the 'Guidance Note for Implementation of GOTS Version 6.0'.

To measure the sustainability impact of GOTS in terms of social, environmental and economic aspects, Prachi Gupta, GOTS Expert Quality Assurance and Impact, shared a questionnaire developed in 2019, and received 245 responses about the certification process. Results allow to continuously improve the certification and audit process and competence of the CBs. The survey, which is on-going, is sent to facilities that are undergoing new certification as well as those which are being renewed.

GOTS signed the open letter 'The COVID-19 recovery: time to speed up sustainability of the fashion, apparel and textile sector', initiated by WWF. It

### The responses to the survey show:





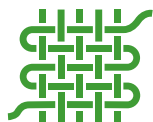
represents a call for action on behalf of a coalition of leading actors in the fashion, apparel and textile sector and NGOs that work for a more sustainable fashion industry. This initiative ensures that sustainability remains central in the face of the collective recovery from COVID-19.

GOTS also endorsed the initiative of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and Better Work 'Covid-19: Action in the global garment industry'.

Prachi continued to work on the alignment of GOTS to industry leading

standards and codes. Further, she started working on a project with the International Association Natural Textile Industry (IVN) and GIZ for companies along the textile value chain to support the employment promotion of people with disabilities in a practical way.

### Ecology & Social Responsibility From Field to Fashion



## PROTECTION

We received over 200 complaints via our complaint form, most of them from the USA (38%), followed by Germany (35%) and Europe. We sued five companies and sent out 22 warning letters. The complaint form has been improved, with mandatory fields about web pages and contact information.

In March, we received an enquiry from Amazon asking for support of the implementation of GOTS products into their Climate Pledge Friendly Program (CPFP). The seller is only allowed to present a GOTS product on Amazon after having provided evidence of certification and correctly labelled products. Amazon agreed to set up a GOTS Amazon complaint account, to trace the complaints in our account. Product selling pages can be locked immediately until correction or proof of certification is completed.





MARC O'POLO Casual Women

## MARC O'POLO, GERMANY

'We are MARC O'POLO, an international casual fashion brand established in Stockholm in 1967. Our products are synonymous with innovation, quality and Scandinavian design. An affinity for natural materials has been part of our brand DNA since the beginning. Working with sustainable materials and innovations for our products is a matter of course for us. Since May of 2020, we are GOTS-certified. This is an important milestone on our journey to sustainability, one of the targets of which is to offer only sustainable products by 2023. We are glad to include an increasing number of GOTS-certified products in our collections. Above all, the transparency that comes with the GOTS seal is an important value for us as a brand, for our trade partners and for our customers. Join us on our journey!'

Susanne Schwenger, CPO of MARC O'POLO AG

THE ARCHROMA WAY  
TO A SUSTAINABLE WORLD:  
SAFE, EFFICIENT, ENHANCED.  
IT'S OUR NATURE.



Archroma

## ARCHROMA GLOBAL, INDIA

'Archroma strives to create essential solutions aimed at making our value chain and the industries we serve more sustainable every day, everywhere. Archroma takes initiatives to reduce environmental risks in the production, storage, distribution and usage of our products and in the disposal of waste. The strict and core focus on social and environmental criteria advocated by GOTS are highly consistent with the Archroma Way of Safe, Efficient and Enhanced. Archroma strongly believes in independent third-party evaluation and certification of its products and ever increasing GOTS approved product portfolio has been a testament for the same.'

Dr. Rajesh Ramamurthy,  
Vice President & Regional Head – Product Stewardship Asia Archroma Global India Pvt Limited



Heart bedding manufacturing in Japan

## HEART, JAPAN

'We believe in making products that are safe and reliable for people and the environment, which is our company Heart's origin. Since we started in 1988, we have always put a priority on the environment, as well as on developing organic textile products for those who suffer from chemical allergies. We have been working on organic certification activity since 2005. And in 2009, sympathized with the ideal and principle of GOTS, we became the first bedding manufacturer in Japan to be GOTS certified. **GOTS criteria fulfil our dream to be an organic manufacturer with an ethical business practice that continues to carry forward sustainable development.** At Heart, we will promise to keep making products which are environmentally friendly for the better of our next generations.'

Hiroaki Yamaoka, President Heart



Tafeks Tekstil textiles

## TAFEKS TEKSTIL, TURKEY

'We, TAFEKS TEKSTIL, are a plain dyed and printed woven fabrics producer from Bursa, which is the capital of textiles in Turkey. Since a long time, we are aware that the textile industry has a very big carbon footprint. We already took measures to minimize our carbon footprint, but we were thinking that something on a much bigger scale should be done, to leave a healthier planet for the generations to come. **When we heard about the sustainability targets of the biggest chain stores in Europe who are our main customers, we wanted to be one of the first companies to step up to the challenge. So as a result, our production units including spinners, weavers, and dyehouses now work in compliance with all GOTS requirements.** This helped us to create great awareness for sustainability among our production units. We are happy that our production partners are coming to us with sustainability projects and solutions and that we take responsibility for a better future.'

Eren Sözüçetin, Sales Marketing Executive





Natures Purest organic cotton field in Gansu

NATURES PUREST TEXTILE, CHINA

'Natures Purest Textile (Beijing) Co. Ltd. specializes in planting, researching, producing and promoting of organic cotton textiles products. We have a large organic naturally-colored cotton farm certified by USDA NOP in Dunhuang, Gansu Province, China. We adhere to the principles of being organic, healthy and eco-friendly since establishment. Our brand SIMPLY·SIMPLE has always been committed to providing consumers with simple, comfortable and safe organic textiles. We go through the stringent GOTS certification in each stage of production from harvesting to spinning, weaving, garment manufacturing to make sure the final textile products are green, eco-friendly and meet the strict social criteria. Using the naturally colored organic brown cotton and organic green cotton to match with non-bleached organic white cotton, SIMPLY·SIMPLE offers not only safe but also fashionable textiles to conscious consumers.'

General Manager, Shun Guo

EVERLANE, US

'Everlane started in 2011 by reinventing the cotton T-shirt. Cotton has remained at the heart of our product line, but with rampant pesticide use in conventional cotton production, our tees were not being made quite as ethically as we wanted them to be. As the next step toward a cleaner planet, Everlane committed to transition all conventional cotton production to organic cotton by 2023 and released a GOTS-certified T-shirt. As a brand rooted in transparency, our goal is to build trust with our customers. GOTS allows us to build trust as it is the leading-certification in organic production.'

Kimberley Smith, Chief Supply Chain Officer



Everlane women's wear

NATRACARE, UK

'As the inventors of the world's first certified organic tampon, Natracare has witnessed 30 plus years of changing attitudes towards menstrual products and has laid the groundwork for millions to have more sustainable period products worldwide. Susie Hewson founded Natracare in 1989, when there were no alternatives to the chemical-laden and plastic-filled period products flooding the market and several years before an organic standard was available for tampons. In 2000, Natracare submitted to GOTS a subsection specifically for menstrual products, which was included in version 5.0 of the standards. Since then, we have contributed further to GOTS version 6.0, to help protect the integrity of the category, strengthen the environmental principles and prepare for growth in the category.'

Susie Hewson, Founder



Natracare organic tampons





# PROMOTION

## DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



Following the new GOTS Design Guide the flyers *From Field to Fashion, Are You Allowed to Label GOTS Goods or mention GOTS in your Advertising* and the *WHY GOTS? GOTS Certification helps obtain leadership position with regard to the UN SDGs* were updated. The GOTS Simple Show Clip was published in Hindi.

More GOTS Material for You on our website such as:

- The GOTS Fact Sheets
- GOTS Simple Show Clip in different languages
- The GOTS film
- GOTS Security Advice Ads



On 24th April, during the Fashion Revolution Week and the anniversary of the Rana Plaza factory collapse, the first GOTS clip 'Faces From Field to Fashion - Meet Mariados' was launched.

In December 2020, the evolution of the website was completed and the website was launched. New features on the website include quick links with customised information, the GOTS Resource Library and information on GOTS requirements for each step of the supply chain.

The web analysing tool Matomo recorded a higher number of visitors 497,871 compared to last year (2019: 395,817)

with 2,054,241 page-views (2019: 1,708,530). It counted 72,471 (2019: 57,650) downloads, most of them the Standard Document followed by the Labelling Guide. 941,249 (2019: 821,185) page-views were counted on the GOTS Certified Suppliers Database. This confirms the database as a central instrument for verification, searching and sourcing.

At the beginning of the COVID-19 lockdown, GOTS staff shared stories from their home offices and created a series of clips on topics such as GOTS and organic, correct labelling and new developments in GOTS Version 6.0 (see next page).

### MEDIA

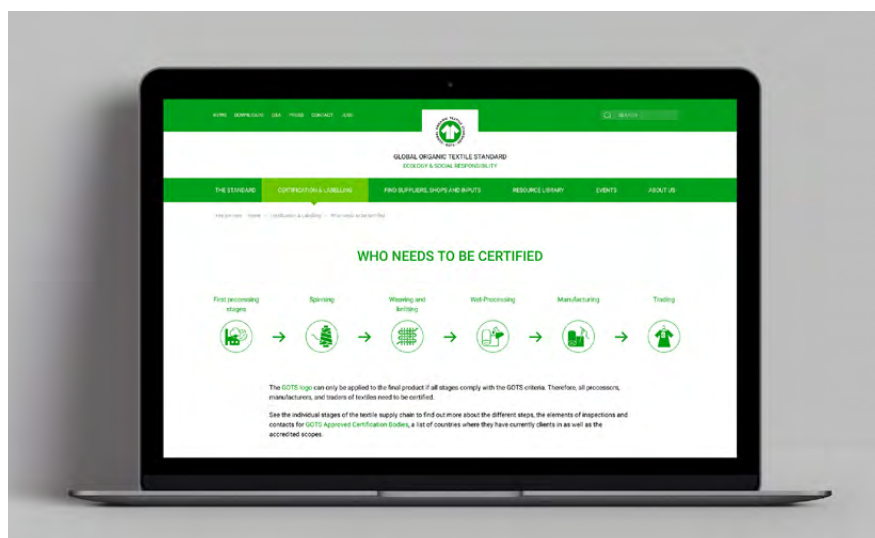
Our media reporting showed around 400 weekly GOTS mentions globally (2019: 180), and a growing number of 700 Million potential viewers (2019: 220 Million). The Top ten countries of GOTS Media Coverage in 2020 are the USA (13,929), Japan (2,427), Germany (1,597), UK (869), Canada (659), China (641), Korea (630), India (558), France (483) and Spain (400).

We published four GOTS Newsletters and 13 Press Releases.

GOTS was covered in numerous industry media worldwide, such as Apparel

Views, Ecotextile News, Pure and Eco, TextilWirtschaft, Vogue, and Sourcing Journal and supported the publication of the Cotton & Sustainability Guide, released in April 2020. Varying sources mentioning GOTS such as brands, trade media, NGOs, daily news, blogs and influencers, show great interest and growing awareness of the standard. Brands increasingly advertise their GOTS certification and certified products and many publishing houses, as well as the German Broad Cast Station WDR asked for use of the GOTS logo.

The community of followers on the GOTS Social Media channels (Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn @globalorganictextilestandard) is steadily growing.



**GOTS CONNECT -  
SCREEN TO SCREEN SERIES**

In 2020, GOTS staff recorded the 'GOTS Connect - from Screen to Screen series' to stay connected and share valuable information.



Find all clips here



**Greenwash and how to avoid it? Go for GOTS.** Christopher talks about false sustainability claims, the key elements of true sustainability, and why to go for GOTS.



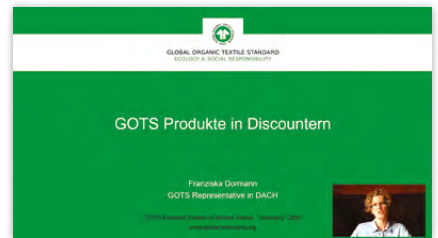
**全球有机纺织品标准 (GOTS) 基本知识点介绍 (一) // Introduction to GOTS.** Felicia will navigate you through the GOTS website (in Chinese).



**GOTS Introduction - GOTS and Organics.** Lina shares insights on how GOTS relates to the organic movement and what makes GOTS the largest processing standard for organic textiles today.



**GOTS Material for You.** In this GOTS Connect clip Juliane presents the available GOTS Marketing Material for You.



**GOTS Produkte in Discountern // GOTS products in discounters.** Franziska gives answers to 'how certified products can be offered at low prices' and 'is that sustainable?' (in German)



**オーガニックテキスタイル世界基準 GOTSの成立と団体紹介 // GOTS Introduction.** Watch Miyoshi's introduction of GOTS (in Japanese).



**Organic Verification of Textiles with GOTS.** Lori explains how GOTS requires all steps throughout the supply chain to include stringent environmental and social criteria.



**GOTS Monitor (Water/Energy) Tool.** Prachi is taking you through the salient features of the GOTS Monitor Water/ Energy Tool.



**How to label GOTS Products Correctly.** From who is allowed to label GOTS to how can I make sure to label correctly, Otto answers the most pressing questions.



**Covid Döneminde GOTS // GOTS measures during COVID.** Elif talks about the measures GOTS took during COVID from her home in Izmir (in Turkish).



**GOTS Version 6 - Changes. Social Criteria and Ethical Business Behaviour.** Sumit takes you through the changes made to GOTS Social Criteria and Ethical Business Behaviour and addresses the Quality Assurance System.

## PROMOTION EVENTS TO THE INDUSTRY

Around the globe, GOTS Representatives organised round tables, gave presentations and hosted GOTS booths at numerous events such as Intertextile Shanghai, Ekoloji Izmir, Neonyt Berlin, Munich Fabric Start, Pure London, Organic Lifestyle Expo Tokyo and the Texworld NYC.

The Representatives also contributed to some events by joining panel discussions and giving presentations about GOTS. Franziska Dormann joined the panel 'Transparency in textile supply chains' at the Neonyt, and Christopher Stopes was on the panel 'The importance of certification and the role of GOTS in encouraging the use of organic fibres and organic manufacturing' at the Pure London. Presentations at events included the Conference 'India and Sustainability Standards: International Dialogues' where Sumit Gupta was invited to talk about 'Voluntary Sustainability Standards (VSS) Contribution to SDGs In India'. In China, Felicia Shi contributed to the 'ECOCERT Seminar on Sustainable Textiles' by introducing the latest policy and market trends of GOTS. She also joined the IFOAM Asia First China Organic Forum, responding to the increasing interest in GOTS in the session 'How GOTS Assures the Consumers from Field to Fashion.' In Japan, Miyoshi Satoko gave a seminar at the Organic Cotton Advisor event, organised by Japan Organic Cotton Association (JOCA).

## APPROACHING RELEVANT TEXTILE OPERATORS AND INITIAL CONSULTANCY FOR GOTS CERTIFICATION

In India, in his former role as GOTS Representative for India and Bangladesh, Sumit Gupta conducted an onsite workshop for the retail group 'Max'. He consulted BESTSELLER, BonOrganic and other retailers and brands about GOTS. Overall, he provided initial consultancy in India and Bangladesh to over 100 companies and buying agents of international brands. Sumit also served as lecturer at the National Institute of Fashion Technology in Mumbai, where he talked about 'GOTS and eco-labels' and conducted training for Indian Chemical Manufacturers.



In October, Ganesh Kasekar was appointed GOTS Representative South Asia taking over the role from Sumit, including the regions Sri Lanka and Pakistan. Ganesh re-established communication with companies such as BIBA and Northmist and gave initial consultancy to companies like Noman Group, Forever 21 and Boll & Branch.

Although COVID-19 posed significant challenges to the conventional textiles business, according to statistics, China saw an increase in consumption of overall organic products. Felicia Shi, Representative in China, provided initial consultancy about correct labelling, updates in GOTS Version 6.0 and GOTS quality assurance to various brands such as TALAK, Homedepot and JAD Board. Felicia also provided training for international brands and retailers about GOTS, and answered questions about GMO testing, approval of chemical inputs and on legal requirements of organic labelling

regulations in China. Brands included Target, the Aldi Textile Sourcing Team in Hong Kong, Marc O'Polo, Esprit and Lidl. She further responded to enquiries from Indonesia, Cambodia and Vietnam.

Representative in Germany, Austria and Switzerland Franziska Dormann, provided initial consultancy about GOTS to an increasing number of companies in the German-speaking region and Scandinavia. It was noticeable that GOTS is gaining more importance in public procurement in Germany. Franziska hosted a virtual GOTS round table for Exclusive Merchandising Products (EMO). She also supported students' research, gave the master class 'Transparency along global supply chains' at the University of Erfurt and presentations for Textile Engineers and Fashion Managers at the University of Hof and the FHM.

In Japan, Representative Satoko Miyoshi followed up with Sazaby League Cooperation, owning about 50 brands to implement GOTS certification. She also prepared an online webinar for ZOZO, the biggest online platform for fashion in Japan, with over 8,000 brands and consulted Fast Retailing. Miyoshi provided initial consultancy to several companies such as Avanti, Noa and Kuroki. In December, Miyoshi hosted a GOTS round table online, with over 70 attendees. She also introduced GOTS certification for wool products at the Asian Productivity Organisation training for Mongolia. In October, Miyoshi held a lecture at the Organic Foundation course about non-food organics including GOTS.

Fiona Matsumoto, who took over the role of GOTS Representative in Japan by the end of the year, conducted a Global Market Development Project. In this project, Fiona researched the Japanese Market in regard to sustainable development and sustainable initiatives of retailers and brands. Results allow to analyse challenges when it comes to GOTS certified products and how to overcome such.

Elif Yaraşık, Representative in Turkey, provided consultancy to Burberry and big retailers such as Tesco and the Otto Sourcing Office in Turkey. She attended the yearly review meeting with



LC Waikiki virtually. Elif also organised initial consultancy for Helge Fleischer ApS and Lilaörme and responded to enquiries from Austria, Sweden and Tunisia. She noticed an enormous interest in GOTS certification.

In the UK, Representative Christopher Stopes supported larger retailers and brands, such as Amazon, ASOS, Primark, Arcadia, Next, Li & Fung, Chanel and Primark in their journey towards GOTS. The number of certified companies in the UK was increasing. Christopher consulted more than 30 companies and brands. GOTS also initiated a partnership with the Organic Trade Board (OTB) in the UK. The partnership opens the opportunity to link organic textiles and organic food consumers. Christopher supported Bachelor and Master students in their research.

In North America, the pandemic slowed down the number of companies requesting certification. Lori Wyman gave virtual presentations to retail executives with the largest ones being Target, Walmart Canada and Amazon. Lori also provided initial consultancy to brands such as Prana, Stitch Fix, Victoria's Secret and Canada Goose. She organised a virtual round table with over 75 participants. Lori gave interviews to journalists from consumer and trade publications about GOTS, including the Wall Street Journal and wrote an article geared towards retailers in the Organic Trade Association's 'The Organic Report Magazine' fall issue.

### ORGANIC PRODUCTION

Lina Pfeifer, GOTS Organic Production, contributed to promote organic cotton as well as organic in conversion. She consulted organisations and companies, such as C&A and Kering, about organic production and GOTS and continued to be an active member in the organic fibres group of the Partnership for Sustainable Textiles (PST). She also participated in discussions following up on GIZ programmes on organic cotton in Uzbekistan and attended events to connect and share information about GOTS and Organic Production, such as the Wool Connect Conference. In the preparation of the project 'Enhancement of GOTS in Africa', Lina fostered relationships with African organic cotton producers.



### NEW DEVELOPMENTS

Herbert Ladwig, Policy and Legal Advisor, focused on the further development of the project 'Enhancement of GOTS in Africa'. The kick-off conference 'African Organic Textiles & Apparel - Towards an African Value Chain' planned to be held in Addis Ababa, to introduce the creation of a complete African supply chain for GOTS consumer goods, had to be postponed due to COVID restrictions. Activities to induce East African processors to get GOTS certified and looking for African CBs continue in 2021.

### WORK WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS AND OFFICIAL BODIES

GOTS is a signatory to the United Nations Fashion Industry Charter for Climate Change (UNFCCC), aiming to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. We participated in the deliberations of the UNFCCC working groups, which produced a 'Playbook for Climate Action' on how GHG emissions could be approached by the Fashion Industry. GOTS was part of the group of experts, contributing to the Sustainable Textile and Leather Traceability and Transparency initiative, enhancing transparency and traceability of sustainable value chains in the garment and footwear industries. The information on best practices enables policymakers to advance the policy and regulatory frameworks and to support brands, manufacturers and factories in their efforts to implement improvement plans. GOTS contributed to the Policy Recommendations, Textile Sector and Pilots, Training and Awareness sub-groups in the 'Multi-Stakeholder Policy Dialogue Platform'.

In December, GOTS signed a partnership with the Alliance for Organic Integrity (AOI), focused on the quality of organic inspection, to increase Quality Assurance regarding certification.

In India, the Centre for Responsible Business is working on listing contributions of VSS to India. Summit participated in meetings to include GOTS in the project 'Profile of Voluntary Sustainability Standards in India'. The outcome of the project will be shared with the Government of India, to promote the adoption of VSS as a tool to meet UN SDGs.



Ganesh supported the Pakistan Central Cotton Committee (PCCC) over the organic farming procedures, training will continue in 2021.

In China, Felicia signed up to the UNFCCC-China Task Force, built on the UNFCCC initiative. The initiative aims to support on-going activities of the Working Group Fashion Industry Charter for Climate Action (FICCA) led by China National Textile and Apparel Council (CNTAC) to facilitate the Policy Advocacy China Roadmap.

In Germany, Franziska attended meetings of PST and the Steering Committee. She is also part of the expert groups Review process and Gender-based Violence and Harassment. Together with IVN, GIZ and PST, GOTS initiated a project on Gender-based violence and Harassment and Social audits. Two webinars for interested companies and stakeholders were held and a Guidance document on Social audits was developed. The project continues in 2021. Franziska also gave an interview to the Austrian Ministry of Social Affairs regarding GOTS Social Standards.

In Japan, Miyoshi supported the Ministry of Environment (MoE) to include GOTS in



their white paper. MoE started to investigate sustainability in the textile industry and followed up with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery (MAFF) regarding fibre certification.

In Turkey, Elif worked with the governmental research institute TÜBİTAK to provide details of GOTS requirements in organic textile production, to support the implementation of GOTS in one EU Eco Label project.

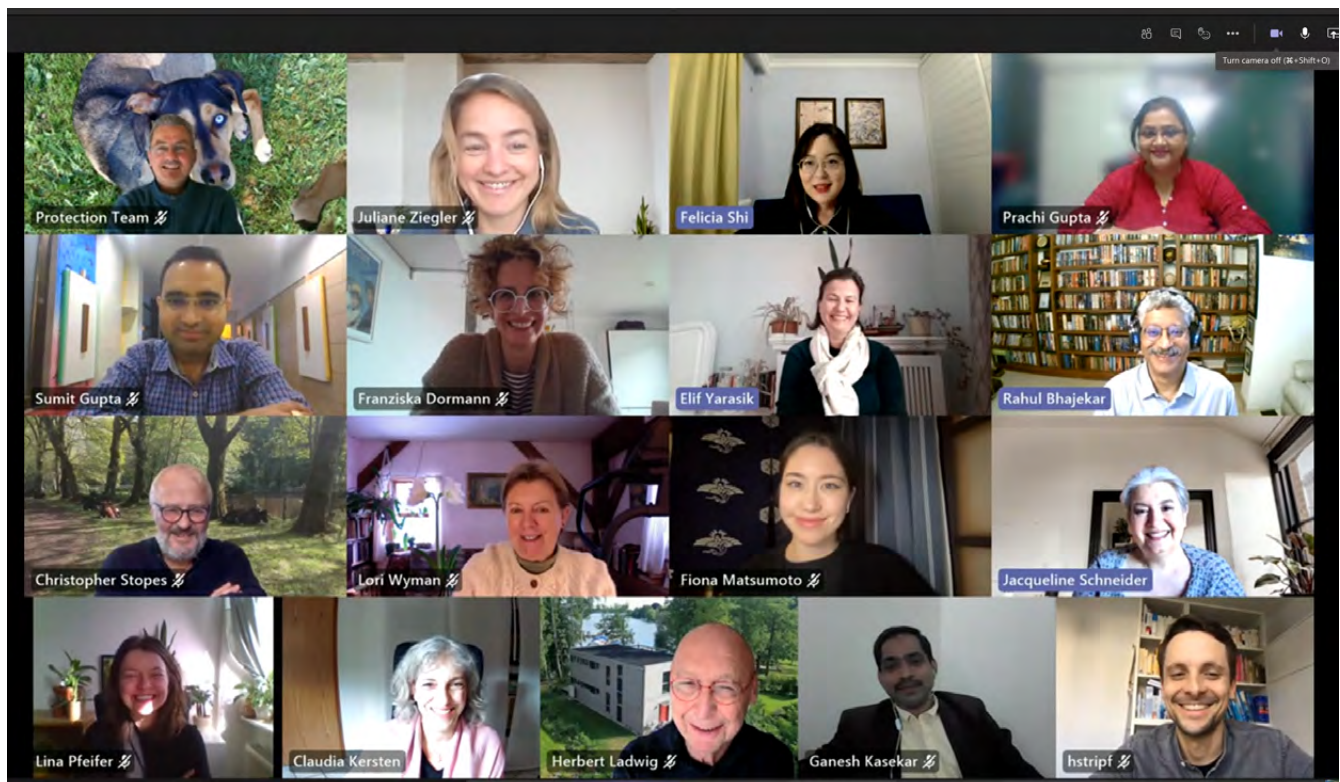
IFOAM Organics International continued to implement Motion 61, approved by the 2017 IFOAM OI General Assembly.

This also concerned the advocacy and communication by IFOAM OI of the need for a whole-supply chain labelling of organic textiles, including fibre production and processing (as it is the case for organic food).

A contract for the recruitment of a Brussels based lobbyist between IFOAM OE and GOTS was finalised. Lobbying work is expected to start in 2021. The European Commission Directorate General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, Tourism and Creative Industries postponed the Expert Group on Textile Names and Labelling meeting.

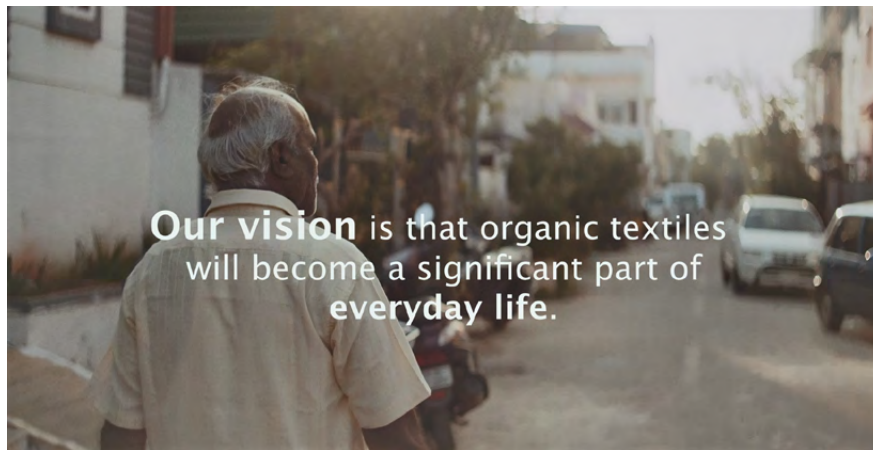
The European Commission published the New Circular Economy Action Plan to implement key elements of the Green New Deal. The plan highlights the need for improving the sustainability and circularity of the European textile sector and calls for the preparation of the European Strategy for Textiles in 2021. GOTS has been investigating the possibility of contributing to the strategy planned for 2021.

GOTS joined an online consultation, initiated by the European Commission Directorate General for Justice and Consumers, on the role of consumers in a



green transition. GOTS emphasised, that clear sustainability standards such as GOTS are necessary to provide honest information on the environmental and social impact of textiles.

The UK Sustainable Clothing Action Plan (SCAP) reached the end of its first phase. A new initiative, Textiles 2030, was launched during 2020 with a commitment amongst brand and retailer signatories to reduce the carbon, water and waste footprint of the textiles they supply. GOTS is a supporter of the SCAP initiative and Textiles 2030. It includes the commitment to use more sustainable fibres with organic cotton included as one of the improvement actions. The SCAP Footprint Tool is designed to allow retailers to enter their fibre mix and calculate the carbon, water and waste footprint. The tool was reviewed and



organic cotton scenarios tested to show the potential for reductions in carbon and water footprints.

The funding for the post-doctoral research project with the London College of Fashion was finalised. It is

a 'design-led investigation into an organic system approach to fashion and textiles' funded by the organic Sheepdrove Trust with specific reference to GOTS and GOTS' involvement in the Steering Group.





# ORGANISATION

Our organisation maintains a flat structure and aims to minimise administrative costs.

The GOTS programme is self-financed. All income is used to reach our objectives. Accordingly, the operating unit has legal non-profit status (Global Standard gemeinnuetzige GmbH).

## MANAGING DIRECTORS



**Rahul Bhajekar**



**Claudia Kersten**

## POLICY & LEGAL ADVISOR



**Herbert Ladwig**

## EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT



**Jacqueline Schneider**

## REPRESENTATIVES



**Franziska Dormann**  
IN GERMANY, AUSTRIA  
& SWITZERLAND



**Ganesh Kasekar**  
IN SOUTH ASIA



**Fiona Matsumoto**  
IN JAPAN



**Felicia Shi**  
IN CHINA

## REPRESENTATIVES



**Christopher Stopes**  
IN UK & TO THE EU



**Lori Wyman**  
IN NORTH AMERICA



**Elif Yaraşık**  
IN TURKEY

## SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS



**Prachi Gupta**  
RESPONSIBLE QUALITY  
ASSURANCE AND IMPACT

## SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS



**Otto Kersten**  
PROTECTION OFFICER



**Lina Pfeifer**  
ORGANIC PRODUCTION



**Mark Sebastian**  
PROJECT MANAGER  
CENTRAL DATABASE SYSTEM



**Juliane Ziegler**  
COMMUNICATION  
EXECUTIVE



## GLOBAL ORGANIC TEXTILE STANDARD ECOLOGY & SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

GOTS is recognised as the world's leading processing standard for textiles made from organic fibres. It defines high-level environmental criteria along the entire supply chain of organic textiles and requires compliance with social criteria as well. GOTS was developed by leading international standard setters in order to define globally recognised requirements that ensure the organic status of textiles – from harvesting of the raw materials through environmentally and socially responsible manufacturing all the way to labelling – in order to provide credible assurance to the consumer. Supported by the growth in consumption of organic fibres and by the remarkable demand for standardised processing criteria from the industry and retail sector, GOTS has already gained universal recognition. It enables processors and manufacturers to supply their textiles made from organic fibres with one certification accepted in

all major selling markets. GOTS is comprised of four well-respected member organisations: Organic Trade Association (OTA), USA, International Association of Natural Textile Industry (IVN), Germany, Soil Association, UK and the Japan Organic Cotton Association (JOCA), Japan. Together with international stakeholder organisations and experts, they contribute their respective expertise in organic farming and environmentally and socially responsible textile processing to GOTS. The monitoring system is based on on-site inspection and certification performed by independent, specially accredited bodies. This assures the integrity of GOTS certified textiles.

The GOTS licence entitles value chain partners to participate in the GOTS programme, including the use of the GOTS logo on its respective GOTS goods.

### OUR VISION

Organic textiles will become a significant part of everyday life, enhancing people's lives and the environment.

### OUR MISSION

The development, implementation, verification, protection and promotion of the Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS).



**Organic  
Fibres**



**Ecological &  
Social Standards**



**Third Party  
Certification**



**All Processing  
Stages**