



## Press Release

For immediate release

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### GOTS certifications in 2020 reach five figures for the first time

**New high: 10,388 GOTS certified facilities in 2020, an increase of 34% with more than 3 million workers in 72 countries**

In 2020, the number of GOTS certified facilities grew by 34% globally, to a new high of 10,388 from 7,765 in 2019. 16 GOTS Approved Certification Bodies report that over 3 million people in over 72 countries were working in GOTS certified facilities.

Significant increases are seen in all regions. Top 10 countries for certified facilities are India (2,994), Bangladesh (1,584), Turkey (1,107), China (961), Germany (684), Italy (585), Portugal (449), Pakistan (391), USA (167) and Sri Lanka (126).

GOTS approved chemical inputs now number 25,913, an increase of 13% in 2020. This confirms that these inputs are increasingly used as a risk management tool by wet processors to satisfy legal and commercial residue requirements.

“The exceptional increase in this unprecedented year shows that decision makers value GOTS as an important tool to drive sustainable transformation in a comprehensive way - from field to fashion. Using organic fibres and processing them under strict GOTS criteria definitely provides a credible and strong base for market players to be successful in the future” says GOTS Managing Director Claudia Kersten.

GOTS version 6.0, to be implemented from 1 March 2021, includes stricter social and environmental criteria. Certified Entities will now have to calculate the gap between wages paid to 'Living Wages' and will be encouraged to work towards closing this gap. Specific references to OECD Due Diligence Guidance and Good Practice Guidance for Social Criteria and Risk Assessment as well as Ethical Business Practises have been explicitly included.

In 2020, despite the pressing situation of COVID-19, the Greater China Area showed a speedy recovery in the organic textile sector. Notably, in mainland China, it reached a surge to 961 (448) in terms of the total number of certified facilities, with the highest increase rate of 114.5% worldwide. Hong Kong also showed a strong growth rate of 87.2%, reaching 73 (39) in 2020.

The demand for GOTS training from global brands, retailers and other organisations was increasing. Successful partnerships with leading trade show organizer Messe Frankfurt continued. The Spring Edition of Intertextile Shanghai 2020 was cancelled due to the virus, however, GOTS was able to physically attend the Autumn Edition with seminar and booth which was the first event GOTS attended in-person amid the COVID-19. “It was a great opportunity for the industry to boost the confidence in the current context, and to showcase that GOTS will keep working together further with the key players to stimulate the industry’s recovery.” Felicia Shi, GOTS Representative for Greater China.



GLOBAL ORGANIC TEXTILE STANDARD  
ECOLOGY & SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

**About GOTS:** GOTS is the stringent voluntary global standard for the entire post-harvest processing (including spinning, knitting, weaving, dyeing and manufacturing) of apparel and home textiles made with certified organic fibre (such as organic cotton and organic wool), and includes both environmental and social criteria. Key provisions include a ban on the use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs), highly hazardous chemicals (such as azo dyes and formaldehyde), and child labour, while requiring strong social compliance management systems and strict waste-water treatment practices. GOTS certification helps to ensure compliance with each of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals. GOTS was developed by leading international standard setters - Organic Trade Association (U.S.), Japan Organic Cotton Association, International Association Natural Textile Industry (Germany), and Soil Association (UK) to define globally recognised requirements that ensure the organic status of textiles, from field to finished product. GOTS is a non-profit organisation which is self-financed. For more information please see [www.global-standard.org](http://www.global-standard.org) and follow [@globalorganictextilestandard](https://www.instagram.com/globalorganictextilestandard) on LinkedIn, Instagram and Facebook.

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The GOTS logo is available for [download](#).