



Textile Exchange Organic Cotton Round Table

Regional Strategy Meeting: Latin America October 12, 2017 in Washington D.C.

The [Organic Cotton Round Table](#) (OCRT) is an annual multi-stakeholder event, held as part of Textile Exchange (TE)'s Textile Sustainability Conference. It brings together the organic cotton community to act collectively and to incubate new ideas. For the first time this year, we are focusing on five specific regions, and we would like to invite you to join our session for Latin America.

Since its inception five years ago, the OCRT has focused on addressing key challenges in the stability and sustainable growth of the organic cotton sector at a global level through its three Task Forces: Business Models, Seed and Soils, and Consumer Engagement. Under these Task Forces, the OCRT has already identified a number of initiatives and has either catalyzed, or been an incubator for, their development. Such initiatives include the [Organic Cotton Accelerator](#), the [Chetna Coalition](#), [aboutorganiccotton.org](#) (a microsite dedicated to organic cotton), and an inventory of non-GMO seed availability.

In 2016, to meet demand for organic cotton strategies specific to Turkey and the surrounding regions, Textile Exchange hosted a workshop in Izmir, Turkey, which was the precursor to what has since formed into the [Regional-OCRT](#). Its official inauguration was held in Izmir, Turkey, on April 28, 2017. In the same year, an Africa Sourcing Hubs Working Group was formed, with the aim of supporting and facilitating the sourcing of organic cotton from Africa.

With the growing need to tailor strategy and build resources and networks of supporters at the regional level, the Washington OCRT 2017 will continue with its customized regional strategies. In the afternoon of the OCRT on October 12, 2017, participants will divide into breakouts that cover the key organic cotton producing regions, including a meeting specifically for Latin America.

OCRT Regional Strategy Meeting – Latin America

This meeting will draw on the expertise and experiences of those in the room to kick-start the development of a strategic plan for organic cotton in Latin America. Key stakeholders that will be part of this session include:

- SOCiLA
- C&A Institute
- FAO Regional Office Latin America & the Caribbean
- Justa Trama (TBC)
- Instituto Renner
- Organic Cotton Colours (TBC)
- Timberland
- Smallholder Farmers Alliance - Haiti
- Bergman Rivera / Ecotton
- VEJA / VERT Shoes

Objectives for Washington

- Kick-start the development of a strategic plan for organic cotton in Latin America.
- Collect ideas (including aims and deliverables) for a pre-competitive action plan.
- Learn about current activities, pilot studies and progress.
- Share stories of what's working well in Latin America and what's not to gain a common understanding on what key barriers and opportunities are.
- Explore country-specific scenarios for an uptake and growth plan for the Region.
- Shape the way forward for 2018.

Invitation to Attend

Is this region part of your organic or preferred cotton strategy or manufacturing supply chain? Be part of a strategy building exercise, explore the potential for sector growth, improving livelihoods, and aligning pre-competitive objectives for sourcing from Latin America.

JOIN US TO ENGAGE IN NEW BUSINESS MODELS AND IN ADDRESSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLABORATION!

To find out more, please contact OCRT@TextileExchange.org

Preliminary Agenda

Timing	Activity
2:00-2:10 p.m.	Welcome and introductions.
2:10-2:25 p.m.	Cooperation South to South - Adriana Gregolin, FAO
2:25-2:35 p.m.	Situation of OC in Perú - Orlando Rivera, Bergman Rivera
2:35-2:45 p.m.	Situation of OC in Haiti - Hugh Locke , Smallholder Farmers Alliance
2:45-3:05 p.m.	Experiences and challenges in Brazil - Margarida Lunetta, Instituto C&A and Valdenira, VEJA.
3:05-3:45 p.m.	Discussion: strategic plan for organic cotton in Latin America - Moderator: SOCiLA
3:45-4:00 p.m.	Tweet sharing and wrap up. Share your tweet with the wider group and it will be tweeted out via the conference channel. A written summary and action points will be prepared for distribution after the event.



Textile Exchange is a global non-profit that works closely with our members to drive industry transformation in preferred fibers, integrity and standards and responsible supply networks. We identify and share best practices regarding farming, materials, processing, traceability and product end-of-life in order to reduce the textile industry's impact on the world's water, soil and air, and the human population.

<http://textileexchange.org>