



## Global Organic Cotton Stakeholders Meeting October 12, 2017 in Washington D.C.

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This year the Organic Cotton Round Table (OCRT) starts off with a global stakeholder meeting, and in the afternoon branches into regional strategy deep-dives.

### 10:00 - 10:40 - Global Round Up

The morning's session touches on some of the big global items and developments in the sector, including an update on the US Organic Fiber Council (part of the Organic Trade Association). All stakeholders get to hear an overview from the topic chairs, before splitting into table discussions. There will be five themed discussions. The principles of [open space](#) apply i.e. participants are free to stay focused on one theme or are free to move between the discussion tables.

### 10:40 – 11:40 - Themed Discussions

**Theme 1: SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE:** Concepts of sustainable agriculture range from regenerative organic through to intensive production based on bioengineered seed. Impact priorities differ across the environment, social and economic dimensions but one thing is clear, if cotton farmers are not rewarded for their efforts in sustainability, security of supply to the textile industry becomes under threat. This group explores progressive sustainability standards and their link to innovation in reward models.

***BIG QUESTION: What can the sector do to incentivize and reward positive sustainability impacts?***

***Thought starters:***

- Michael Arny, Leonardo Academy (chair)
- Tobias Bandel, Soil & More
- Saurin Nanavati, COSA
- Jimmy Wedel, Texas Organic Cotton Marketing Coop

***Textile Exchange expertise and support:*** Silvio Moraes, Ambassador, Latin America

**Theme 2: FAIR FINANCE:** Getting affordable financing to smallholder farmers has been a challenge for decades. Yet, through innovative market models, private-public collaboration and technological progress new ways of looking at the problem and finding solutions must be possible. This group explores how to make the breakthrough to more fully accommodate and reward the work of small farmers, often women, and the models that will take us there.

***BIG QUESTION: Is it possible to create an industry blueprint to guide better practices in farmer financing?***

**Thought starters:**

- Christine Goulay, Kering (chair)
- Rhett Godfrey, Chetna Coalition
- Dan Zook, Initiative for Smallholder Finance

**Textile Exchange expertise and support:** Liesl Truscott, Platform Director

**Theme 3: TRANSPARENCY AND SUPPLY NETWORKS:** Whilst transparency cannot be a substitute for trust, it does help to *build* trust, particularly in supply networks. If you trust a supplier with a certain task and tell them *how* they will be measured in performing it, they are likely to trust you more if you are clear from the start on *what* basis they will be monitored. It's almost impossible to have trust with no transparency, when you extend trust without being transparent about *why* you trust someone and on *what* basis; your trust is worth less. Importantly, transparency should be a two-way process. More transparency in business can be a pro-active and preventative measure when it comes to building integrity within supply networks. Technology has changed the way we access information and is the most significant contributor to our hyper transparent world. Alongside fair economics, rule setting, and the softer requirements of respect, fairness and honesty, technology will be a key part of the solution to building integrity.

**BIG QUESTION: How is technology providing a platform for creating shared value and more responsible, resilient supply networks?**

**Thought starters:**

- Joy Saunders, Integrity Consultant (chair)
- Scott Kaufman/Heidi McKloskey, PeerAspect
- Ben Ramsden, Resonance
- Heinrich Shultz, Organimark

**Textile Exchange expertise and support:** Evonne Tan, Analytics and Creatives Specialist

**Theme 4: SEED ECONOMICS:** Seed is where cotton textiles begin. The seed industry and textile industry are intrinsically linked. Seed is political and seed is big business. As the climate changes, water becomes scarcer, and smallholder farmers become more at risk, seed becomes an even greater dilemma. Brands and retailers, pulling the supply “chain”, have a role to play in the future of cotton and we need to organize around seed. This group explores what can and what should the textile industry do?

**BIG QUESTION: How can brands and retailers best engage in seed?**

**Thought starters:**

- Dr Jane Dever, Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center (chair)
- Dr Keshav Kranthi, International Cotton Advisory Council (ICAC)
- Bart Vollaard, Organic Cotton Accelerator (OCA)

**Textile Exchange expertise and support:** Silvere Tovignan, Ambassador, Africa

**Theme 5: COTTON IN TRANSITION:** Organic is niche and will remain so until the production base grows. A sector-wide approach to building supply is needed to meet demand. Through partnership and collaborative programs to support in-conversion we can accelerate the expansion of organic cotton. It takes at least three years for soils to adjust, growing systems to establish, and for farms to get certified. Farmers need to share the risk during the transition phase. Here the group takes a look at mobilizing around in-conversion cotton, and supporting farmers through perhaps the riskiest stage of the process.

***BIG QUESTION: What are the market-driven strategies the sector could get behind to support the growth of the organic cotton sector?***

***Thought starters:***

- La Rhea Pepper, Textile Exchange (chair)
- Hilde van Duijn, Organic Cotton Accelerator
- Arun Ambatipudi, Chetna Organic

***Textile Exchange expertise and support:*** Amish Gosai, India Regional Manager

**11:40 – 12:00 – Feedback and Wrap Up**

Highlights are brought back to the wider group for sharing of big-ticket items and suggestions for course of action.



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>