



Statement from Textile Exchange's Organic Cotton Round Table Steering Committee on the detection of fraud in organic cotton

The organic cotton community has recently been the target of a sophisticated fraud. Thanks to the robust assurance systems in place, this fraud was quickly detected and affirmative action has been taken to address it, with the perpetrators expelled from the industry and fraud detection systems tightened still further. The full press release from GOTS can be found [here](#).

Responsible, proactive action like this is essential for improving integrity in the sector, and we are committed to working collectively to ensure that the systems in place are robust and continually evolving to pre-empt future criminal activities.

Strong demand for organic cotton is driven by the recognition of the multiple benefits that organic production brings to people and planet. It can play a pivotal role in addressing the climate crisis, regenerating soils, protecting biodiversity, and supporting sustainable livelihoods, as well as addressing numerous [UN Sustainable Development Goals](#).

At this crucial time for our planet, we need to take urgent action to avert the climate crisis. It is more important than ever that the integrity of production systems which contribute to a better future are safeguarded. We welcome the response of the sector to address the criminal activity which sought to exploit organic's reputation.

The organic cotton sector remains committed to facilitating strong, resilient and authentic supply chains that deliver meaningful benefits for farming communities and the rest of the living world.

If you have questions, please submit them to OCRT@TextileExchange.org.