

# Organic in Action

bioRe, India & Tanzania:  
bioRe's assured integrity



Markus Kunz explains...

To assure the integrity of organic cotton a lot of documentation, advisory services, and internal control has to be done. bioRe India employs more than 70 staff in production and administration - out of this team the majority works as agricultural

extension officers and advisers to farmers. The administration staff is responsible for the smooth flow of communication and various processes. Farmers receive training and advice in their villages and also directly on their farms. The extension team visits farmers and their fields on a monthly basis. These field visits of the extension



**PHOTO:** Patrick Hohmann, CEO Remei AG, photo by bioRe® Remei AG.

**20 years of bioRe® -**

“Twenty years pass by fast driven by a vision: To produce fashionable textiles from fair-trade organic cotton through a controlled and transparent process chain. This idealistic vision which started in 1991 has long since been transformed into a successful enterprise.”

Today, Remei AG is coordinating 48 businesses, which means that we have a responsibility for approximately eighty to a hundred thousand people, above all over 8000 farmers in India and Tanzania. We have built some 2,560 biogas plants, 2,500 fuel-efficient smokeless stoves, 20 village schools, and a training centre in India and one in Tanzania to promote organic cultivation. All this stands as proof of the single most important fact – that it is indeed possible to profitably produce and sell cotton while observing the precepts of fairness, ecology, and economy.”

## About bioRe

bioRe is the starting point of the bioRe chain, a unique international network for the production and distribution of quality textiles fulfilling the strictest ecological and social requirements. bioRe works in partnership with farmers and customers to promote sustainability in agriculture. It shows farmers efficient ways to grow cotton without chemicals, thus maintaining the soil's fertility, keeping water clean and costs low. Farmers enjoy a better health and a higher income.

### Certification:

- Certification of organic cotton according to EU 834/2007 and NOP through bio-inspecta
- FLO-CERT inspects the social requirements according to the bioRe® social standard
- Certification according to BSCI/SA8000 throughout the bioRe chain

For information the complete value chain [click here](#)

team support new farmers during the conversion period to organic agriculture, and they support long-term farmers to continuously improve and develop their organic farming practices.

Throughout the year the whole management of the farm and its fields is documented accurately in so called farm books. The documentation includes received seeds from bioRe India, field size, applied organic fertiliser, yield estimation, purchased cotton, and so on.

Moreover since last season all organic cotton projects in India have to register production details, GPS location of fields, area of each farmer, internal inspection reports and all quantities purchased on to the web-based certification data management system TraceNet, introduced by APEDA, the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority. On the one hand the data entry increases the administration work of each cotton project enormously, which can be a burden. bioRe India had to employ three additional staff members for the required work. On the other hand, due to TraceNet organic cotton from India is at last reliable.

Another big challenge for organic projects in India is to produce GMO-free seed. Since GMO cotton is all over India it is very difficult to get GMO-free seeds and to avoid contamination. According to that fact bioRe has implemented since several years a strict GMO control system, including GMO testing of seeds and cotton delivery from each farmer at the point of purchasing. One of the very few countries which are still GMO free is Tanzania from where bioRe cotton can also be procured.



**PHOTO** (Top to bottom): Hands-on training on the farm; classroom training; carrying out field control (bioRe, India & Tanzania)

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Designed by Evonne Tan

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/](http://farmhub.textileexchange.org/)

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