TextileExchange
Organic Cotton Round Table
Platform for Collective Action & Incubator for Great Ideas

MUMBAI 2015
JW Marriott Mumbai Sahar
Thursday, 8th October
9am - 6pm (Grand Ballroom)
Welcome to the fourth Organic Cotton Round Table.

This year we celebrate the early signs of rejuvenation in organic production with farmers around the world producing 10 percent more organic cotton than they did last year. This growth is expected to continue. It is indeed very good news after three years of decline and will help meet the continuously growing demand. I am proud of the part that the Round Table has played as a “Platform for Collective Action & Incubator for Great Ideas”.

Being in India is special for us at TE. We haven’t held a conference here for over eight years now. Yet our friendships with Indian producers and manufacturers (and more recently India based brands) have deepened over the years. It’s good to be back!

As you all probably know India is home to well over 100,000 organic cotton farmers – growing almost three quarters of the world’s supply of organic cotton. These farmers are keeping alive age-old traditions in soil fertility and productivity as well as being some of the most technologically and agro-ecologically innovative people on the planet. Crop diversification, rainwater harvesting, microbial broths, for instance, are all familiar practices to the organic farmer and it’s these technologies and innovations that must be replicated or scaled to build and maintain sustainable rural economies, particularly for small scale farmers.

Over the course of the day you will hear about things that will delight and enthral you. You will also hear about the very real challenges the sector faces – many of these intensified in India for a number of reasons. Barriers to growth such as access to good quality non-genetically modified seed, uncertain and unpredictable trade, and the eternally elusive customer. We will cover these topics and more, and explore solutions together.

I think, for the first time since we launched the Round Table in Hong Kong four years ago, we are in a position to face the challenges and break through!

Thank you for taking the time to join us.

Liesl Truscott
Textile Exchange
AGENDA

09:00 – 09:20  Welcomes
09:20 – 09:55  Morning Addresses
09:55 – 10:00  Flow of the Day

PANEL DISCUSSIONS - INVESTING IN ORGANIC FOR A DIVERSE, RESILIENT & REWARDING FUTURE
10:00 – 10:25  Panel 1: New Investors and Partnerships in Organic Cotton
10:45 - 11:00  Q&A with Panelists
11:00 - 11:15  Refreshments

OPEN SPACE – VISION FOR THE SECTOR
11:15– 11:35  Thought starters
11:35 - 12:25  Open Space Discussions
12:25 - 12:45  Feedback and Graphic Recording

EAT AND GREET
12:45 - 13:00  Table Pitches
13:00 - 14:15  Table Discussions
14:15 - 14:30  Break

TASK FORCE BREAKTHROUGHS
14:30 – 16:00  Task Force “Breakthrough” Meetings
16:00– 16:15  Refreshments
16:15 – 16:30  Feedback and Graphic Recording

LAUNCH OF THE INNOVATION LAB
16:30 - 17:45  Innovation Lab
17:45 - 18:00  Closing Addresses

DRINKS RECEPTION & VIEWING OF “THE TRUE COST” MOVIE
18:00 – 21:00  Join us for a drink in the foyer to wind down after this busy day!
There will be a viewing of the movie “The True Cost” at 19:30, which everyone is invited to stay for.
SECTIONS OUTLINE

WELCOMES (09:00 – 09:20)

La Rhea Pepper, Textile Exchange
Liesl Truscott, Textile Exchange
Prabha Nagarajan, Textile Exchange, OFCS
Andrea Bischof, HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation

MORNING ADDRESSES (09:20 – 09:55)

Mr Punit Lalbhai, Executive Director, Arvind Limited

Mr. Punit Lalbhai is the Executive Director of Arvind Limited. He is currently working on building new businesses for the company such as Advanced Materials, Engineering & Agribusiness. Punit has an MBA from INSEAD, France. He is also deeply involved in conservation. He has a Masters in Environmental Science from Yale University, USA and a Bachelor’s degree in Conservation Biology from the University of California.

Sally Uren, CEO, Forum for the Future

Sally is Chief Executive at Forum for the Future with overall responsibility for delivering Forum’s mission to create a sustainable future. This involves working with leading global businesses, including Unilever and Kingfisher, both in one to one partnerships, and also as part of multi-stakeholder collaborations designed to address system-wide challenges, particularly in food and energy. As well as leading the organisation, Sally oversees a small number of projects. Recent projects have included Consumer Futures, Retail Horizons (a project examining the future for US retail), and she is currently Project Director of a global multi-stakeholder consortium focused on delivering a sustainable tea value chain, Tea 2030.

Sally is also involved in a wide range of Forum’s other projects, including the Net Positive Group, a collaboration with WWF and The Climate Group, Cotton 2040, a project designed to understand how to mainstream sustainable cotton, and a ground-breaking project, Scaling Up Impact, addressing practical ways of achieving collective impact at scale. Follow Sally on Twitter: @sallyuren

FLOW OF THE DAY (09:55 – 10:00)

Simon Cooper, Change Agency (OCRT facilitator)
PANEL DISCUSSIONS (10:00 - 11:00)
“INVESTING IN ORGANIC FOR A DIVERSE, RESILIENT & REWARDING FUTURE”

Moderated by Alison Ward, CottonConnect

There is new and exciting investment happening around the globe as the full benefits of organic are being recognized. Meanwhile, tried and tested models battle with market dynamics. This panel discussion concentrates on what we need to do next to ensure this investment results in real and meaningful growth for the sector.

This session will provide an opportunity to hear from the new but also the long-standing and established investors. How can the organic cotton sector learn from others and how can we make sure the great investment to date is rewarded and drives us towards a diverse, resilient and rewarding future?

Panel 1: New Investors and Partnerships in Organic Cotton
- Ipshita Sinha, C&A Foundation
- Dale Galvin, Rare
- Tinni Sawhney, Aga Khan Foundation
- Miho Suzuki, Pre Organic Cotton Initiative

Panel 2: Established Investment Models in Organic Cotton
- Christa Suter, bioRe Foundation
- Jens Soth, HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation
- Riyaz Haider, BioSustain

OPEN SPACE (11:15 – 12:45)

WHAT IS OPEN SPACE?

It is a self-organizing practice of inner discipline and collective activity, which releases the inherent creativity and leadership in people. By inviting people to take responsibility for what they care about, Open Space establishes a marketplace of inquiry, reflection and learning, bringing out the best in both individuals and the whole.

- Anne Stadler, OpenSpaceWorld

In this session, four discussions will take place simultaneously – one in each corner of the room – and you are invited to join and move between discussions based on your interests. Before breaking into discussion groups, we will hear a 5-minute thought starter for each of the four discussion topics.

Discussion Topics:
1. Tackling the Roots of Integrity Issues
   Thought starter: Helmut Hälker, Remei

2. Examining the Business Case for Producers
   Thought starter: Mani Chinnaswamy, Appachi

3. Market Movements and Opportunities
   Thought starter: Prama Bhardwaj, Mantis World

4. The New SDGs – What They Mean for Cotton Communities
   Thought starter: Martin Hill, Fairtrade International
**EAT & GREET (12:45 – 14:15)**

To take advantage of having so many key industry stakeholders in one place, and to highlight some of the fantastic work currently being done – as well as some of the key sector issues – there will be an extended lunch break on the day of the OCRT with themed tabletop discussions.

Before breaking for lunch, each table host will pitch their discussion topic to the room in 30 seconds and invite you to join their table. Simply fill your plate from the buffet and join the table of your choice for an informal discussion over lunch. This is the perfect opportunity to ask questions and learn more about a topic that interests you from industry experts.

There will also be a number of “Wild Card” tables where we invite anyone in the room to start a discussion of their own – simply write it on the board in the middle of the table and wait to be joined!

**TOPIC “MENU”**

1. **Chetna Coalition**  
   Rhett Godfrey, Loomstate

2. **Climate Issues in Agriculture**  
   Arun Ambatipudi, Chetna Organic

3. **Consumer Engagement Around Organic Cotton**  
   Marci Zaroff, Under the Canopy / Portico Brands

4. **Fairtrade & Organic – Complementary Approach to Address Industry Concerns**  
   Anup Kr Singh, Fairtrade International

5. **Future of Farmers’ Associations in Organic Agriculture**  
   Jens Soth, HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation

6. **Global Organic Cotton Community Platform**  
   Andrea Bischof, HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation

7. **Relevance of Supply Chain Certifications at Later Stages of Production**  
   Sumit Gupta, Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS)

8. **The POC (Pre Organic Cotton) Program**  
   Michiko Komatsu, kurkku

9. **Working Towards a Living Wage in CMT Units**  
   Maeve Wadge, Sourcing Sustainably

10. **Conservation Through Cotton**  
    Ipshita Sinha, C&A Foundation

11. **The Appachi Eco-Logic Cotton Project**  
    Mani Chinnaswamy, Appachi Eco-Logic

12. **Update on Organic Cotton in China**  
    Tong Yeung, Mecilla and Allen You, TE

13. **Insight into the Indian Organic & Fair Cotton Secretariat (OCFS)**  
    Prabha Nagarajan, TE/ OFCS
TASK FORCE “BREAKTHROUGH” MEETINGS (14:30 – 16:00)

The afternoon kicks off with breakout sessions for each of the three dedicated task forces of the OCRT. Most of you will have already signed up to your chosen session. If you haven’t, simply join the session that interests you most. You can read introductions to each of the task forces below:

TASK FORCE 1: SEED & SOILS

Facilitated by: Monika Messmer (Green Cotton Project, FiBL), Prabha Nagarajan (TE, OFCS)
Thought starter: Arun Ambatipudi (Chetna Organic, OFCS)

Approaches and Opportunities
The seed and soil dilemma is not a new one to many stakeholders; however, the urgency to “fix the seed problem” is rising. Availability of non-GM seed is a very real limitation to the growth of the sector.

The levels for intervention in seed include the following:

- **Seed projects** are happening with some success. Stakeholders such as farmers, supply chain partners, researchers, academics, NGOs, and public seed breeders are getting together to work on seed. Challenges include securing funding, reaching scale and convincing farmers to use the seed. Adoption is a big factor – and a big risk. If crops fail, the farmers can hold the seed project accountable – resulting in much grief for all.

- **Commercial seed** is an important option despite the low levels of interest amongst seed companies due to the demand and dominance of GM seed. Working with the seed companies could be a speedy pragmatic solution - but needs more conviction and organization by the organic cotton sector to send the right signals to the seed companies and ensure their buy-in.

- **Breeding programs** are critical, and there are a number underway, but new varieties offering desirable traits take time and a long-term outlook. The investment in time and effort from research to viable availability can take up to 10 years of hard work and dedication.

It is likely we need all three interventions.

Further reading: The Seed & Soils Task Force report: Seed Availability For Non-GM Cotton Production. This report is the first global inventory of non-GMO seed and affirms the extent of the seed problem for farmers wishing to grow cotton organically.
TASK FORCE 2: BUSINESS MODELS

Facilitated by Heinrich Shultz (OrganiMark) and Alison Ward (CottonConnect)
Thought starter: David Millar (C&A)

Approaches and Opportunities
Through the work of the OCRT we have concluded that there is not one business model to fit all, and the business case needs to be mutual through the chain. Another thing we have learnt is that the organic cotton sector is not alone in facing these challenges and the business case (ROI) for “sustainability” is challenged on a number of fronts. Sharing good practice and innovations in business models include:

- Learnings from outside of the organic cotton sector – although each sector has its own dynamics, there are similar issues faced by other sectors associated with other commodities such as cocoa, coffee, tea, etc. In organic cotton we may be able to travel down similar paths to others on our journey towards sustainability. What can we learn? Where can we collaborate? And what can we “borrow” from other sectors?

- Sharing within the cotton sector – innovation in business models and supply chain sustainability has been part of the organic cotton sector since the beginning. In order to achieve economies of scale we need to look at common themes between the different models and see where we can strengthen, replicate, collaborate and potentially mainstream.

- Building a community of practice – How do we invest in the right type of growth? There will be some basic principles that underpin good practice in business and supply chain management. So, while not one size will fit all, we can still create a shared understanding of what components are essential to a good business model and develop guidelines for the sector.

TASK FORCE 3: CONSUMER ENGAGEMENT

Facilitated by: La Rhea Pepper (TE) and Bruno Van Steenberghe (Stanley & Stella)
 Thought starter: Darius Schwab (Tchibo)
**INTRODUCING THE INNOVATION LAB (16:30 – 17:45)**

Textile Exchange, in association with Change Agency and Luminous Energy, is launching a new initiative - the “Innovation Lab” - at this year’s Organic Cotton Round Table meeting in Mumbai.

The Innovation Lab is a celebration of new ideas in organic cotton. It aims to seek out groups or individuals with innovative solutions to break through barriers to growth and address issues in the organic cotton supply chain. We have been accepting proposals to the Innovation Lab over the past couple of months and have selected eight finalists.

During this session of the OCRT, each finalist will pitch his or her idea to a judging panel in competition for the OCRT Innovation Award 2015. The award includes a cash prize of $3,000 to put towards the project or to donate to a favourite cause.

The judging panel includes:
- Sally Uren, Forum for the Future (lead judge)
- Punit Lalbhai, Arvind Limited
- Andrea Bischof, HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation
- Helen Crowley, Kering
- Ben Ramsden, Pi Foundation

---

**Approaches and Opportunities**

Over the past few years, the Consumer Engagement task force has come together to discuss the challenges, opportunities and approaches to engaging the consumer. Most recently, with the direct feedback and consultation of the task force, TE has created a microsite to support brands and retailers on their B2C work and education of their staff.

“aboutorganiccotton.org” is a new microsite built specially for brands and retailers. It is primarily designed to be a trusted resource (with vetted data, simple messages, helpful facts, etc.) for companies wishing to communicate to their customers. This is the primary role of the microsite rather than as a direct consumer engagement tool in itself. However, there are many ways the microsite can potentially be used.

Ideas for how to use the microsite:
- **Member benefit** – Members can link from their website directly to the microsite and vice versa. There is opportunity for enhanced collaboration, ownership, and for a partnership approach.
- **Special Campaigns** – using the microsite to promote organic cotton during important global awareness days and campaigns such as Earth Day, World Environment Day, Fashion Revolution, etc.
- **Cause-related marketing** – explore ways to connect brands and retailers to supporting organic cotton using the microsite as a platform.
MEET THE TEAM

La Rhea Pepper - Managing Director, Textile Exchange, US

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 Trusott - European and Materials Strategy Director, Textile Exchange, UK

Liesl Truscott has been the director of Textile Exchange’s Farm Engagement program for five years. Liesl is passionate about holistic approaches to sustainability, and now specializes in organic cotton agriculture. With a first class degree in Environmental Management, she has spent over twenty years in the fields of corporate social responsibility, occupational health & safety, and environmental management – working within both the private and public sector.

Lisa Emberson – Materials Program Coordinator, Textile Exchange, UK

Lisa joined Textile Exchange in 2014 and, as Materials Platform Coordinator, supports the delivery of Textile Exchange’s Materials Strategy. This primarily includes coordination of the Organic Cotton Round Table as well as supporting the production of TE’s annual market reports, amongst other responsibilities. Lisa has a BSc in International Development from the University of East Anglia and joined Textile Exchange after becoming interested in textile sustainability whilst researching organic cotton as part of an internship with the UK’s Soil Association.

Evonne Tan - Creative & Data Specialist, Textile Exchange, Malaysia

Evonne has almost 20 years of experience in Customer Related Operations covering marketing services, systems/process improvement, data analysis and learning. She has worked in multiple industries and countries spanning across three continents. Leveraging on her years as a consultant in PwC and IBM and her passion for art, Evonne repositioned herself in data analytics and graphic design for the sustainability industry in 2006. Evonne spent her student years in Melbourne, graduating with a bachelor degree in Business and another in Marketing. She has collaborated with Textile Exchange since 2008. She is currently the Creative & Analytics Specialist for Textile Exchange and is responsible for data analytics in Materials Platform as well as creative development of reports, presentations and learning modules across board.
**Simon Cooper – Change Agency, UK**

A partner at research and consulting firm Change Agency, Simon specializes in working with sustainability initiatives, including the Better Cotton Initiative, ISEAL Alliance, the Water Footprint Network, the Alliance for Water Stewardship, the Sustainable Agriculture Network, the Organic Cotton Accelerator and Cotton Made in Africa (CMIA). Simon is chair of Schumacher Society UK, which celebrates the work of “green” economist E.F. Schumacher. He served as Chair of Textile Exchange Europe and now sits on the Advisory Board of TE.

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. 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 which are less focused on bringing about any profound improvement in the lives of producers.

---

**Carlotte Cataldi – Freelance Graphic Facilitator, Spain**

Carlotte is a group and graphic facilitator whose purpose is to support groups in having meaningful and constructive conversations and in reaching their shared objectives successfully. She does this by co-designing the process with her clients and by implementing effective facilitation techniques. She is a freelancer based in Barcelona and has collaborated with Textile Exchange since 2011.

---

**Prabha Nagarajan – Regional Director, Textile Exchange, India**

Prabha's educational background includes a Bachelor degree in Law and Sociology (BABL) and a Masters in Business Management (MBA) from the University of Madras, South India. Prior to joining Textile Exchange in 2006, Prabha has held senior management positions in both the public and private sector and also has entrepreneurial experience in sustainable clothing, having co-owned her own label. Her current work with TE involves working on tools, strategies for sustainable organic farming, networking the supply chain and stakeholders from the organic and developmental sector, engaging with organic policy making in India and representing TE in India at various levels. In addition to her work with TE, Prabha also heads the Organic and Fairtrade Cotton Secretariat (OFCS).

---

**Allen You – Regional Ambassador, Textile Exchange, China**

Allen You, based in Beijing, has been TE’s Regional Ambassador in China since 2012. Allen has more than 10 years of experience working in textile testing and the certification sector with local and international textile and agricultural organizations, including Oeko-Tex, TESTEX, Hohenstein and ECOCERT. Through regular visits to organic cotton farmers, Allen understands the organic cotton situation in China very well.
SUPPLIER DIRECTORY

We are excited that a large number of producers and suppliers will be able to join us for the OCRT this year, helped by the fact that we are based in the country that producers almost three quarters of the world’s organic cotton.

Below is a list of the producers and suppliers that expect to be joining us at the OCRT in Mumbai. If you would like to be introduced to any of them just ask one of the TE team and we will be happy to assist you.

ORGANIC COTTON PRODUCERS/SUPPLIERS
- Pre Organic Cotton (India)
- Agrocel Industries Limited (India)
- Association pour la Transformation du Coton (Mali)
- Bio Farmer Agriculture Commodity Service Cooperative (Kyrgyzstan)
- BioSustain Tanzania limited (Tanzania)
- Chetna Organic (India)
- EcoFarms India Ltd (India)
- Girdhar Enterprises (India)
- Ishika Exports (India)
- Noble EcoTech (India)
- Om Organic Cotton Private Limited (India)
- OrganiMark (South Africa)
- PSP India (India)
- Suminter India Organics Limited (India)
- Tissa Sahel S AR L (Mali)

INTEGRATED SUPPLIERS
- Anandi Enterprises (India)
- Arvind Ltd (India)
- Aura Herbal Textiles Ltd (India)
- Azureland Organic Co., Ltd. (Taiwan)
- BIOCOTON (France)
- bioRe India (India)
- Birla Cellulose - Aditya Birla Group (India)
- Bloom Biotech (India)
- Dibella India (India)
- DuPont (India)
- Egedeniz Textile (Turkey)
- Entrepreneour (India)
- Fusion Clothing Company (India)
- Jaydurga Ginning Mills (India)
- Lenzing Fibers (United States, India)
- Mahima Purespun (India)
- Pratibha Syntex Ltd. (India)
- Pratima Agro & Paper Pvt Ltd (India)
- SPECTRUM INTERNATIONAL PVT. LTD. (India)
- Appachi Eco-Logic (India)

MANUFACTURERS
- Adv Pure Nature Products Pvt Ltd (India, United States)
- Anubha Industries (India)
- Armstrong Spinning Mills (P) Ltd., (India)
- beyond textiles Pvt. Ltd. (India)
- Esquel Enterprises Limited (China)
- Esquel Group (China)
- Far Eastern New Century (Taiwan)
- Hemp Fortex Industries Ltd. (United States, China)
- Kowa (Japan, India)
- MANDALA APPARELS PVT LTD (India)
- OMAX Cotspin (India)
- SIGHTMODE Ltd. (United Kingdom)
- Sree Santhosh Garments (India)
- Welspun Global Brands Limited (India)

BRANDS/RETAILERS
- adidas Technical Services (P) Ltd. (India)
- C&A (Germany)
- Columbia Sportswear Company (India)
- Coyuchi, Inc. (United States)
- ECODIS (France)
- Ecosophia (United Kingdom)
- EILEEN FISHER (United States, India)
- Filippa K (Sweden)
- Fjällräven (Sweden)
- G-Star RAW (Netherlands)
- H&M (Sweden, India)
- Indian Inc (India)
- Inditex (Spain, India)
- ITOCHU Corporation (Japan)
- Jockey Far East Limited (Hong Kong)
- Jockey International, Inc. (United States)
- Joy of Life (India)
- Kering (France, Italy)
- kurkku (Japan)
- KUYICHI (Netherlands)
- Loomstate (United States)
- Mantis World (United Kingdom)
- MODEBRANDS (India)
- MQ Retail AB (China)
- New Balance Athletic Shoe (United States)
• Nike, Inc. (United States)
• No Nasties (India)
• Otto Group (Germany)
• Oysho (Spain)
• PACT Apparel (United States)
• Patagonia (United States)
• Prolana Gmbh (United Kingdom)
• Puma Sports India (India)
• Pye Shirts (United States)
• Remei AG (Switzerland)
• SKUNKFUNK (Spain)
• Stanley & Stella SA (Belgium)
• Strength8Wellness (Sweden)
• Sustainability Zara.com (Spain)
• Target (United States)
• Tchibo GmbH (Germany)
• Terramor Organic Home (United States)
• Under the Canopy | Portico (United States)
• VF Corporation (United States, Thailand)
• VF Sourcing India (India)
• Woolworths (South Africa)
• Yandex (India)

CERTIFICATION BODIES
• Control Union (India)
• Faircert Certification services Pvt. Ltd. (India)
• FLOCERT (Germany)
• Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS) (India)
• Hohenstein India (India)
• Hohenstein Institute America (United States)
• ICEA (Italy)
• OneCert International (India)

EDUCATION, GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY ORGANIZATIONS
• Cambridge University (United Kingdom)
• Fashion Institute of Technology (United States)
• Pearl Academy (India)
• NIFT, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India (India)
• Aditya Birla Management Corporation (India)
• Archroma India Pvt Limited (India)
• CottonConnect (China)
• Fast Forward Trending (United States)
• Society of Dyers and Colourists (United Kingdom)
• Sourcing Sustainably (United Kingdom, India)
• STAC Enterprise Pvt Ltd (India)
• Sustainable Textiles Solutions, DyStar (India)
• USAgain (United States)

NON-PROFITS
• Action for Social Advancement (India)
• Aga Khan Foundation (India)
• Better Cotton Initiative (India)
• bioRe Foundation (India)
• C&A Foundation (India)
• Chetana Society (India)
• Fairtrade Foundation (United Kingdom)
• Fairtrade India (India)
• Fairtrade International (Germany, India)
• Forum for the Future (United Kingdom)
• Helvetas Fairtrade (Switzerland)
• HELVETAS Swiss Intercoporation (Switzerland)
• HERD Foundation (India)
• Mecilla Limited (Hong Kong)
• RARE (United States)
• Research Institute of Organic Agriculture FiBL (Switzerland)
• Self Reliant Initiatives through Joint Action (SRIJAN) (India)
• Solidaridad (Netherlands)
• World Wildlife Fund India (India)

INPUT PROVIDERS
• CSR Consultancy Ltd. (United Kingdom)
• Horus Socc (India)
• NewForesight (Netherlands)
• Get Changed! (Switzerland)
• Luminous Energy Ltd (United Kingdom)
• Pi Foundation (United Kingdom)
• Seed to Self (New Zealand, India)
• Trucost Plc (United Kingdom)
• ChainPoint (Germany)

PRESS/MEDIA
• Apparel Resources (India)
• DAILY COTTON MARKET REPORT (India)
• Fibre2Fashion (India)
• INTERNATIONAL TEXTILE MARKET (India)
• Times/Mytravelfootprints (India)
Fairtrade International and its member organizations represent the world’s most recognized ethical label. Fairtrade provides a farmer-focused approach to sustainability, supporting cotton farmers to lead their own development projects and create effective, long-term farming businesses. When farmers sell their cotton on Fairtrade terms they receive the Fairtrade Minimum Price that covers their cost of sustainable production plus the additional Fairtrade Premium to benefit their communities. Fairtrade and Organic initiatives are complimentary in nature and share similar values as well as challenges. We are delighted to see the long running partnership between the OCRT and Fairtrade continue this year in Mumbai.

The Pre Organic Cotton (POC) Program began in 2008 and is managed by Japanese companies Kurrku and ITOCHU. POC helps cotton farmers in India make the transition to organic by giving guidance on farming methods, supporting the organic certification process, and making a commitment to purchase cotton-in-transition during the three years of transition period.

The Green Cotton Project, developed under FiBL and supported by Mercator Foundation Switzerland, is a participatory cotton breeding program for organic and resource efficient cropping systems in India.

This year’s OCRT will be run as a joint event with the fourth face-to-face meeting of the Global Organic Cotton Community Platform, a collaborative project involving ICCO, SECO, HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation and Textile Exchange. The platform is a great tool for encouraging discussion around topical issues related to organic cotton.

bioRe develops, together with its clients, sustainable clothing made of organic cotton from its own cotton-projects in India and Tanzania. Founded in 1997 by bioRe, the bioRe® Foundation invests in the sustainable improvement of living conditions of farming families in India and Tanzania. The focus is on the cultivation of organic cotton as a sustainable livelihood.

The Global Organic Textile Standard is a comprehensive standard for the entire supply chain that allows companies to ensure that their organic fiber products are produced to very strict criteria relating to quality, tracking, and social and environmental considerations. Textile Exchange is a strong supporter of GOTS, and we encourage all companies to strive to have their products meet this important standard.

CottonConnect is a pioneering company with a social purpose, delivering business benefits to retailers and brands by creating more sustainable cotton supply chains. TE has worked closely with CottonConnect for a number of years and is delighted to see them become Friends of this year’s OCRT in Mumbai.
INNOVATION LAB PARTNERS

UK based research and consulting business Change Agency helps companies to anticipate, plan and deliver change successfully, and is “an antidote to traditional consultants”. Having worked with OCA, BCI, CmiA and ISEAL, Change Agency will this year be a formal partner of the OCRT and continue to support and facilitate the effective running of this ever-popular event, providing particular assistance in the running of the new Innovation Lab.

Luminous Energy specialises in the planning and development of large-scale photovoltaic power plants, from initial site selection to connection and commissioning. We are happy to welcome Luminous Energy to the OCRT in their role as a partner of the new Innovation Lab.

HISTORY OF THE ORGANIC COTTON ROUND TABLE

The inaugural meeting of the Organic Cotton Round Table (OCRT) 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 each: Seed & Soils, Business Models and Consumer Engagement.

In 2013, we met in Istanbul and the OCRT 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 – ChetCo and the OCA - and the first stages of a Seed “Masterplan”.

In Portland last year, the focus was on new developments in the organic cotton community: new data, new research, new initiatives, and new tools. This year in Mumbai we have a very interactive day planned, the focus of which is innovation and collective action.

The OCRT is gradually evolving into a year-round entity as we deepen and embed its work into the Textile Exchange strategy. Over the past year, there have been a number of exciting updates and releases, including the first Global Organic Cotton Life Cycle Assessment, the Organic Cotton Sustainability Assessment Tool (OC-SAT), the 2014 Organic Cotton Market Report and the new pilot Benchmarking Program.

For more information contact Lisa Emberson: Lisa@TextileExchange.Org
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
Email: Support@TextileExchange.org

Copyright © 2015 Textile Exchange. All rights reserved.