



## Regional Strategy Meeting: India and South Asia October 12, 2017 in Washington D.C.

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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 India and South Asia.

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, participants will divide into breakouts that cover the key organic cotton producing regions, including a meeting specifically for India and South Asia.

### OCRT Regional Strategy Meeting – India and South Asia Region

This meeting will draw on the expertise and experiences in the room to kick-start a trouble-shooting interactive workshop. The objective is to further align the sector for pre-competitive and collective action around four key themes: Regional Development, Seed & Soils, Business Models, and Integrity. Thought starters are:

- **Textile Exchange:** Current status and trends in production, challenges and opportunities, strategies for growth
- **Control Union:** Current status and trends in production, strategies for growth
- **C&A Foundation:** Regional investments and capacity-building models
- **Organic & Fair Cotton Secretariat (OFCS)/ASA:** Regional development, updates and learnings from the OFCS
- **Organic Cotton Accelerator (OCA):** Seed project updates and next steps
- **International Cotton Advisory Council (ICAC):** Breeding, Research and Development
- **Chetna Coalition:** Coalition updates, learnings, and next steps
- **Organic Cotton Accelerator (OCA):** Supply chain linkages and sourcing practices
- **Integrity:** Transformational Integrity – Findings and recommendations from research and stakeholder engagement
- **GOTS:** GMO contamination in the organic cotton supply chain, problems and possible solutions.

To ensure that the OCRT Regional Strategy Meeting for India is on point, Textile Exchange is hosting the session in collaboration with the [Organic Cotton Accelerator \(OCA\)](#) – a multi-stakeholder initiative fostering industry-wide collaboration to create a prosperous cotton sector that benefits everyone, from farmer to consumer.

## Objectives for Washington

- Share stories of what's working well in India and the wider region and what's not.
- Learn about current activities, pilot studies and progress.
- Explore country-specific scenarios for an uptake and growth plan for the Region.
- Collect ideas (including aims and deliverables) for a pre-competitive action plan.
- Shape the way forward for 2018.

## Invitation to Attend

Is this region part of your organic or preferred cotton strategy or manufacturing supply chain? India is a high-production and well-established sourcing destination for organic cotton and textiles, while Pakistan's growth potential is on the radar.

### JOIN US TO ENGAGE IN NEW BUSINESS MODELS AND IN ADDRESSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLABORATION INCLUDING SUPPLY NETWORKS AND TRANSPARENCY!

To find out more, please contact [OCRT@TextileExchange.org](mailto:OCRT@TextileExchange.org)

## Preliminary Agenda

Timing	Activity
2:00-2:10 p.m.	Welcome and introductions from the hosts: Organic Cotton Accelerator and Textile Exchange
2:10-2:45 p.m.	<p>Framing the question</p> <p>All thoughtstarters will use their insight and experience to frame a BIG question, which will form the focus for discussion at the world café table they will host. Each 5-minute presentation will be in rapid procession and controlled by the bell! Confirmed thoughtstarters include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Amish Gosai, Textile Exchange</li><li>• Ipshita Sinha, C&amp;A Foundation</li><li>• Arun, ChetCo</li><li>• Binay Chaudhary, Control Union</li><li>• Rahul Bhajekar, GOTS</li><li>• Joy Saunders, Integrity</li><li>• Dr Kranthi, International Cotton Advisory Council (ICAC)</li><li>• Bart Vollaard, Organic Cotton Accelerator (OCA)</li><li>• Hilde van Duijn, Organic Cotton Accelerator (OCS)</li><li>• Ashis Mondal, Organic &amp; Fair Cotton Secretariat (OFCS)/ASA</li></ul>
2:45-3:45 p.m.	<p>World café organized around each BIG question as identified by the thoughtstarters. Participants share their ideas on how to tackle the question. Table discussions will be facilitated by the thoughtstarters and ideas harvested. The groups will compose a summary "tweet" (&lt; 140 characters) for sharing. Discussion topics (1) Regional development and seed (2) Integrity (3) Supply linkages and sourcing (4) Investing in growth in India and the wider region.</p>
3:45-4:00 p.m.	<p>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.</p>



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>