

From Field to Fashion

June 28, 2011
New York, NY

An Overview of the Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS)



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OTA Representative

GOTS Technical Committee

Organic
SINCE 1985
trade association

Purpose of the Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS)



Define requirements to ensure the organic status of textiles, from harvesting of the raw materials, through environmentally and socially responsible manufacturing up to labelling.



Start with organic fiber from plants or animals



- Complies with all National Organic Program (NOP) standards and requirements
- Certified by a USDA accredited certifying agent

Organic Textile Principles



PROTECT ORGANIC INTEGRITY

By preventing contact by organic fibers with prohibited substances and avoiding commingling organic and nonorganic fibers of the same type

MINIMIZE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

By reducing discharge of pollutants, recycling waste and increasing biodegradability.

NOT ABOUT PRODUCT QUALITY OR HEALTHFULNESS

Differ from environmental ecolabels or human ecology schemes such as Oekotex 100, which focus on criteria for residues in products and/or impact on environment.

GOTS Requirements Address:



- Post-Harvest Handling (ginning)
- Fabrication
- Wet Processing
- Environmental Management
- Finishing
- Assembly
- Product Composition & Accessories
- Substances Used in All of Above
- Labeling
- Record Keeping
- Social Aspects



International Working Group (IWG) Members



International Association Natural Textile Industry (IVN), Germany



Soil Association (SA), England



Organic Trade Association (OTA), USA



Japan Organic Cotton Association (JOCA), Japan

GOTS and OTA Fiber Standards History



- 2000 – Development of OTA's American Organic Fiber Processing Standards (AOFPS) initiated through a stakeholder process.
- 2002 - International organic textile processing standards concept emerged during InterCot conference, and OTA agreed to join the GOTS International Working Group.
- 2004 - First draft of GOTS completed, AOFPS initial implementation.
- 2006 – GOTS version 1 is finalized.
- 2008 – GOTS logo is introduced and guidance announced.
- 2009 – GOTS version 2 released, certifier accreditation program launched.
- 2010 – GOTS web site & data base launched, promotional video produced, representatives recruited.

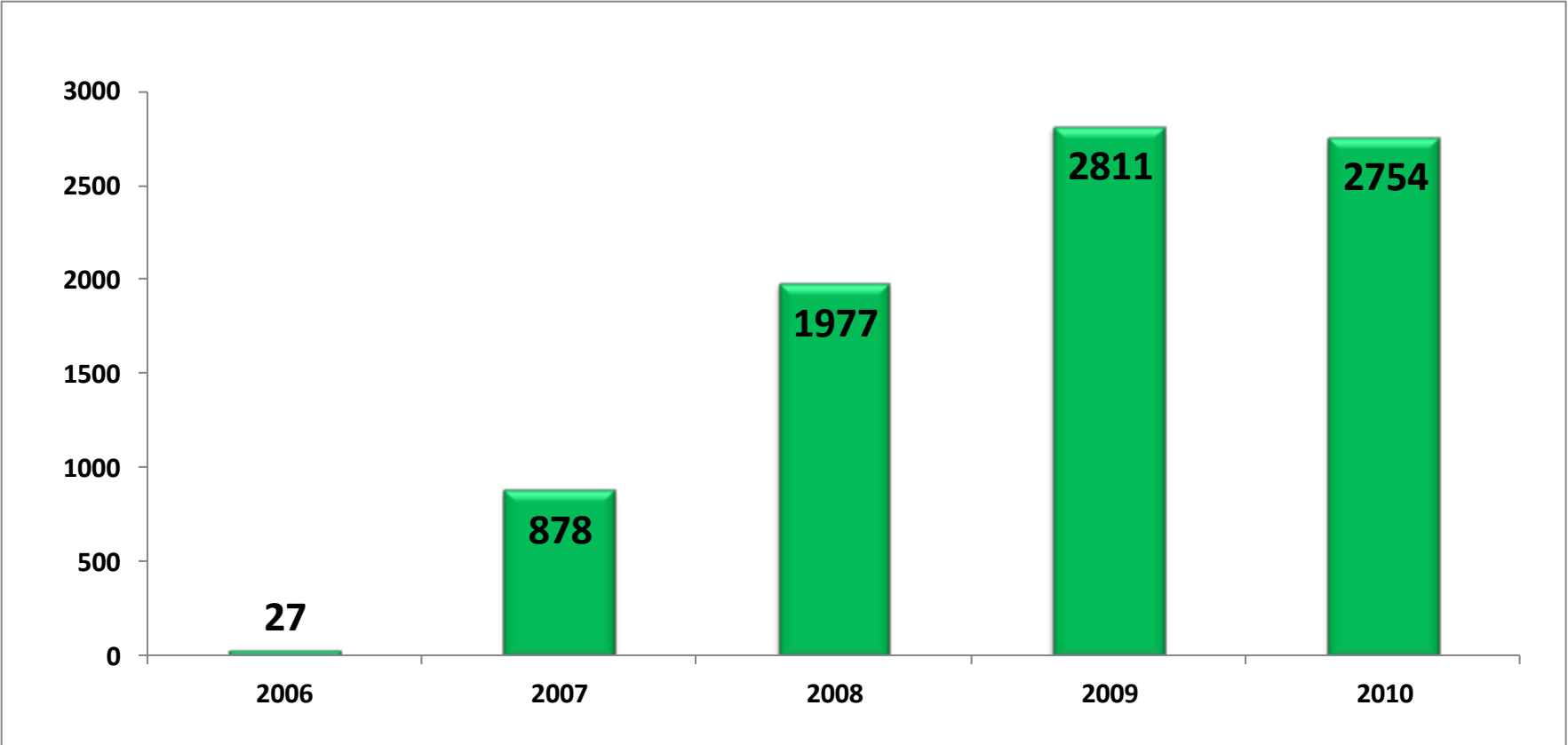
2011 Current Status



- GOTS version 3 released March 1st following a comprehensive stakeholder input process
- 14 accredited certifying bodies, including Oregon Tilth (OTCO), OneCert, Control Union, IMO, Ecocert & IOA in the US.
- In 2010 there were 1500 companies with a total of 2,754 facilities in 54 countries certified
- Staff includes Herbert Ladwig, IWG Coordinator
Marcus Bruegel, Technical Director
- Regional representatives based in central Europe, Scandinavia, United Kingdom, North America, Japan, and Australia



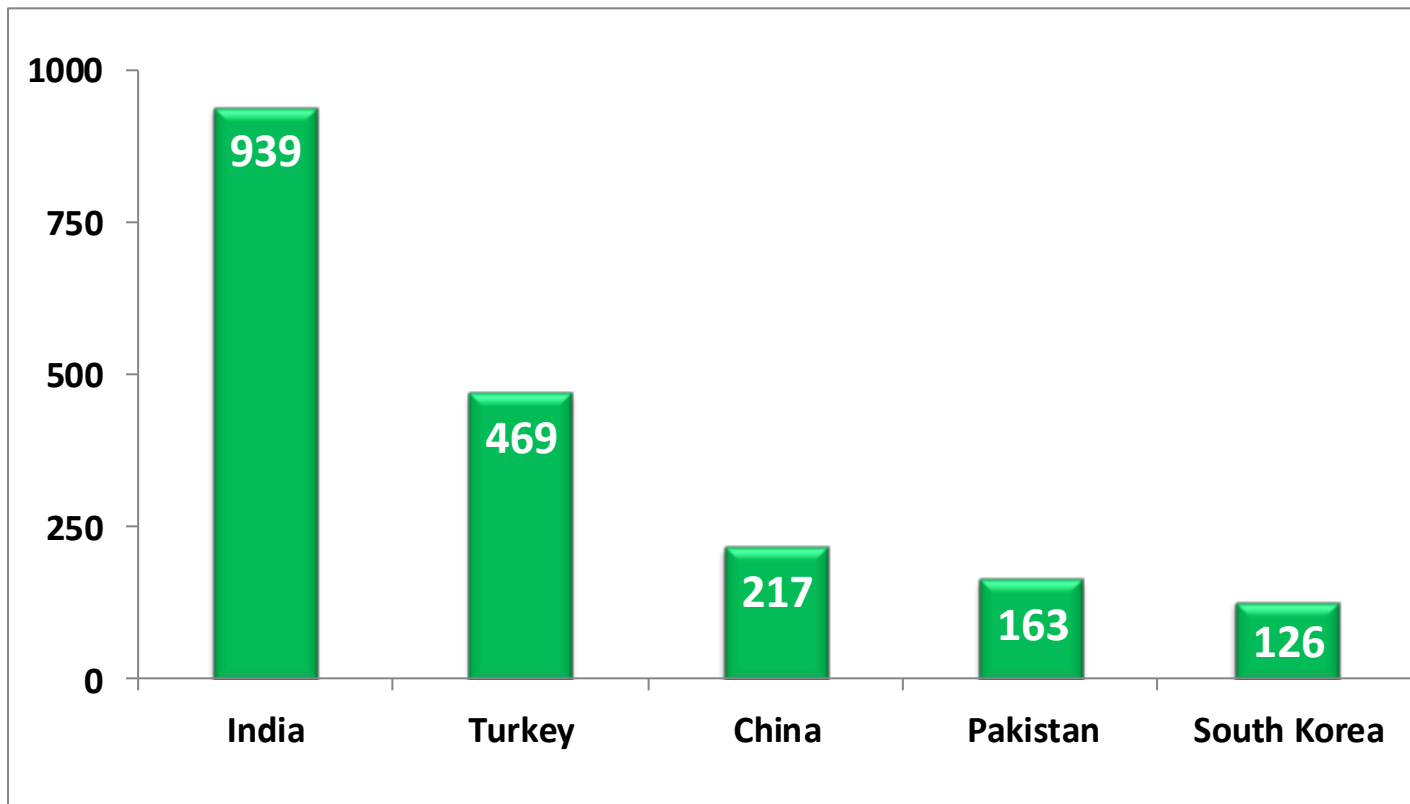
GOTS certified facilities 2006-2010



Certified facilities by country in 2010



**2754 certified facilities in 54 countries
- Top 5 countries -**



Who needs to be certified?



Each of the following must be certified by a **GOTS -Approved Certifying Body** in order to make any **GOTS-related claims** :

- **Processors, Manufacturers and other Handlers** (post-harvest, milling, dyeing, spinning, weaving, knitting, cut & sew, etc.)
Except if exempt under the provision for 'small-scale sub-contractors with a low risk potential'
- **Traders** (import, export, retail and wholesale entities) that:
 - ❖ Buy or sell any *GOTS Goods* with an annual turnover of at least 5000€ (\$7100)
 - ❖ Package or re-pack any *GOTS Goods*
 - ❖ Label or re-label any *GOTS Goods*

Why get certified?



- Market place credibility – verification of green, sustainable claims
- Increased confidence in your supply chain
- Access to expanded markets
- Promote your track record to consumers seeking clean, green textiles





How to get certified






- Choose a GOTS accredited certifying agent
- Certification application (Organic System Plan)
- Initial review of application
- Annual on-site inspection, risk-assessment based residue testing
- Certification decision, annual renewal
- Fees depend on scale of operation & cost of inspection plus yearly GOTS license fee of 120 € per facility inspected

OneCert



Textile Label Schemes Compared



<p>GOTS</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Requires at least 70% certified organic fiber content (Made With Organic) ✓ Addresses all inputs used, product composition, environmental and social criteria ✓ Includes every step of the supply chain
<p>Textile Exchange</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Requires 100% certified organic fiber (OE 100) or a declaration of % composition (OE blended) ✓ Certification addresses traceability to verify NOP compliant fiber content claim for every step of supply chain ✓ Does not address processing inputs, environmental or social criteria
<p>Oeko-Tex</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Addresses only product quality testing (100) or facility environmental performance (1000) ✓ Combination (100 plus) includes environmental requirements for all facilities in supply chain

GOTS LABELING RULES



Product Composition	Label Grade
At least 95% organic	“Organic” Product Logo can be used
70-95% organic	“Made With X% Organic Fiber” Product Logo can be used – percent organic content must be specified
Less than 70% organic	Term “organic” may only modify the name of the organic fiber No logo use

Examples of labels



Approval of Chemical Inputs



- Eight certifiers, including OneCert, IMO and Control Union are accredited to review chemical inputs
- Positive Lists of approved inputs are made available to all GOTS certifiers
- Lists of approved proprietary inputs have been prepared for 330 chemical suppliers, including 2694 dyestuffs and prints and 3933 auxiliary agents
- **No certification is currently available for use of approved inputs only**
- **No label claims are permitted for use of GOTS approved inputs**



GOTS Compared to USDA National Organic Program (NOP)



- GOTS addresses textile processing only, as a private voluntary standard
- GOTS requires NOP certification (for US market) for all organic raw fiber
- GOTS label grades are similar to NOP for “organic” (95%) and “made with” (70%) claims
- Few textile processing substances permitted under GOTS are consistent with the NOP National List
- GOTS includes environmental and social criteria, not covered by NOP

Federal Trade Commission (FTC) & NOP Current Policies



FTC Requirements



- ✓ Care & Content Label: “Organic” may be used to modify the type of fiber if the raw fiber is NOP certified.
- ✓ Re: Certification Seals: “...marketers should use clear and prominent language limiting the claim to particular attribute(s) for which they have substantiation.”

NOP May 2011 Policy Memo

- ✓ Allows use of the term “organic” in the labeling of third party certified textile products as long as all of the fibers identified as “organic” are NOP compliant.
- ✓ **“Textile products that are produced in accordance with the Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS) may be sold as organic in the U.S. but may not refer to NOP certification or display the USDA organic seal.”**
- ✓ “Organic” textile products must not use a combination of both organic and non-organic sources for a single fiber that is identified as “organic” in the final product.





Using the Data Base





You can easily find existing GOTS certified facilities and suppliers of GOTS certified textiles anywhere in the world.


Home Contact Sitemap search...


 GLOBAL ORGANIC TEXTILE STANDARD
ECOLOGY & SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY


 THE STANDARD


 CERTIFICATION


 LICENCING & LABELLING

 PUBLIC DATABASE

 How to use it

 Search for producers and products

 INFORMATION CENTRE

 ABOUT US

SEARCH


This search form is suitable to search through all data sets contained in the GOTS public database. In order to narrow down the search results, search terms can be entered in several or all search fields at the same time. To understand the functionality of the data base it is proposed to first read through the section "How to use it".

Free text

Product categories

Field of operation

Country

 Search

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2011 GOTS Dinner, Nuremberg, Germany: IWG, Technical Committee & Representatives



Thanks for your attention!
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trade association

SheppardMullin



TextileExchange
Creating Material Change