
ORGANIC COTTON ROUND TABLE TERMS OF REFERENCE

About the Organic Cotton Round Table

Organic Cotton Round Table Summary

The Organic Cotton Round Table (OCRT) is a collaborative, pre-competitive team of internal and external stakeholders, identifying and taking action to address the barriers to growth in the organic cotton sector at both global and regional levels, in line with Textile Exchange's Climate + sustainability vision and targets. To get there, we're helping the sector to develop a shared understanding of its core sustainability issues, create alignment on goals and actions, boost commitment from major players, and measure progress.

The OCRT initially focused on addressing key challenges in the stability and sustainability of the organic cotton sector at the global level through the lens of three workstreams: Business Models; Seed and Soils; and Consumer Engagement. Under these workstreams, the OCRT identified a number of initiatives and has either catalyzed, or has been an incubator for, their development. Such initiatives include the [Organic Cotton Accelerator](#) and the [Chetna Coalition](#). Since then, we have expanded our focus to develop the useful [In-Conversion/Transitional Cotton At-a-Glance](#) guidance useful for all entities interested in ensuring the growth of the organic cotton sector.

The Organic Cotton Round Table aims to leverage industry expertise by bringing representatives from the field to finished products working together to expand the production of organic cotton globally and articulate a broad industry strategy and action plan.

Participation in the Organic Cotton Round Table is voluntary. Discussions are confidential within the group, but we ask for regular attendance and contribution to meetings, as well as a willingness to engage in collaborative action.

Vision and Methods

Vision

The vision for the Organic Cotton Round Table is of a global organic cotton sector that protects and restores the environment and enhances lives.

Purpose

The purpose of the Organic Cotton Round Table is to support Textile Exchange's sustainability vision with a focus on organic cotton. Together, we aim to bring together the organic cotton community to be inspired, mobilized, and equipped to expand the production of organic cotton which will help us meet our Climate+ strategy and the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals. The Organic Cotton Round Table will achieve this by gathering industry members to identify barriers to growth and take collective actions that result in meaningful impacts. It promotes the advancement of organic cotton in order to achieve high level, global climate sustainability goals in the international cotton textile industry by identifying barriers to the success of those goals and creating breakthroughs in order to achieve them.

Objectives

The objective of our work is to:

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- Address the barriers to growth of organic cotton production and consumption.
 - Improve the sustainability of the organic cotton industry.
 - Give a voice to all stakeholders across the organic cotton industry and build an understanding of the needs and expectations of these different stakeholder groups.
 - Catalyze collective action and cross-sector and -regional partnerships, particularly with organizations working on the ground.

Scope

The scope of our work is defined as:

- The cotton supply chain from farm to finished textile product, with an emphasis on reducing greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture and improving soil health, water management, and biodiversity by driving the adoption of sustainable farming management practices.

How We Add Value

The Organic Cotton Round Table adds value to the international textile industry by:

- Providing an inclusive place for all cotton stakeholders to come together with the goal of addressing key barriers to growth and increasing the adoption of preferred cotton.
 - Being pre-competitive and collaborative.
 - Creating alignment on goals and action with commitment to work towards these from key industry players.
 - Measuring progress and mobilizing action.
 - Operating at both global and regional levels, including the Round Table meetings, and working groups operating as part of the Round Table.
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Appendix 1: Round Table Membership Agreement Form

[LINK TO WEBFORM]

Background Information

Textile Exchange is a global non-profit driving positive impact on climate change across the fashion and textile industry. It guides a growing community of brands, manufacturers, and farmers towards more purposeful production from the very start of the supply chain.

The Round Tables support Textile Exchange's Climate+ vision for a global textile industry that protects and restores the environment, reduces the climate impact of our industry, and enhances lives. It inspires and equips people to accelerate sustainable practices and reduce climate impact in the textile value chain. We focus on minimizing the harmful impacts of the global textile industry and maximizing its positive effects. Our goal is to help the industry to achieve a 45% reduction in the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that come from producing fibers and raw materials by 2030. This is known as Tier 4 of the supply chain, and it accounts for 24% of the industry's GHG impacts related to the supply chain.

Textile Exchange's Round Tables are global stakeholder platforms that support and bring together the textile community to be inspired, share knowledge, and drive collective action with a focus on achieving our common goals.

For real change to happen, everyone needs a clear path to positive impact. That's why we believe that approachable, step-by-step instruction paired with collective action can catalyze change, mobilizing leaders through attainable strategies, proven solutions, and a driven community. The Round Tables will deliver our strategy by:

- Convening a community of stakeholders across materials and fibers,
- Identifying market issues and barriers,
- Aligning the textile industry on common, actionable goals and
- Creating an action plan that reflects regional needs.

The Round Tables are open to all (including non-members of Textile Exchange), but everyone must register to become a member and gain access to the Round Table Hub.

The Round Table Hub community is the virtual home for the Round Table members and is hosted in Textile Exchange's online membership portal, The Hub.

Click "Next" to read the Round Tables Terms of Reference, select which Round Tables you would like to join and access the Registration Form.

Round Table Membership Sign up and Survey

Before signing up to become a member of a Round Table, we would be interested in hearing a little more about your experience in this brief survey.

Name:

Job Title:

Company Name:

Location:

Field of Operation (brand, retailer, supplier, manufacturer, farm group, professional services, other):

Email Address:

Please note that the email address that is used to register for the Round Table will be associated with your account moving forward, and will, therefore, need to be used to register to any future Roundtable sessions, webinars and associated activities. *

Are you a Textile Exchange Member? (Yes. No. No but I am interested in learning more)

Has your company set Climate related goals? Which of the following best describes them?

- a. Climate goals in line with 1.5 degree
- b. Climate (or interim) goals targeting 2030
- c. Both a. and b.
- d. Climate goals different to a. and b.
- e. None, we don't have Climate goals yet

Textile Exchange Round Tables aim to inspire and equip the industry to reach our Climate + targets - including water, biodiversity and soil health. How relevant are these themes for your organization?

- a. Very relevant
- b. Partially relevant (some of them)
- c. Not relevant

Please select which Round Tables you are interested in joining:

- Animal Fibers
- Bio synthetics
- Leather
- Man Made Cellulosic Fibers (MMCF)
- Organic Cotton
- Recycled Polyester (rPET)
- Preferred Cotton

Round Table Terms of Engagement

Convener and Strategic Lead	Textile Exchange
Eligibility	Participation in the Round Table is voluntary
Composition, Representation	Representatives from Textile Exchange and the global textile industry: Suppliers, Brands, NGOs, and other industry professionals
Member Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regular attendance of and contribution to meetings• Non-disclosure and confidentiality of shared information within the group• Support the Round Table development and collectively create solutions to address Climate+ and supply barriers and uptake challenges in the global textile industry.• Commitment to achieving Climate+ goals and outcomes• Sign the Membership Agreement below

Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organization: The Textile Exchange Round Table Lead will chair meetings and design them to facilitate discussion and action. • Determination: The Round Table will identify opportunities for the global textile industry to drive beneficial impact in their sector. • Action: The Round Table is committed to addressing and increasing positive impacts in the global textile industry.
Decision Making	The Round Table shall strive for consensus among all members of the group. As the entity ultimately responsible for delivery of initiatives, Textile Exchange reserves the right to make the final decision and will disclose any decisions that differ from the will of the wider feedback obtained through stakeholder groups.
Length of Membership	Round Table members can participate within the Round Table for as long as they have interest.
Meeting Frequency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Round Table Summit will happen annually with the purpose of bringing the community together to share knowledge and learning and will be an opportunity to workshop strategies and plans for the Round Table. In-person attendance is encouraged, although a virtual option will be available. These are open to all interested parties. • Regular Round Table meetings will occur throughout the year to drive action. These will be an opportunity to present projects, ideas, concepts that will help us achieve our Round Table strategy and shared objectives. These meetings will be virtual. Round Table participants sign up to join these meetings. • Round Table Working Group meetings will happen as needed with the purpose of focusing on a specific task to drive progress towards our Round Table strategy and shared objectives. These meetings will be virtual. Round Table participants join if they have the right skills to contribute to the task.
Time Commitment	Members will attend and contribute to meetings regularly. There will be at least four Round Table meetings per year plus Working Group meetings as needed.

Round Table Terms of Reference

Please read the relevant Round Table Terms of Reference(s) below or click the arrow icon to download it to your computer. Click "Next" to confirm your agreement to the Membership Requirements outlined in the Terms of Reference and to join the Round Table. The membership includes access to the Round Table Hub, our online community network.

--- attachments: Terms of Reference for each RT (1) to (7) ---

Round Table Membership Agreement

The undersigned has read and understands the Round Table Terms of Reference and agrees to the Membership Requirements therein:

- Contributing time and expertise during participation in Round Table activities.
- Working openly and collaboratively to meet the objectives of the Round Table, sharing best practices and lessons learned.
- Respecting Textile Exchange values (integrity, respect, inclusive community, learning, and collaboration) in all RT activities.
- Non-disclosure and confidentiality of shared information within the group and compliance with all applicable antitrust and anti-competitive laws, including, without limitation:
 - Treating any information that is shared as part of any Round Table meeting or activity in accordance with the Chatham House Rule (Participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed);

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- Ensuring that none of the information shared as part of the Round Table is used to cause competitive injury or disadvantage to another Round Table member, participant, Textile Exchange, or the (Name of) Round Table; and
 - Abstaining from any conversations or activities that may restrict competition or set prices.
 - Refraining from using any information obtained through the Round Table, other than to advance the objectives of the Round Table and in no event to disparage Round Table Members, their products, practices, businesses, or their reputations.

Non-mandatory but highly encouraged:

- Become a Textile Exchange member.
- Familiarize yourself with the Textile Exchange Climate+ Strategy

Signed* _____

Date:

(X) I confirm that I have read and agree to the Round Table Terms of Reference and Membership Agreement

(X) I understand that failure to abide by the terms of my membership in the Round Table in any material way may result in my termination of membership and ability to participate in the Round Table.

(X) Optional – I give permission for my organization to be publicly listed as a member of the Round Table.

(X) Optional – I agree to receive communications from Textile Exchange, including industry news and relevant information (this can be changed at any time using the “update your preferences” option in any email you receive from us).
