WELCOME

The Organic Cotton Round Table is now a fully established breeding ground for initiating solutions to the sector’s biggest challenges and igniting innovation within the organic cotton community – paving the way to scaling up production of organic cotton.

In Portland this year, we have a packed agenda: participants will be the first to hear the results of the first ever Global Organic Cotton Life Cycle Assessment, as well as the results of our Global Seed Inventory. We will hear about three exciting new start-up initiatives, and will collectively tackle supply chain management and transparency issues through this year’s “Marketplace Master Class”.

We are excited to have a number of producers attending this year’s Round Table, along with actors from across the supply chain, and look forward to the stimulating and diverse dialogues that such a variety of stakeholders will bring. Welcome to the 2014 Organic Cotton Round Table!

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AGENDA

PART 1: LISTEN AND LEARN

Please arrive early to view and enjoy our ‘10 years of Chetna Organic’ photo exhibition.

13:00  WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

LaRhea Pepper, Managing Director, Textile Exchange, welcomes us to the Table.

Liesl Truscott, Farm Engagement Director, Textile Exchange, gives an overview of the day and introduces the team - including Simon Cooper as Facilitator.

13:15  PROVING THE BENEFITS – THE ORGANIC COTTON LIFE CYCLE ASSESSMENT

Daniel Thylmann of PE International presents the exciting results of the first Global Organic Cotton Life Cycle Assessment, followed by a brief Q&A session.

13:45  SEED DIALOGUES

A unique chance to find out all you’ve ever wanted to know about ‘the organic cotton seed issue’ but were too afraid to ask!

This session begins with Mans Lanting, Lanting Agriconsults, providing an overview of key findings from our recent research into the seed issue. Mans is then joined by an expert panel for a Q&A discussion, including: Jane Dever, Agrilife; Edith Lammerts van Bueren, Louis Bolk Institute/ Wageningen University; Silvere Tovignan, Textile Exchange; and Brent Crossland, Bayer Cropscience.

14:30  NEW HORIZONS FOR ORGANIC COTTON

Share the progress of three new and exciting initiatives, including the Organic Cotton Accelerator, the India Organic and Fair Cotton Secretariat and the Chetna Coalition.

15:20  COFFEE BREAK
PART 2: GET INVOLVED!

15:40  MARKETPLACE MASTER CLASS

This interactive session, facilitated by Simon Cooper and with Heinrich Schultz (OrganiMark) and Anup Kumar Singh (Fairtrade International) as thought-starters, brings participants together in a problem-solving game to find solutions to the challenges currently faced by ‘buyers’ and ‘sellers’ of organic cotton. How can we create a ‘win-win’ situation for all?

16:40  HELP US BUILD ‘ABOUT ORGANIC COTTON’

The take-home message from our Consumer Engagement session last year in Istanbul was that organic cotton messaging to the consumer has to be FUN, FAST, and FANTASTIC! This year we are holding an interactive session to reveal TE’s brand new resource platform - especially developed with you in mind. We want to get your feedback on where we have got to and ask you to help us dream up the next layer of development.

We will also hear briefly from Sarah Compson of the Soil Association about their ‘Cottoned On’ campaign and from Marci Zaroff of Portico Brands/Under the Canopy about the ‘Rise of the Millennials’.

17:40  KEYNOTE ADDRESS - THE NEW BUSINESS AS USUAL

Special guest Scott Mackiniay-Hahn, Co-Founder and President of Loomstate, inspires us with the story of how Loomstate managed to make such a success out of ethical business.

18:00  CLOSING COMMENTS - FOLLOWED BY COCKTAIL RECEPTION

All Conference and Organic Cotton Round Table attendees are invited to attend a cocktail reception sponsored by e3 by Bayer CropScience and Nike, Inc.

Beverages and Hors d’oeuvre will be served, but more importantly – you will not want to miss the networking time!
This year marks Chetna Organic’s 10th anniversary and, to celebrate, there will be a collection of their most stunning photography on display throughout the Organic Cotton Round Table and Textile Sustainability Conference events. Make sure you leave time to browse this fantastic exhibition, which includes photographs based around four of Chetna’s key areas of work along with some beautiful portrait shots revealing some of the faces behind Chetna.

Here is a brief note from Chetna summarizing their progress over the past decade:

10 YEARS OF CHETNA ORGANIC: BUILDING A BELIEF SYSTEM AND AN ORGANIC CULTURE

The Chetna Organic & Fair Trade Cotton Intervention Program started in 2004 as a composite pilot on Organic / Non-Pesticide Management (NPM) & Fair-trade supply chain development, in response to the agrarian crisis in India. Within a couple of years of its inception, Chetna transformed into a robust farmer owned organization with a multi-tiered and multi-layered structure - Individual member farmers organized into Farmer Self Help Groups (SHGs) and further organized into cooperatives at cluster levels with an apex coordination team at the national level.

In 2007, to promote ownership among farmers over the program, Chetna Organic Farmers Association (COFA) registered as a national level farmers’ organization under the Societies Act. Chetna’s combination of best practices like insisting on seed diversity to promote self-reliance, cropping systems and comprehensive management of natural resources have resulted in improved yield and increased income for the farmer. In February 2009, COFA helped set up the Chetna Organic Agriculture Producer Company Ltd (COAPCL) as a farmer owned commodity trading company that works on developing sustainable market linkages for farmer’s produce in the national and international markets. COFA and COAPCL, as apex level institutions, perform distinct but complementary roles to support the cooperatives, the SHGs and the individual farmers - 94% of whom are small and marginal farmers.
FFID (Forum for Integrated Development), in close coordination with Solidaridad has been providing guardianship support to both COFA and COAPCL to evolve into professional and well-established farmers’ support organizations. In 2008, Chetna Organic, through its cooperatives, picked up a 10% stake in Rajlakshmi Cotton Mills Pvt. Ltd (RCML) - India’s one & only 100% Organic and Fairtrade garmenting company. The introduction of producer organization resulted in farmers having control at various stages from production to marketing. Further, Chetna developed an integrated value chain from farm to fabrics involving dedicated/committed partners at each processing stage, until the products reach the retail shelf.

From being a pilot project with just 234 farmers in 2004, COFA today directly and indirectly reaches over 41,000 smallholder cotton farmers (including 8131 organic & fairtrade farmers), from 950 self help groups in 9 cooperatives across the three states of Telangana, Maharashtra and Odisha in India. Chetna today has evolved into a culture and a belief system for small farmers, with a promise of food security, seed sovereignty, and a sustainable agri ‘culture’ that is in harmony with nature and is in tune with markets.

**VIPUL KULKARNI, CHETNA ORGANIC - PRIMARY PHOTOGRAPHER AND CURATOR OF THIS EXHIBITION**

As in-charge of communications, at Chetna Vipul coordinates the development of text, photo and video content at the field level for internal and external use as well as for communication requirements of partner organisations.

He maintains Chetna’s website and facebook pages and would be the point of contact for any partner who wants to capture photos, videos or individual farmer stories at the field level to tell their organic cotton garment story.

Vipul is a professionally trained filmmaker by occupation and has been making films on ecology, sustainable agriculture and other rural development related issues over the last 15 years. At Chetna he enjoys documenting farmer stories at the field level and tries to provide cultural, social and economic perspectives on sustainable agriculture to media producers engaged by brands operating further down the cotton supply chain.
MEET THE TEAM

LA RHEA PEPPER - MANAGING DIRECTOR, TEXTILE EXCHANGE, USA

La Rhea has an extensive background in the organic cotton agricultural sector as well as management and marketing. She is a 5th generation cotton farmer in Texas and her farm has been certified organic since 1991. She completed her BS in Education at Abilene Christian University in 1979. La Rhea was one of the co-founders of Organic Exchange and served as Chair of the Board until 2005 and then joined the management team with OE. She is currently working on her Master of Business Administration with a focus on Non-Profits.

LIESL TRUSCOTT - EUROPEAN AND FARM ENGAGEMENT DIRECTOR, TEXTILE EXCHANGE, UK

Liesl is passionate about holistic approaches to sustainability. She has a first class honors degree in Environmental Management from Newcastle University in Australia. She has spent over twenty years in various areas of sustainability; including corporate responsibility, occupational health & safety, and environmental management systems – and now specializes in organic cotton. Liesl sits on the UK Soil Association’s Textile Advisory Committee and is a member of the Round Table on Organic Agriculture and Climate Change (RTOACC) coordinated by the FiBL.

HANNA DENES - PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT MANAGER, TEXTILE EXCHANGE, UK

Hanna has an MSc in Environmental Technology from Imperial College, London, and 15 years’ experience in environmental management and sustainable development. From 2000 to 2010 she worked for the Environment Agency for England and Wales in a number of roles, including environmental manager for London’s flood defence system and European environmental policy specialist. After a period working for CSR Consultancy focusing on Corporate Social Responsibility Benchmarking she joined Textile Exchange in 2011. Since joining Textile Exchange Hanna has worked closely with organic cotton value chains globally. Hanna has extensive expertise in the development and analysis of key performance indicators for environmental and social impacts of agricultural systems.

SILVÈRE TOVIGNAN - TEXTILE EXCHANGE, BENIN

Silvère TOVIGNAN is native from Benin Republic (West Africa). As an agricultural engineer, at the earlier stage of his professional career, he embraced passionately the problematic of developing organic farming among small scale farmers. This brought him to develop a particular research interest on food security and sustainable agriculture with vulnerable groups. With the same interest, he has completed his PhD dissertation in 2005 on the topic: “Gender Perspectives in Adoption of organic cotton in Benin: A Farm household modeling Approach” at the University of Giessen in Germany. During the last ten years, he got the opportunity to build a strong expertise on cotton and textile supply chain (and all the related development issues as well) in Africa.
SIMON COOPER - CHANGE AGENCY, UK

A partner at research and consulting firm Change Agency, Simon specialises in working with sustainability initiatives, including the Better Cotton Initiative, ISEAL Alliance, 4C Association, the Alliance for Water Stewardship, the Sustainable Agriculture Network, the Organic Cotton Accelerator and Cotton Made in Africa.

With a first degree from Cambridge University, he graduated in 2005 with an MSc in Responsibility and Business Practice from the School of Management at the University of Bath, a course established by Anita Roddick of the Body Shop.

He is fascinated by the interaction between sustainability and social justice, and passionately believes that systems such as Organic, which try to bring about a just transfer of funds from rich to poor, must strengthen themselves against the increasing numbers of other initiatives less focussed on bringing about any profound improvement in the lives of producers.

EVONNE TAN - DATA ANALYTICS

Evonne has almost two decades of experience in the system and process improvement area of Customer Related Operations. She has worked in multiple industries spanning across three continents. Leveraging on her years as a consultant in PwC and IBM, Evonne repositioned herself in data analytics and graphic design for the sustainability industry in 2006. Evonne spent her student years in Melbourne, graduating with bachelor degrees in Management and also in Marketing. She has collaborated with Textile Exchange since 2008 on data analysis, web development and report design and development.

SIMONE SEISL - CONSULTANT, GERMANY

Simone supports the development of OCA as a strategic advisor working closely with Liesl and Change Agency. Previously she worked as Head of Marketing and Sales at Remei AG, Switzerland and as Supply Chain Consultant and CR Expert at Made-By Germany. Before this focus on sustainability topics she held various positions in marketing, product management, design and buying at multinational brands and retailers (eg. adidas Group) for more than 10 years.

LISA EMBERSON - TEXTILE EXCHANGE, UK

Lisa Emberson holds a first class honours degree in BSc International Development from the University of East Anglia, England, where she was able to pursue her passionate interest in sustainable agriculture within a socio-economic perspective. This interest was later channelled into sustainable textiles after an internship at the Soil Association UK, where she wrote a briefing paper on the links between organic cotton and food security as part of their ‘Cottoned On’ campaign.

Lisa joined Textile Exchange in July this year and has spent the past few months supporting the Farm Engagement team, predominantly with coordination of the Organic Cotton Round Table and of the Global Seed Inventory research project. Lisa is delighted to be pursuing her interest in sustainable textiles and looks forward to further developing her knowledge and experience in this sector.
MEET THE SPEAKERS

ORGANIC COTTON LIFE CYCLE ASSESSMENT - 13:15

DANIEL THYLLEMAN - PE INTERNATIONAL, GERMANY

Daniel joined PE INTERNATIONAL five years ago. He holds a master's degree in agricultural sciences with a focus on environmental protection and food production. His fields of expertise are agricultural cultivation systems and water footprinting. Daniel is member of the renewable resources team within PE and has conducted life cycle assessments looking at many different environmental aspects for a variety of agricultural products. For his master thesis, at the University of Hohenheim together with PE INTERNATIONAL, Daniel reviewed methods of water footprinting within an LCA framework and investigated the environmental impacts of water use in cotton cultivation in the US.

Prior to joining PE, Daniel worked in the field of ecological sanitation systems. While at the Centre Régional pour l'Eau Potable et l'Assainissement à faible coût (CREPA) Daniel helped implement ecological sanitation systems that aim to save water and recycle nutrients in West Africa. Daniel has now more than six years work experience in the field of water resource management, water footprinting and LCA of agricultural products. Along with Annette Koehler, Daniel is a dedicated expert within PE for water use studies in a LCA framework and to combine water footprints with agricultural environmental assessments.

SEED DIALOGUES - 13:45

MANS LANTING - LANTING AGRICONSULT, NETHERLANDS

Mans Lanting has an MSc Agronomy from Wageningen University. He has worked for government, NGOs, and the private sector. Mans was involved in designing and setting up Chetna Organic, a producer company that cultivates and sells organic/Fairtrade cotton. He also investigated the usefulness of Bt cotton for small scale farmers in Africa, for AROCA (African Cotton Producers Association). Mans is convinced that the rapid spread of Bt cotton is a short lived boon to farmers which will probably followed by a host of problems that are already visible on the horizon: resistance, new pests, reduced profitability, and too much dependence on one company. He is convinced that for all farmers non-GMO seeds should be available on the market, so that farmers have a choice. Presently many disjointed small scale activities to produce seed are taking place. The criteria for selection of non-GMO cotton should include: capacity to create symbiosis with VAM and bacteria that solubilize phosphorus, fix nitrogen, etc. The main problem is that companies own the IP rights to the parent seed and that they cannot guarantee it is GMO free.
EDITH LAMMERTS VAN BUEREN - LOUIS BOLK INSTITUTE/ WAGENINGEN UNIVERSITY, NETHERLANDS

Edith T. Lammerts van Bueren has more than 25 years of experience in organic research and management. She is a pioneer in plant breeding and genetic resources for organic and low-input agriculture and has put this subject to the European agenda. She holds a chair at Wageningen University in the Netherlands as professor Organic Plant Breeding since March 2005. She is also senior researcher Organic Plant Breeding at the Louis Bolk Institute/Agro-Eco in the Netherlands, a research institute specialised in organic agriculture, health care and nutrition. Edith was co-founder and has been chair of the European Consortium for Organic Plant Breeding (ECO-PB) for 10 years, and is now chair of the Section Organic and Low-input Agriculture of EUCARPIA (European Association for Research for Plant Breeding). She is also active in a broader field of sustainability and chairs a Dutch interdisciplinary think-tank Scientific Council for Integral Sustainable Agriculture and Nutrition, which published their first report in 2012, see www.rldv.nl.

Through supervising master students in plant breeding she became involved in setting up participatory cotton breeding approaches in Uganda in collaboration with Agro-Eco and Serrere Breeding Institute. She aims at building bridges between existing expertise among both farmers and professional breeders, and also to expand the commitment for cotton seed production and crop improvement.

JANE DEVER - AGRILIFE, USA

Jane Dever is Professor, Soil and Crop Sciences, and Cotton Breeder, Texas A&M AgriLife Research in Lubbock. Major research focus is development of public cultivars, and screening exotic collections for relevant native traits to be used in breeding cotton. Jane received a B.S. in Textile Engineering (1983), M.S. in Crop Science (1986) and Ph.D. in Agronomy (1989) from Texas Tech University. Career appointments include coordinator, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service AgriPartners program; Senior Research Scientist, BioTex; Textile Engineer, Plains Cotton Cooperative Association; and Head of Materials Evaluation, Fiber and Biopolymer Research Institute at Texas Tech University. She was corporate Global Cotton Breeding and Development Manager prior to returning to Texas A&M University in 2008. She is an appointed scientific member of the National Genetic Resources Advisory Council, and has served on the Joint Cotton Breeding Policy Committee. Jane is recipient of the 2012 Cotton Genetics Research Award, and 2012 “Golden Hoe” award presented by the Texas Organic Cotton Marketing Cooperative.
BRENT CROSSLAND - BAYER CROPSCIENCE, USA

Brent Crossland is the Fiber Development manager for Seeds at Bayer CropScience and is based in Lubbock, Texas, U.S.A. Brent has worked in the plant science industry for the past 34 years with experience in crop protection and seed production. He has been a past product manager of multiple products and managed the mid-south and western sales teams. For the past decade, Brent has also been very involved with the downstream market development of FiberMax and Stoneville cotton fiber for the apparel and home furnishings industry.

Brent was instrumental in the development of the Certified FiberMax traceability and marketing program. He is now very active promoting the new e3 Sustainable Cotton Initiative. He is a past recipient of the Bayer CropScience Luminary award for distinguished achievement and the “You Can’t Pick Better” award for initiatives in the cotton seed business. In addition, Brent was also awarded the Vice Chancellor’s Award for Excellence from Texas A&M University.

Brent holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from Texas A&M University and a Master’s of Agriculture degree in Plant Science from west Texas A&M University. Brent started his career with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service and has since worked for Rhone Poulenc Ag Company and Aventis. Brent and his wife Tonya have three grandchildren and enjoy their time with them. Their favorite past time away from the grandchildren is scuba diving.

NEW HORIZONS FOR ORGANIC COTTON - 14:30

ORGANIC COTTON ACCELERATOR (OCA)

The need for an Organic Cotton Accelerator (OCA) initiative was initially discussed at Textile Exchange’s Cotton Round Table in Istanbul in November 2013. Over the last year, a small group of stakeholders (including Textile Exchange, C&A, H&M, EILEEN FISHER, CottonConnect, Kering and C&A Foundation) took the first steps to frame this work. By bringing all actors together to help to align incentives for a viable and prosperous organic cotton industry, OCA will reduce cost (by reducing duplication of transparency and integrity initiatives), increase trust (by enabling clearer market signals to producers), and enable the innovation that can address many of the systemic issues impeding production.

CHARLINE DUCAS - C&A, BELGIUM

Charline Ducas is the sustainable materials manager at C&A. In that capacity, she is able to combine her passion for materials, innovation and sustainability. Previously, she has worked with Textile Exchange as their textile sustainability specialist and adidas in various roles of materials research and development. Her education background includes a Master’s of Science in textile engineering. She is native French and is now living in Brussels, Belgium.
LESLIE JOHNSTON - C&A FOUNDATION, SWITZERLAND

Leslie Johnston joined C&A Foundation as its first Executive Director in August 2013, bringing 17 years of management experience across multiple sectors, including smallholder agribusiness, entrepreneurship and corporate philanthropy. Prior to this role, she managed the Swiss-based Argidius and COFRA Foundations, committed to helping enterprising people to help themselves. As the Deputy Director for TechnoServe in West and Southern Africa, she co-managed a $20 million portfolio and a diverse team working to help African farmers and entrepreneurs improve their bottom line. She also brings top-tier management consulting experience, having worked for McKinsey & Company in DC and South Africa. Leslie currently serves on the board of COFRA Foundation, the ANDE Executive Committee and TechnoServe’s Global Advisory Council.

SHONA QUINN - EILEEN FISHER, USA

Shona is the Sustainability Leader at Eileen Fisher where her work focuses on guiding the company’s environmental strategy. Through cross department collaboration and outreach to external groups, she works to integrate environmental initiatives across company departments while building environmental awareness among customers, business partners and the larger apparel community. Shona’s research is focused on the ecological aspects of clothing. This includes exploring material selection, life-cycle thinking and consumer behavior. Her 20 year career with leading clothing companies including Anne Klein, Calvin Klein Jeans, Macy’s Specialty Stores and Eileen Fisher has provided her with a diverse background in the apparel industry, including work in fabric research, product development, buying and sustainable development. Shona received her Bachelor of Science Degree in International Trade from the Fashion Institute of Technology and a Master’s Degree in Environmental Management from Yale University.
INDIA ORGANIC AND FAIR COTTON SECRETARIAT

The formation of the Organic and Fair Cotton Secretariat (OFCS) was one of the important outcomes of the Organic Cotton Roundtable in Indore on 19-20 March 2014, organised by CottonConnect and C&A Foundation. The OFCS was set up to build an enabling environment for developing responsible organic cotton supply chains; create a credible Indian organic brand; and enhance livelihoods for smallholder organic cotton farmers.

In subsequent meetings it was agreed that the OFCS would play the role of a national co-ordinator. Six key areas were identified as follows:
1. Technology: Seeds/inputs/soil/water/other inputs
2. Knowledge management and research
3. Coordination with key stakeholders
4. Policy, advocacy and Government coordination
5. Quality management and integrity
6. Developing and branding organic cotton from India

The OFCS draws on the expertise of members from CottonConnect, C&A Foundation, Textile Exchange, Fairtrade India, BioRe India, Chetna Organics, Agromax, Arvind Mills and Control Union and other organisations to create a vibrant future for organic cotton in India.

PRABHA NAGARAJAN - TEXTILE EXCHANGE, INDIA

Prabha Nagarajan has Bachelor Degrees in Sociology and Law and an MBA. She has been actively involved in the sustainable textiles industry for the last 14 years and has been the Regional Director, India for Textile Exchange since March 2006.

Prabha has played an important role in the organic cotton sector in India and in the global organic cotton community. Her work embraces a broad stakeholder group, influencing and creating synergies for industry advancement.

Policy and advocacy have been a critical interest and Prabha has worked closely with relevant ministries of the Government of India in supporting the shaping of policies and improving the integrity of Indian organic cotton. Since 2008 the non GMO seed issue has consistently been raised by her at different fora.

Prabha currently leads the Organic and Fair Cotton Secretariat, an initiative spearheaded by CottonConnect and supported by the C&A Foundation.

ALISON WARD - COTTONCONNECT, UK

Alison Ward is the CEO of CottonConnect working with a team of 35 in the UK, India, Pakistan and China to create more sustainable cotton supply chains from farmer to store. The goal of CottonConnect is to create a transparent, fair and sustainable cotton supply chain. Previously, Alison ran her own consultancy, developing sustainability strategies for Mondelez International, Associated British Foods, WWF and the RSPB. Prior to this, Alison worked at Cadbury / Kraft Foods. At Cadbury Alison was the Global Head of Corporate Responsibility responsible for the Cadbury Dairy Milk global move to Fairtrade in 5 chocolate markets; the development of “The Cadbury Cocoa Partnership” a £45 million investment into cocoa sustainability; along with CSR reporting, global community investment and environmental commitments. At Kraft Foods, Alison was Associate Director Sustainability, working as part of a small team to develop the company’s strategy for sustainable cocoa, a $400m investment called CocoaLife. Alison joined Cadbury from a trade association and worked at Hill & Knowlton for many years.
THE CHETNA COALITION

The Chetna Coalition (ChetCo) is a collaborative sustainable business initiative between Chetna Organic and an extensive value chain community of brands and facilities. The Chetna Coalition formed during last year’s TE conference in Istanbul to pilot scalable frameworks and activities in support and partnership with best-practice organic cotton farming communities. In the past year ChetCo has grown considerably to become a leading effort and model for organic cotton textile sustainability.*

RHETT GODFREY - LOOMSTATE, USA

Rhett Godfrey is the Lead Coordinator and co-founder of the Chetna Coalition and the Director of Sustainability for Loomstate based in NYC. Rhett studied sustainable development at Columbia University and is a childhood educator of environmental studies, a published author of a book on communications, and a celebrated public speaker for organic cotton sustainability.

ARUN AMBATIPUDI - CHETNA ORGANIC, INDIA

Arun Ambatipudi comes from the multi-cultural city of Hyderabad of India. He has more than 17 years of experience working in the rural development sector with local, international and inter-governmental organizations.

Arun has worked on a wide range of development issues, starting with Disaster Management, Water & Sanitation, Natural Resource Management, Sustainable Agriculture & Rural Livelihoods and Value Chains involving smallholder farmers and landless workers from the rainfed regions. He is passionate about rainfed farming based livelihood issues and supporting the building of smallholder farmer centric supply chains and strongly believes in responsible and accountable innovations.

BEN RAMSDEN - PI FOUNDATION, UK

With a track record in sales and marketing, international development, grass routes mobilisation and organisational development, Ben Ramsden established the underwear brand Pants to Poverty in 2005, in order to develop a prototype for a business model that is profitably aligned with the needs of society and the environment. The Pants to Poverty value chain community - including Chetna Organic and Armstrong Knitting Mills and retail outlets across more than 20 countries - is supported by the charity Pi Foundation which has developed a new social, environmental and financial accounting toolkit, the 3DPnL, to enable companies to measure, monetise and maximise their profits in all 3 dimensions. Pi Foundation is now supporting the development of Chetna Coalition that proving business is better in 3D.

NARAYANASAMY ARUNACHALAM - ARMSTRONG SPINNING MILLS (P) LTD, INDIA

Narayanaswamy holds a B.tech in Textile Technology, passed in 1978, and has 36 years of experience in ring spinning and open end spinning (cotton, Polyester). He also has 11 Years of experience working with organic and Fairtrade cotton, including full knowledge of associated traceability, auditing and certification through vertical supply chain. Narayanaswamy has presented and spoken on Fairtrade cotton at various conferences, and is a member of the Advisory Council of Cotton Union Certifications (CUC), India, and of the Product Advisory Council (PAC) of FairTrade Cotton.
MARKETPLACE MASTER CLASS - 15:40

ANUP KUMAR SINGH - FAIRTRADE INTERNATIONAL, INDIA

Anup is a passionate development professional with over 15 years of experience working on social, economic and environmental issues in the South Asia region. He joined Fairtrade International in 2006 and had been leading the strategic development of ethical and environmentally sustainable global supply chains for a variety of agricultural products, including cotton, before he moved on to drive the global cotton portfolio for Fairtrade, earlier this year. He has rich experience in resource mobilisation, creating and promoting innovative programs and facilitating multi-actor initiatives. He works closely with a wide range of stakeholders to attain Fairtrade’s vision for the cotton producers.

HEINRICH SCHULTZ - ORGANIMARK, SOUTH AFRICA

Organimark, founded in July 2008, is a food, textiles and leather supply chain engineering and management firm linking African producers with high value local and global markets. The Firm specializes in supply chain optimization and trade management through investing in agricultural production zones and value added processing facilities for sustainably produced products. The company’s aim is to create sustainable businesses through long term supply chain partnerships in line with its brand integrity and identity, which promotes economic, social and environmental responsibility. Heinrich is also the Chairman of Textile Exchange Europe and recently founded the Southern African Sustainable Cotton Cluster where he serves as Executive Manager and Board Member. Heinrich has a Business Degree from the University of Pretoria (South Africa) and completed his training in Leather Processing with LIRI at Rhodes University (South Africa), and Textile & Garment Manufacturing with CSIR TexTech at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (South Africa).

HELP US BUILD ‘ABOUTORGANICCOTTON.ORG’ - 16:40

MARCI ZAROFF - PORTICO BRANDS / UNDER THE CANOPY, USA

Marci coined the term and pioneered the market for “ECOfashion”, and is an internationally recognized ECOlifestyle entrepreneur, educator and expert. Founder of “Under the Canopy,” and “Metawear”, Producer of “THREADIDriving Fashion Forward,” and Co-Founder of “The Institute for Integrative Nutrition” and “I AM Enlightened Creations,” Marci has been instrumental in driving authenticity, environmental leadership & social justice worldwide for over two decades.

Currently President of Portico Brands and Director/Advisor on numerous Boards – including the Organic Trade Association, Textile Exchange, Fair Trade USA, Fashion Revolution Day, Cradle-to-Cradle’s Fashion Positive and Teens Turning Green – Marci is featured in “Eco Amazons: 20 Women Who are Transforming the World” and has received countless recognitions, such as New York Moves “Power Woman Award”, The Natural Product Industry’s “Socially Responsible Business Award”, Fashion Group International’s “Rising Star Award” and a prestigious “Henry Crown Fellowship” of The Aspen Institute.
BETH HEGDE - WEINSTEIN PR, USA
Beth Hegde has worked in communications for 22 years, including time with advertising agencies, corporations and nonprofits. Her extensive experience with crisis communications, media training and consumer product marketing give her a well-rounded view on consumer public-relations strategy. She has partnered with Textile Exchange for more than two years as a consultant, helping with fund development, branding approach and recently, consumer outreach.

SARAH COMPSON - SOIL ASSOCIATION, UK
Sarah Compson works for the Soil Association – a UK based charity which campaigns on a range of issues to do with sustainable food, farming and land-use. Soil Association were a founder member of the Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS) and recently ran the ‘Have you cottoned on yet?’ campaign in collaboration with GOTS which highlights the benefits of organic cotton. Sarah leads the organisation’s work on textiles, including aspects related to standards development and policy.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS - 17:40
SCOTT MACKINLAY HAHN - LOOMSTATE, USA
Scott Mackinlay Hahn is co-founder and president of the NYC-based, sustainable apparel brand, Loomstate. He has pioneered Loomstate’s sustainability efforts in organic cotton for over ten years. Scott is also a board member of the Council for Textile Recycling, co-chair for the CFDA Sustainability Committee, and board member of the Cradle to Cradle Products Innovation Institute.

HISTORY OF THE ORGANIC COTTON ROUND TABLE
The inaugural meeting of the Organic Cotton Round Table in Hong Kong in 2012 brought together over one hundred like-minded people eager to help us establish a ‘Round Table’ to advance a common interest in organic cotton. We agreed upon three key areas of focus and established Task Forces for Seed, Business Models and Consumer Engagement.

Last year in Istanbul, the Round Table evolved from a think tank to a think-and-DO tank - proving the power of collaboration.

The groundwork that had been laid during the year underpinned the huge amount of energy on the day, and concrete steps were taken forward, including two new collective impact initiatives and the first stages of a Seed ‘Masterplan’.

In Portland this year we have a packed agenda. Be the first to hear the results of the first Global Organic Cotton Life Cycle Assessment, the lay-of-the-land for non-GMO seed work, and the progress of two new start-up initiatives. We will be tackling supply chain management and transparency issues through this year’s ‘Masterclass’.
TASK FORCES UPDATES

The Organic Cotton Round Table now has three Task Forces that cover key priority areas within the organic cotton supply chain. A lot of progress has been made on each of these Task Forces since last year’s Round Table in Istanbul, and you can read about some of the key updates below.

SEED TASK FORCE

The primary aim of the Seed Task Force is to co-create a platform of interested and concerned stakeholders for the development of a seed strategy that would be global in its identity and outlook, while catering to millions of cotton farmers to ensure their seed security for both organic and non-GMO cotton farming. Despite the fact that seed supply issues are the foundation for a host of other challenges for farmers not wishing to grow GMO cotton, it appears that the problem has not yet got onto the radar of most policy makers, cotton seed companies, scientists and universities and the cotton stakeholders at large. Therefore, the urgent need is to stimulate thought, discussion and action.

UPDATES

GLOBAL SEED INVENTORY: As part of the ‘Seed Masterplan’ developed in Istanbul last year, TE partnered with Lanting AgriConsult and Louis Bolk Institute to conduct a global seed inventory for organic cotton (funded by EILEEN FISHER and Bayer CropScience). Many of you have kindly taken time to fill in the online seed survey and in Portland we will be presented with the findings by Mans Lanting, along with recommendations for the Seed Task Force’s next steps based on these results.

SEED DIALOGUES: In Istanbul last year we held 5 interviews with coordinators of various seed projects around the world, with the overarching aim of each project being to improve farmers’ access to organic and non-GMO cottonseed. These interviews are now available to view on the new Seed Dialogues page of the Farm Hub.

BUSINESS MODELS TASK FORCE

Although the organic cotton sector experienced tremendous growth in the period 2002 ($240 million) to 2010 ($5.16 billion), the sector has stalled in more recent years. According to Textile Exchange research, textile retailers and brands report plans to grow their organic cotton products by 19% per year. This, however, does not seem to be getting through to the supply side, where output volumes are falling. Rebalancing this mis-match in supply and demand is therefore the main focus of the Business Task Force: we need to ensure the necessary infrastructure is in place to enable retailers to access a reliable supply of organic cotton and producers to have a guaranteed market for their fiber. Doing so will lift the whole organic cotton market, improving and multiplying the benefits already experience by farmers and the environment.
UPDATES

ORGANIC COTTON ACCELERATOR (OCA): OCA was conceived during the Business Models Task Force of the Organic Cotton Round Table meeting in Istanbul last year. You can read more about OCA on page 11 of this program, but in short, OCA is a multi-stakeholder initiative that aims to ‘build a flourishing organic cotton market that benefits all, from farmer to consumer’.

CONSUMER ENGAGEMENT TASK FORCE

At the first Organic Cotton Round Table in Istanbul, Consumer Engagement was identified as a necessary addition to the existing two priority areas (Seed and Business Models). Therefore, in Istanbul last year, a focused Consumer Engagement session was held to bring together ideas and identify key priorities. The take-home message from this session was that organic cotton messaging to the consumer has to be FUN, FAST, and FANTASTIC! More specifically, TE Members wanted an easily accessible, clear and simple resource platform where they could find reliable and up-to-date information and data on organic cotton to use in their own marketing campaigns. As a result, ‘AboutOrganicCotton.Org’ was born (see below).

UPDATES

ABOUTORGANICCOTTON.ORG: Based on feedback from participants of the Consumer Engagement Task Force meeting in Istanbul, we have now built “phase 1” of a consumer-facing microsite named ‘AboutOrganicCotton.Org’. The microsite aims to support TE members by providing information for their customers and providing a platform for brand cause-related marketing. It is a resource space offering visual resources, inspiring case studies, and well-referenced facts and figures that draw partly from upon new data from the recent Life-Cycle Assessment on Organic Cotton and the Organic Cotton Sustainability Assessment Tool (OCSAT). The microsite will be revealed in Portland, where Round Table participants will be the first to trial the new site and will be encouraged to contribute their ideas for its further development.

VIRTUAL PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITY

For those who are unable to attend the Organic Cotton Round Table in person this year, we have set up a GoToMeeting link where you will (technology permitting) be able to ‘virtually’ join Part 1 of the meeting (up until the coffee break, after which interactive sessions will begin).

This is the GoToMeeting link: https://www3.gotomeeting.com/join/981400462

If you would prefer to use your phone to call into the meeting, rather than join online, email Lisa (Lisa@TextileExchange.org) stating which country you will be calling from and she will send you the appropriate local telephone number, which you can call and use to listen to the meeting live. If you have any questions about virtually joining the meeting, don’t hesitate to contact Lisa on the email address above.
FARM STAKEHOLDER BREAKFAST MEETING

We are holding a Farm Stakeholder Breakfast Meeting between 08:00 and 09:00 on Monday 10th.

The aim of this meeting is to draw inspiration and tangible suggestions from key farm stakeholders to help guide our Farm Engagement planning process for 2015. In regional groups, participants will come up with a list of what they think are the priority issues within each of our three task force areas (Seed, Business Models and Consumer Engagement). We will then discuss realistic options for resolving these issues and, particularly, the role that Textile Exchange can play in finding solutions.

If there is anyone who is not yet signed up to this meeting but would like to participate, please email Lisa Emberson (lisa@textileexchange.org).

ROUND TABLE PARTNERS 2014

Our partnership with Fairtrade International continues to thrive in Portland. Organic and Fairtrade initiatives share very similar values, and many grower groups in developing countries (and brands/retailers) choose to be both organic and Fairtrade certified. We also share some of the challenges and barriers to growth such as securing farmers access to non-GMO seed, and finding mutually beneficial ways for producers and brands/retailers to work together - in a way that provides positive environmental impacts, long-term security for farmers, and opportunities for farming communities to flourish.

We are delighted to have PE International on board as partners of this year’s Round Table. PE International is one of the world’s most experienced sustainability software, content and strategic consulting firms, with 20 years of experience and 20 offices around the globe. As well as partnering this year’s Round Table, PE International has also been collaborating with Textile Exchange on the production of the world’s first ever Global Organic Cotton Life Cycle Assessment, which is to be launched in Portland.

TASK FORCE SPONSORS

MEET US IN PORTLAND!
PRODUCER CLASSIFIED ADS

MAHIMA ORGANIC TECHNOLOGY

ABOUT
We run organic cotton projects in central India. We are also having our ginning and spinning projects in the state of Madhya Pradesh, India.

PRODUCTS
We supply organic cotton fibre and yarns.

CONTACT
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EGEDENIZ TEKSTIL

ABOUT
We are the first company in Turkey certified for organic cotton products and we are involved in the whole chain from growing organic cotton with contracted growers, through ginning, spinning, knitting/dyeing, cut&sew processes.

PRODUCTS
We are producing and selling organic cotton as fiber, yarn, fabrics as well as garments for adults and children and home textiles like bedding products, terry towelling.

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TEXAS ORGANIC COTTON MARKETING COOPERATIVE

ABOUT
Texas Organic Cotton Marketing Cooperative (TOCMC) members produce the majority of the organic cotton grown in the United States. Founded in 1993, TOCMC is headquartered in Lubbock, Texas, and most of its members are located in the surrounding South Plains area.

PRODUCTS
Thirty-five growers planted 19,000 acres of organic and transitional cotton in 2014 that is expected to produce approximately 12,500 bales. TOCMC and its members are certified organic under the United States Department of Agriculture National Organic Program, and each bale of cotton marketed by TOCMC is tracked from the field to the customer.

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COOPERATIVA DE PRODUCTORES ORGANICOS Y TRADICIONALES Y EXPORTADORES DE NICARAGUA, COPROEXNIC, R.L.

ABOUT
COPROEXNIC began working with small organic farmers in Nicaragua to improve their economic conditions over 20 years ago. Today, COPROEXNIC works with over 3,000 farmers organized in a variety of independent, locally-owned producer cooperatives. COPROEXNIC also offers farmers services for processing their cotton, sesame and peanut growers. COPROEXNIC prides itself in its ability to put end-users directly in contact with grassroots farmers in order for them to negotiate prices and conditions of sale directly with end-users for all their products.

PRODUCTS
COPROEXNIC offers a wide variety of organically certified products including sesame, peanuts, cotton, coffee, chia and honey among others. COPROEXNIC is Nicaragua's largest exporter of organic sesame, organic peanuts and cotton. After conventional mono-cropping destroyed cotton, which was Nicaragua’s largest export for decades, COPROEXNIC has reintroduced cotton, grown using organic and sustainable methods successfully for the past eight years.

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ARA ORGANIC COTTON

ABOUT
Aratex is dedicated, since 2002, to the production, processing and commercialization of organic cotton products, certified by IMO-Control.

Our whole production chain is developed in Paraguay, working together with small farmers as well as local industries for ginning, spinning, weaving, knitting and finishing.

We are selling our products at the local and international market, including countries such as Mexico, Costa Rica, Brasil, UE.

PRODUCTS
Our brand “ara organic cotton” offers organic cotton apparel for babies and children. “ara” is inspired in nature, with designs reflecting a fresh, casual and delicate image; finding elegance in the simplicity of its lines. We use very soft fabrics, made of combed yarns. Hand-made embroideries and stitching are present in most of our baby clothing. Each clothe is made with love, thinking to balance comfort, an original and cool look, protecting at the same time one of our biggest gift in life...nature.

Aratex offers wholesale products for merchandising and corporative gifts.

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Website: www.facebook.com/ara.organiccotton
BERGMAN RIVERA SAC

ABOUT

Bergman/Rivera is a Swedish-Peruvian company with more than 20 years of experience in sustainable textiles. We work directly with more than 200 farmers in Peru to transform their products into high quality textiles. We are the first company in Latin America to be fully GOTS certified. Our business model is based on developing strong and transparent relations between the farmers and our clients.

Bergman/Rivera is fully committed to the preservation of Peruvian ancient fibers such as the naturally color grown cotton; we work with the farmers on improving their quality of life by giving them the tools to generate a self-sufficient income.

PRODUCTS

Bergman Rivera works with 3 types of organic cotton fibers: Naturally Colored Cotton, Organic Pima Cotton and Organic Tanguis Cotton; processing them into yarn, woven and knitting fabrics and finally garments. We offer organic cotton in all of these alternatives in order to make it available to any type of business.

We help our customers on choosing the right material for their specific needs.

CONTACT

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SUMINTER INDIA ORGANICS PVT LTD

ABOUT

Suminter India organics is a pioneer in producing high quality, 100% GMO free organic food and Organic Cotton under socially and environmentally conscious conditions that cause lasting transformations to the farmer groups. We are currently directly working with 20,000 farmers to procure, process, and package organic products.

Our company was built on the idea of creating an efficient bridge between small farmers in India and buyers across the world seeking high-quality organic produce. We adopted an integrated approach to procuring, monitoring and selling our products to make the process as efficient, transparent and fair as possible.

Our goal is to stay ahead of the curve through constant innovation, by forecasting customer demands, and investing in the best infrastructure.

PRODUCTS

With six distinct organic business lines - Spices & Herbs, Cane Sugar, Organic Cotton, Oil Seeds and Animal Feed, Cereals and Nuts - Suminter offers perhaps the widest and deepest range of organic farm produce from India under one roof, delivering better value and enabling buyers to rationalize their procurement costs. Further our massive network of certified farm projects across nine Indian states gives us the capacity to meet high-volume requirements of large buyers.

By consistently offering only the best produce that is 100% organic and 100% GMO-free, with uncompromising quality checks at every stage, Suminter has earned the trust of buyers in 19 countries spread over 5 continents. Going beyond prevailing conditions and practices, Suminter continues to anticipate the evolving demands of international markets and invest in the resources, network, technology and expertise to meet the current and future needs of our customers.

CONTACT

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ORGANIC COTTON PRODUCTION & TRADE PROMOTION PROJECT (BIOCOTTON PROJECT)
HELvetAS SWISS INTERCOOPERATION, KYRGYZSTAN

ABOUT
Organic Cotton Production & Trade Promotion Project (BioCotton Project - BCP) started its operation in 2003 and was the first project in Kyrgyzstan which was involved in organic agriculture. BCP mainly deals with production and marketing of organic cotton, but also deals with production of other organic products. In the process of work BCP had established two local partner organizations; 1) Agricultural Commodity and Service Cooperative (ACSC) “BioFarmer” which deals with production and marketing of organic products, 2) Public Fund “BioService” which deals with provision of services related to organic agriculture.

At present BCP local producer partner “BioFarmer” has 1037 farmer members, having around 2500 ha of organic land. In 2014 “BioFarmer” plans to produce 250 mt of organic and 70 mt of in-conversion cotton fiber. “BioService” provides trainings on; organic agriculture, internal control system, standards, agro tourism and etc. Partner organizations of BCP should become sustainable by completion of the project in 2016.

PRODUCTS
BCP producer partner “BioFarmer” cooperative produces different types of organic products; vegetables, guards, oil crops, cereals and etc. but the main export product is organic cotton fiber. In 2013 cooperative marketed 111 mt of organic cotton fiber, for 2014 it was planned to produce and market 250 mt of organic and 70 mt of in-conversion cotton. At present harvest is going on and more than 60% of planned volume was delivered to the ginnery.

Botanical name: Gossypiym hirsutum

Variety: First, “Kyrgyz 5”, Organical and Fairtrade cotton fibre

Fibre type: V

Fibre length: 31.2-33.1 mm

Micronaire: 3.6-4.8

Packaging: Bales of 200 -230 kg, wrapped in cotton tissue

Marking: Logo of ginnery, No and bale weight, org and FT marking


Fairtrade Certification since: 2008 - ID 20294 by FLO-cert, Germany, Certificate of Origin and Phytosanitary Certification (Kyrgyzstan).

Production: Organic and Fairtrade - 150 mt; Fairtrade in conversion - 70 mt

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Textile Exchange inspires and equips people to accelerate sustainable practices in the textile value chain. We focus on minimizing the harmful impacts and maximizing the positive effects of the global textile industry. Our signature program focuses on organic cotton value chains; improving lives for farmers, stimulating markets, and supporting best practice.

Website: farmhub.textileexchange.org/

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