



Press Release

For immediate release

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GOTS marks 20th anniversary with all-time high in certified facilities

Record high: 12,338 (+19%) GOTS certified facilities in 79 countries in 2021

Twenty years after its inception, the world's leading textile processing standard for organic fibres records new all-time high figures: 18 GOTS Approved Certification Bodies report a total of 12,338 certified facilities (+19%) in 79 countries (+11%).

Among the countries with the largest increase in GOTS certified facilities in 2021 are Turkey (+61% to 1,799), Italy (+53% to 894), Germany (+19% to 817), Portugal (+35% to 608), France (+22% to 122), Denmark (+14% to 115), Switzerland (+15% to 61), Belgium (+55% to 59), Sweden (+34% to 51) and Vietnam (+264% to 51).

“What seemed utopian to many in 2002 has become a reality in the past 20 years. We have created an organic textile standard, certified by approved certification bodies, which is accepted in all major markets. GOTS is a standard that gives consumers the power to choose truly organic products sourced from sustainable supply chains.” says Claudia Kersten, Managing Director at GOTS. “Despite ongoing difficulties and uncertainty caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, decision-makers continue to pursue their sustainability goals and value GOTS as a tool to accomplish them”.

The results of the annual GOTS Survey among certified entities underline this. Out of 1,114 respondents (+39%), 63% indicated a permanent shift in their sustainability strategy with a focus on the environment and health of their workers and staff.

Growing interest from industry, the public, and the media drove website visits up an impressive 48 percent. Media exposure grew by 64 percent and GOTS social media followers across several platforms jumped by 57percent.

“As much as we are pleased with the development so far, we don't intend to rest on our laurels” adds Rahul Bhajekar, Managing Director at GOTS. “In March 2022 we begin revision for GOTS version 7.0 involving all stakeholders including associations, organizations, companies, and individuals to further advance the progressive, innovative, stringent yet practical standard GOTS is”.

“Towards an African Value chain” is a campaign that was launched in 2021 with the aim of linking up organic fiber producers in Africa with organic textile supply chains across the continent. North Africa and Southern Africa still account for the highest number of GOTS certified facilities with a total of 101 in 2021. Interest in east and west Africa is increasing with government institutions and farmer associations expressing readiness to partner with the private sector to develop an organic textile value chain that can serve a growing appetite in the global market. Burkina Faso, Togo and Ivory coast all have ongoing private sector led-



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investments in the organic cotton production and organic textile processing value chain. In Ethiopia an upcoming project, supported by the National Metrology Institute of Germany (PTB), will use GOTS requirements as a benchmark to enhance the capacity of government testing facilities to provide testing services to the organic textile industry.

“Overall, engagements in 2021 have been fruitful. The GOTS participation at the Africa Sourcing and Fashion Week (ASFW) in Addis Ababa received a lot of interest. As the sector grows in Africa, GOTS will continue to engage with relevant stakeholders on the continent to provide necessary support that will ensure the protection of workers, consumers, and the environment in line with the GOTS mission” says Muktar Dodo, the GOTS representative in Africa.

The first **GOTS conference in Africa** is coming up at this year’s ASFW that will be held in the first week of November in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. It will showcase African producers and processors to buyers from major international markets, it is an opportunity for all stakeholders in the organic textile value chain to meet under one roof.

About GOTS: GOTS is the stringent voluntary global standard for the entire post-harvest processing (including spinning, knitting, weaving, dyeing, and manufacturing) of apparel and home textiles made with certified organic fibre (such as organic cotton and organic wool), and includes both environmental and social criteria. Key provisions include a ban on the use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs), highly hazardous chemicals (such as azo dyes and formaldehyde), and child labour, while requiring strong social compliance management systems and strict wastewater treatment practices. GOTS was

developed by leading international standard setters - Organic Trade Association (U.S.), Japan Organic Cotton Association, International Association Natural Textile Industry (Germany), and Soil Association (UK) to define globally-recognised requirements that ensure the organic status of textiles, from field to finished product.

GOTS is a non-profit organisation which is self-financed. For more information please see www.global-standard.org and follow @globalorganictextilestandard on [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#).

4,313 characters

The GOTS logo is available for [download](#).