



GLOBAL ORGANIC TEXTILE STANDARD
ECOLOGY & SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Press Release

For immediate release

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GOTS registers highest growth rate ever in 2019

7765 certified facilities worldwide, an increase of 35% with more than 3 million workers covered under GOTS in 2019.

In 2019, the number of GOTS certified facilities globally grew by 35%, from 5,760 to 7,765 located in 70 countries. The number demonstrates that GOTS successfully serves as sustainable solution. The required certified organic fibres protect the climate by absorbing CO₂ and every processing step - from field to fashion - has to meet stringent social and environmental criteria before a finished product is allowed to carry the GOTS label.

This huge leap forward was seen in both, production and consuming regions. Countries with largest growth in GOTS-certification in percentage in 2019 are: Netherlands (73%), Bangladesh (73%), Spain (71%), and Turkey (65%). In terms of total numbers of certified facilities, the highest increase is reported from Bangladesh (+505), followed by India (+438) and Europe (+396).

The top ten countries in terms of total numbers of GOTS-certified facilities in 2019 are: India (2411), Bangladesh (1194), Turkey (858), Germany (565), China (448), Italy (444), Portugal (301), Pakistan (276), USA (147), and the UK (75).

“The enormous growth shows that GOTS successfully serves as sustainable solution from certified organic fibre to finished product. With more and more GOTS certified operations and products we altogether substantially contribute to sustainable development.” Claudia Kersten, GOTS Managing Director.

GOTS certification helps to ensure compliance with each of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals.

More than 3 Million workers working in GOTS-certified facilities were reported in 2019 by the 17 accredited independent Certification Bodies.

2019 was also a GOTS revision year resulting in the new GOTS Version 6.0, due to be released in spring 2020.

Ranking number 10 in the GOTS global league table, there was a 4% increase in the number of GOTS certified facilities in the UK in 2019. The market for organic textiles continued to show growth. Soil Association Certification reported that sales of GOTS operators certified by them grew by 18% to £41.3 million (€49 million) with the strongest growth in home textiles (+64%). Market growth was also fuelled by retail sales supplied by GOTS operators from outside the UK. The UK government's Sustainable Clothing Action Plan (SCAP) will start a new voluntary agreement from 2021, having achieved the carbon and water targets set for 2020. Using more sustainable fibre (including organic cotton) is contributing to reducing the environmental footprint of clothing and home textiles. Consumers care about this, and they want to take action.



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The UK GOTS roundtable held in 2019 also led to valuable insights from sustainable cotton expert Simon Ferrigno and stressed the need for a change in the textile industry.

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 waste water 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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