

# Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS)

**Unified criteria for environmentally  
and socially responsible production  
of organic textiles**



**Herbert Ladwig, Coordinator**

**International Working Group on Global Organic Textile Standard**

# Basic Features



- **Organic Fibres**  
The Standard requires the use of certified organic fibres.
- **Environmental and Social Criteria**  
The Standard provides both demanding environmental and social criteria.
- **All Processing Stages**  
The Standard's criteria are applicable to all stages of the whole processing supply chain
- **Independent Certification**  
All operations of the GOTS processing and trading chain must be certified based on on-site inspections and products must meet residue limits

# Milestones in History



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**August 2002**  
**Intercot, Düsseldorf**

**Formation of the International Working Group on  
Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS IWG)**

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**May 2005**  
**Intercot, Chicago**

**Four parties agree on the 1st Version of the GOTS**

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**October 2006**

**Start of certification system**

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**June 2008**  
**IFOAM Conference**

**Introduction of the logo & release of the Labelling Guide**

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**March 2011**

**Release of GOTS Version 3.0**

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# International Working Group (IWG)



**International Association Natural Textile Industry (IVN), Germany**

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**Soil Association (SA), England**

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**Organic Trade Association (OTA), USA**

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**Japan Organic Cotton Association (JOCA), Japan**

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# IWG / Committees



- **International Working Group (IWG):**
  - Decisive committee for all relevant organizational, structural and political issues
  - Members are one board representative of each party and the Director
- **Technical Committee (TC):**
  - Generating revisions of the standard, issuing interpretation documents, development of quality assurance system
  - Members are one expert appointed by each party of the IWG and the Technical Director
- **Certifiers Council (CC):**
  - Advisory function with regard to all issues related to the GOTS quality assurance system; reporting its proposals to the TC
  - Members are one representative of each GOTS approved certifier and the Technical Director

# GOTS approved Certifiers - part 1 -



**bio.inspecta, Switzerland**



**CCPB, Certificazione e controllo prodotti biologici, Italy**



**Ceres, Germany**



**Control Union Certifications, Netherlands**



**Ecocert Greenlife, France**



**ETKO Ekolojik Tarim Kontrol Organizasyonu, Turkey**



**ICEA Istituto per la Certificazione Etica e Ambientale, Italy**

# GOTS approved Certifiers - part 2 -



**IMO Institute for Marketecology, Switzerland**



**Letis, Argentina**



**OIA Organizacion Internacional Agropecuaria, Argentina**



**OneCert, USA**



**Oregon Tilth, USA**



**Soil Association Certification, England**

# Harmonisation process



# Basic Key criteria for fiber use



## Organic Fibers

- **Minimum of 70% certified organic fibers**
- **Certification according to recognised organic production standards** (such as Regulation EC 834/2007 or USDA NOP)

## Additional Fibers

- **Natural Fibres**
- **Maximum of 10% synthetic or regenerated fibers** (respective max. 25% for socks, leggings and sportswear)

# Criteria for processing



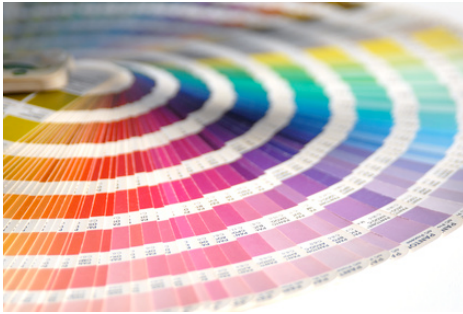
- **General criteria for all processing stages**  
(e.g. separation, record keeping, environmental policy, social criteria)
- **General ban on harmful substances in all processing stages**  
(e.g. formaldehyde, toxic heavy metals, GMOs)
- **General criteria for the assessment of chemical inputs**  
(meeting limits on human and environmental (aquatic, fauna, flora and soil) toxicity as well as on biodegradability / -eliminability)
- **Specific criteria for the different processing stages** (e.g. functional waste water treatment plant for wet processing plants, limitations on materials for accessories and finishing methods)

# Minimum social criteria



- **Meeting social minimum criteria based on the ILO key norms is compulsory for all processing and manufacturing stages. The requirements include e.g.:**
  - **No child labor**
  - **Payment of living wages**
  - **Working hours must not be excessive**
  - **Safe and hygienic working conditions**
  - **No discrimination, no harsh or inhumane treatment**
- **Operators must establish social compliance management tools that support the implementation and monitoring of the social minimum criteria**

# Positive lists – Statistics



- **Approximately 30% of currently used chemical textile inputs for natural fibres qualify for GOTS**
- **Positive lists are prepared for more than 400 suppliers of dyes and auxiliaries**
- **They contain**
  - **about 3200 trade names of dyestuffs and prints and**
  - **about 4800 trade names of auxiliary agents**

**The positive lists are available to all operators participating in the GOTS certification system through their certifier**

# Dual system for quality assurance



## Certification

- On-site inspection of the entire processing chain up to the import level
- Annual inspection cycle
- Organic product flow, environmental and social criteria subject to inspection

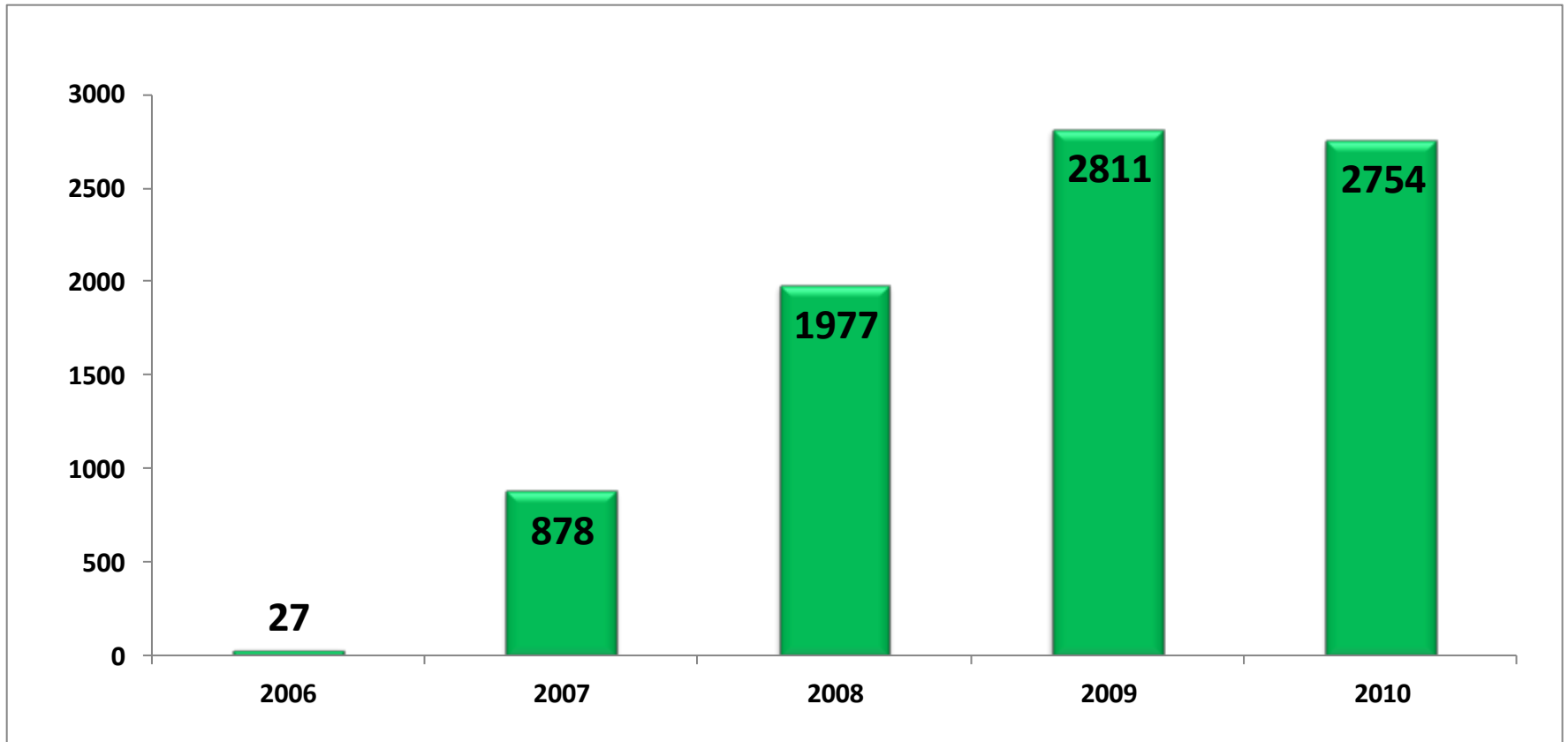
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## Residue Testing

- Orientation values for residues
- Risk assessment of contamination
- Analysis in ISO accredited labs

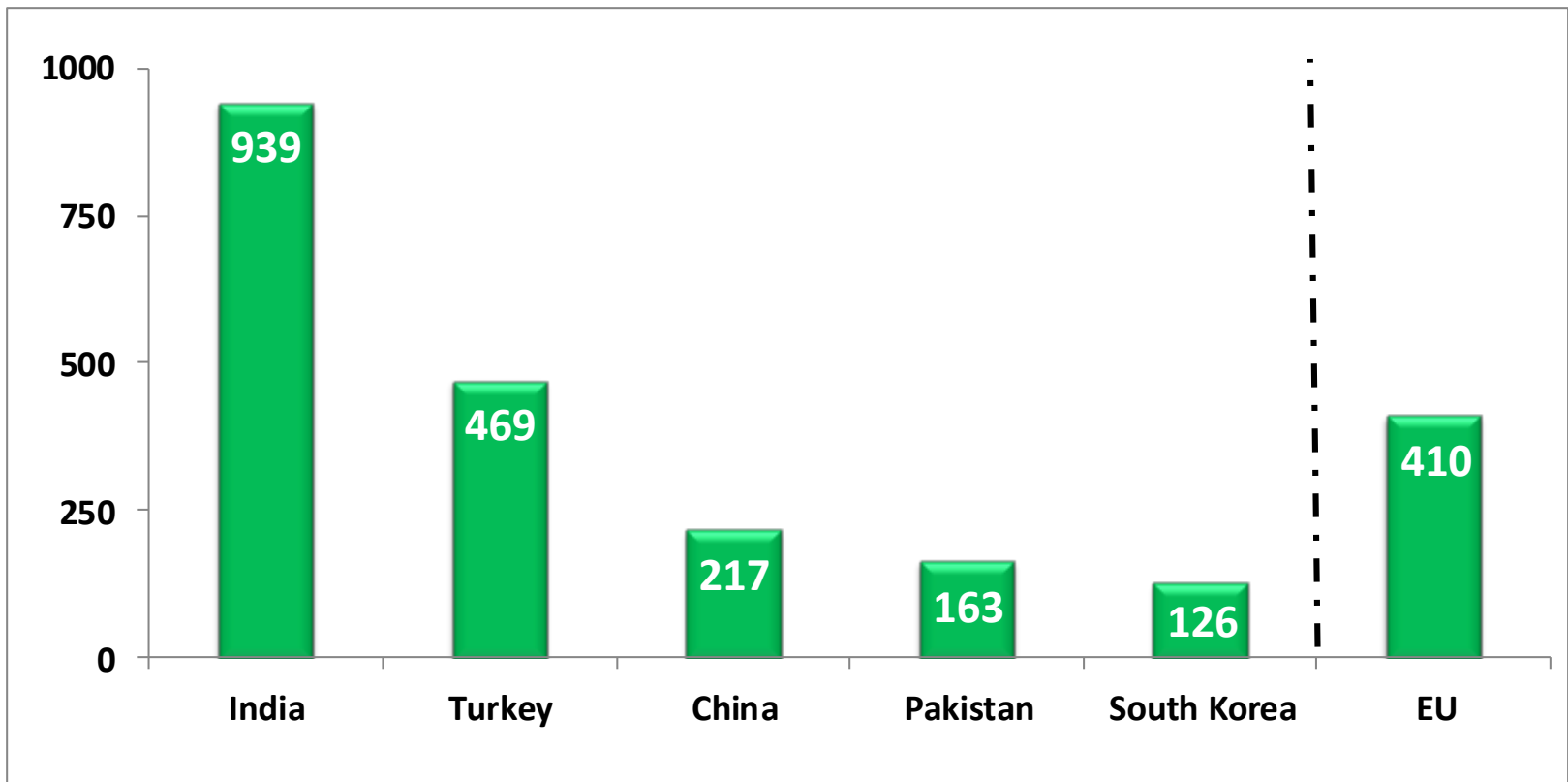
# GOTS certified facilities 2006-2010



# Certified facilities by country in 2010



**2754 certified facilities in 54 countries**



# Public Data Base



**With this practical tool the user can search for GOTS certified entities, their fields of operation and certified products according to individual parameters**

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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# Label grading



**Using 95 – 100%  
organic fibres:**



**Organic**  
certified by *[certifier's ref.]*

**Using 70 – 94%  
organic fibres:**



**Made with (x %)  
organic materials**  
certified by *[certifier's ref.]*

# USDA NOP recognises GOTS labelling



## Policy memorandum of the USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) dated 20<sup>th</sup> May 2011:

- ✓ Clarifies that the use of the term 'organic' in the labeling of textile products requires third party certification and the use of NOP certified raw fibres
- ✓ Confirms to the GOTS principle that the use of a combination of both organic and non-organic sources for a single fibre that is identified as 'organic' in the final product is not accepted (= no blending)
- ✓ **explicitly recognises GOTS and its label grade 'organic':**  
**"Textile products that are produced in accordance with the Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS) may be sold as organic in the U.S."**

# Licensing system



- **The GOTS logo may be used as on-product and consumer label to market GOTS certified textiles**
- **Intermediate Textiles may carry the GOTS logo as well**
- **License fee for certified entities:**
  - **120 € per inspected facility and per year**
  - **no additional fee for the use of the logo**

# Latest Development



- **Assignment of Regional Representatives in major sales markets**
- **Introduction of an informational film on GOTS**
- **Release of GOTS Version 3.0 following an intense revision procedure including a multi stakeholder input process**

# Further Information



[www.global-standard.org](http://www.global-standard.org)

- **GOTS and related documents available for download**
- **Public data base containing the GOTS certified entities, their products and fields of operation**
- **News and latest developments**