



COMPARE!

From Field To Fashion!



95% of cotton seed market is controlled by GM giants

Farmers are locked into costly contracts and have little control

Cotton is usually grown as a monocrop, **destroying soil quality**

Farmers are free to save seeds and choose what they grow

Soil is nurtured, making it viable for the long term

Organic cotton is grown alongside food which **feeds the farmers**

16% of the world's insecticides, and 10% of total pesticides, are used in cotton production, poisoning people and the environment
77 million agricultural workers suffer poisoning from pesticides each year
83% of manufactured nitrogen fertilisers used on crops end up in the environment

On The Farm

Hazardous pesticides are banned in organic cotton production, making it safer for growers

High energy and water use

Higher levels of CO₂ are released into the atmosphere

Less energy and water use

Farming methods **lock CO₂** into the soil

Growing organic cotton produces up to **94% less greenhouse gas emissions**

There are **no mandatory checks**

At **conventional factories** which...

...produce clothes for **high-st brands**

At The Factory

All factories are regularly inspected

And certified to **strict social criteria**

Meaning **no forced labour**

And **no child labour**

The use of **toxic dyes** and processing substances is **widespread**, including chemicals **banned** in the EU
Greenpeace found local water ways **polluted** by hazardous and persistent hormone-disrupting chemicals
One-fifth of water used is to dilute **pollution**

With certification to the **Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS)** the use of hazardous **chemicals is prohibited**, and all **waste water is treated**, protecting workers and their water supplies.
All chemicals must meet **strict toxicity and biodegradability rules**

Tests on clothes revealed traces of **toxic dyes**, which could be absorbed through the skin

These may cause **allergies, rashes and respiratory problems**

Babies are most vulnerable as they are still growing

On Your Skin

Allergenic, carcinogenic or toxic chemical residues are not allowed in **GOTS certified clothes**

Certification covers **all stages** - from field to fashion

Certifier + License Number + Labelgrade

Trust only GOTS goods with **Logo+License No. + Labelgrade** - verifiable by the GOTS database



GOTS

COMPARE From Field to Fashion

➔ **What is GOTS?** The Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS) is recognized as the world's leading processing standard for textiles (clothing, home textiles, and personal care products) made from certified organically produced raw materials. It includes strict environmental and social criteria for operations along the entire textile supply chain. GOTS is recognized in all markets around the globe and the numbers are growing; in 2013 more than 3080 facilities worldwide were certified to GOTS.

➔ **What's the problem with textile processing?** Textile processing results in the often inadequately treated discharge of toxic chemicals into the air and water, as well as hazardous workplace situations. We all "live downstream" and share the same water and air, and workers making products for us deserve our respect. GOTS prohibits the use of the kinds of chemicals commonly used in textile processing that can cause cancer, birth defects and other serious illnesses. Chemicals, like persistent hormone-disrupting substances, also destroy eco-systems and biodiversity on an international scale. GOTS requires that all dyes and auxiliaries assessed to its strict criteria and approved prior to their usage.

➔ **Why is certification to GOTS a good idea?** While an important step in the right direction, the use of organic materials alone is not enough. When using organically produced materials, farm workers and environment are protected. When manufactured without using hazardous chemicals, factory workers and the environment are protected. When there are no harmful residues in the end product, consumers are protected.

➔ **What are organic raw materials?** Organic is a system of production with national standards for environmental protection and animal welfare. Organic raw materials include organic cotton, silk, flax (linen), and wool.

➔ **Can only organic raw materials be used in GOTS-certified products?** As a textile processing standard, GOTS does not set its own criteria for organic farming but rather

requires that the materials used must be of certified organic origin according to a recognized farming standard. Only textile products made from at least 70 percent (label grade "made with organic") or 95 percent (label grade "organic") certified organic raw materials can become GOTS certified.

➔ **If I see the GOTS logo, what does it mean?** To be sure a product really is GOTS-certified you should be able to see reference to the GOTS label grade ('organic' or 'made with organic'), the reference to the independent certification body, and the license number of the certified entity. Consumers can trace the certified company by entering the license number (or company name) provided on the GOTS labelling in the 'free text field' of our public data base. Look for the label - don't accept self-claims.

➔ **What about a statement that the yarn (or fabric) in a finished product is GOTS certified?** This is only a self-claim as only finished products may be certified to GOTS (see above). Thus, you cannot be sure this claim is true.

➔ **What kinds of worker-oriented provisions are in GOTS?** Workers are not exposed to toxic chemicals when working with GOTS-certified inputs and practices. In addition, the GOTS social criteria are based on the International Labor Organization (ILO) key conventions which include a ban on child and forced labor and include provisions such as having systems in place to prove they are addressing social concerns, such as grievances. Furthermore, GOTS requires fire prevention training and evacuation drills.

➔ **What about animal husbandry?** As it is a textile processing standard, GOTS does not set its own criteria for organic farming. Rather it requires that at least 70% of the fibers used must be of organically-certified materials that would have had to be managed to organic animal husbandry standards. Those rules can be found in the applicable national standards - the EC Organic Regulation 834/2007 (incl. implementation regulation EC 889/2008), the USDA National Organic Program

regulations, and other standards in the IFOAM Family of Standards.

➔ **Is GOTS an official standard?** GOTS is a voluntary standard so it is not regulated by a governmental body but rather managed by a nonprofit organization. However, it is supported by the U.S. government which requires that textile products claiming to be organic in the U.S. be certified to the organic food standard or GOTS.

➔ **How do products/companies become certified to GOTS?** GOTS is a product certification meaning that finished products claiming to be GOTS certified must meet all GOTS criteria. In addition all facilities involved in the production of such goods must be certified. The certification is undertaken by an independent GOTS-approved certification body and facilities are inspected regularly.

➔ **What can I do to improve the problems with textile processing?** Become a "change agent!" Choose GOTS-certified products when making your purchases. If you can't find such products at your favourite stores, ask the manager to carry such products, or contact your favourite brands or retailers directly to ask them to "GO GOTS!"

➔ **Watch the new GOTS Simple Show Clip (< 4 min)**

