

Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS)
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Prepared for Planet Textile Shanghai 2013

### What is Organic

- Organic cotton is grown using methods and materials that have a low impact on the environment.
- No use of genetically modified seed, toxic pesticides
   & synthetic fertilizers.
- Organic production systems
  - Replenish and maintain soil fertility
  - Reduce the use of toxic and persistent pesticides and fertilizers
  - Revive biologically diverse agriculture
- Requires 3<sup>rd</sup> party certification

# Have you cottoned on yet?

# The Organic Cotton Initiative

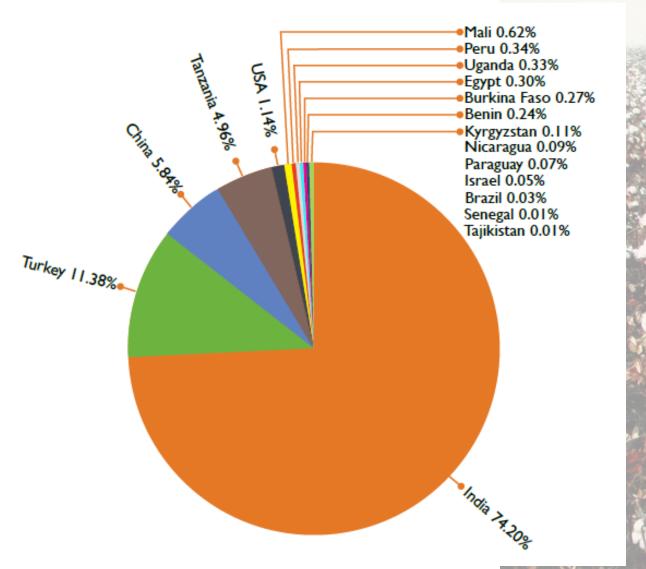








### **Top Growers**



Source: Farm & Fiber Report 2011 – 2012, Textile Exchange

## **Top Buyers**





















All each consumed over 2,000,000 ponds of organic cotton 79% planned to increase use of organic cotton in 2013

### Benefits VS Hurdles



- Gives control to Farmers
- Market Premium or Minimum Price to farmers
- Better working condition
- Livelihood



- Access to non-GMO Seeds
- Higher Planting cost
- Limited Financial Capacity for Cert.
- Weather
- Pest Control

## In China: Statistics & Reality

- 37,204 bales of cotton fiber grown on 4,218 acres in China in 2011-2012; 8,106 Mt. of fiber produced
- Ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in the world
- Main players are Esquel & Mecilla
- Production is market-driven
- Lack of policy support
- Little price advantage

# Certification and Accreditation Administration (CNCA国家认证认可监督管理委员会)

- Authorizes & Registers Certification Bodies
- Sets up standard in various industries
- Requires certification
- Issues Organic Certificate to crops including cotton
- Figures?



### Green Consumer Market

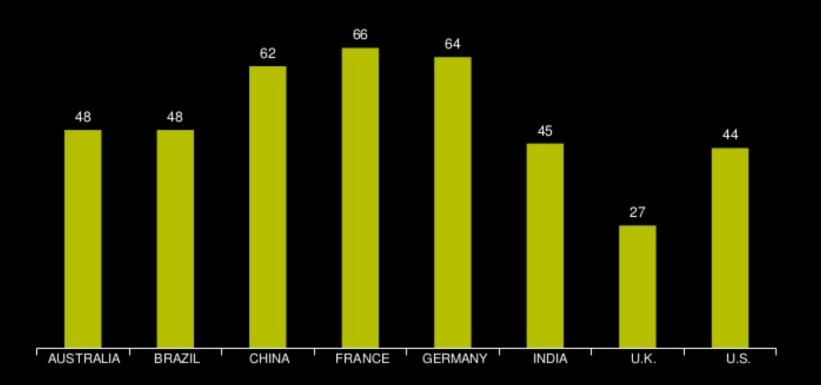
- In China, 79% consumers are willing to spend more on a product because it is green.
- But...their biggest concerns are:
  - There is limited selection of items where to choose from
  - The Green Labeling or production information is confusing or not trustworthy
  - Products are difficult to identify because they are poorly labeled

Source: "Green brands, global Insights 2011" by Cohn&Wolfe, LandorPenn Schoen Berland, Esty Environmental Partners

#### **GLOBAL OUTLOOK**

## Many consumers use certification marks to determine if a product is green, especially in France, Germany and China

How do you decide for yourself that a product is "green"? Showing "I look for a specific certification mark"



# Additional Supporting Evidence

1. Hong Kong Trade Development Council 青海貿

"Survey on China's Middle-Class Consumers" 2013

**1,600** consumers interviewed in 8 cities

**Findings**: frequency of buying organic products has also risen significantly

**76%** agreeing that, "I am willing to pay more for products

green

2. BioFach China 2013

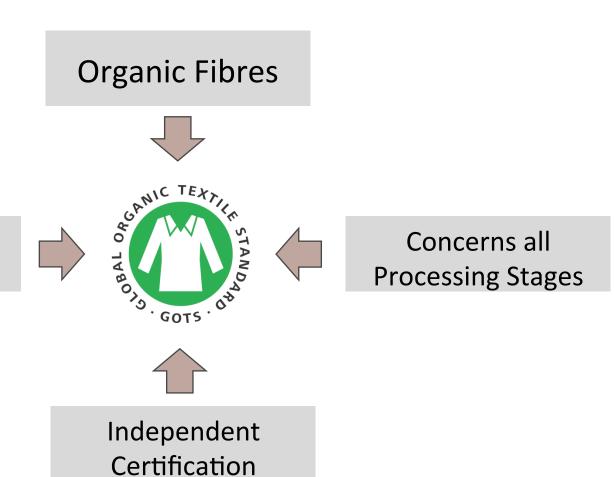


Special attention on organic maternity and baby products
From organic consumption to organic lifestyle

### Chinese consumer on Organic Apparel

- 37% price premium over organic RMB 230
- Top Altruistic Motivations
  - Supporting organic farmers in China
  - Improving the environment in China
  - Reduction in the use of pesticides in China
- Top self-centered Motivations
  - Reducing me and my family's exposure to hazardous chemicals
  - Bring me closer to nature
  - Improving my health or the health of my family/ Reducing my risk of allergy and rash
- Recommendation to retailers
  - Communication is crucial buy to be an organic consumer
  - Underlying connection also create motivation

### **GOTS** Basic Features



Environmental and Social Criteria

### **Organic Labels**

- What is covered?
  - ⇒ Supply Chain
- What is claimed?
  - ⇒Content of the Standard
- Who is the Guarantor?
  - □ Certification
- Can products be labeled?



### Good Better Best



Requires use of certified constant fibres

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"Organic" claims can

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Covers from field to finished products

Any claims made will need to be able to be justified...

### **GOTS Serves Everyone**













