



Press Release

For immediate release

Ganesh Kasekar
GOTS Representative South Asia
kasekar@global-standard.org
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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 57 percent.

"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".

As informed by Mr. Ganesh Kasekar – Representative of GOTS in South Asia region, GOTS continue to be the preferred sustainability standard in the region. The unique positioning of region remains unfazed with coverage for all stakeholders and partners involved in the textile supply chain including the fibre to final product manufacturing along with the supporting industry of dyes-chemicals and accessories industry.

The industry in the South Asia region also welcomed the concept of "Organic In Conversion" which will be a boost and encouragement for more organic cotton projects from Farm to Fashion. Positive signs received for inclusion and use of



other sustainable fibres (Hemp, Silk, Pashmina and others) on large scale under GOTS. India and Pakistan will be having key focus for the Organic In Conversion concept.

The changing consumer behaviour and urge to have a complete sustainable product in their hands domestic market too have been revamping its product from conventional to sustainable angle and this remains an area of significant importance in coming times.

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](#).

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