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20 May 2025

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Global Standard's 2024 Annual Report underscores pioneering progress and visionary goals to improve organic textile value chains

2024 Highlights:

- GOTS Version 7.0 fully implemented
- GOTS Version 8.0 revision process started
- Global Standard Advisory Council approved first additional standard to GOTS
- Released results of AI satellite project differentiating organic and non-organic fields
- #Behindtheseams campaign reached 70 million+ unique individuals
- GOTS-certified facilities increased by 5%
- Vision and Mission updated to reflect future goals

Stuttgart, Germany (20 May 2025) – [Global Standard](https://www.global-standard.org), the nonprofit that owns and operates the Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS), today released its 2024 Annual Report highlighting its global mark on the organic textile industry. From announcing a new voluntary sustainability standard, to educating millions of consumers, last year marked multiple successes with an eye on the future to enhance people's lives and the environment with organic textiles.

Coming out of another consecutively strong year for GOTS, 2024 culminated with 26 GOTS-approved certification bodies reporting a noteworthy 15,441 certified facilities (an increase of 5.2% from 2023) in 87 countries.

“The necessity of our work was compounded in 2024 due to evolving regulations concerning value chains around the world, especially in Europe. Already central to driving impact and progress, voluntary sustainability standards are now emerging as strategic tools for compliance - underscoring their evolving role in leading sustainable transformation. said Claudia Kersten, Managing Director of Global Standard. “Whether it is human rights due diligence or using the latest technology to strengthen integrity, Global Standard and its experts remain at the forefront.”

Cementing GOTS Version 7.0 and commencing Version 8.0

GOTS Version 7.0 – released in March 2023 with the strongest iteration of GOTS due diligence yet – was fully implemented 1 March 2024. Beyond creating online trainings to assist GOTS-certified entities with the due diligence requirements, Global Standard released in November 2024 a comprehensive [Due Diligence Handbook for Auditors](#).

Not long after the formal launch of Version 7.0, work began on setting up the 25-member Standard Revision Committee for GOTS Version 8.0, which is currently in its first public consultation [phase](#). Version 8.0 will include provisions on the circular economy, mitigation of climate change-related issues that affect the well-being of workers and further improvements to the due diligence criteria.

Expanding on a proven foundation

Global Standard, recognising the growing demand for comprehensive sustainability frameworks, is evolving to become a voluntary sustainability standard setter. For the first time in its 22-year history, Global Standard in 2024 revised the organisation’s Vision and Mission to expand beyond a single standard. This strategic shift in expanding its scope will provide tailored sustainability solutions across various areas of the textile industry.

“By building on the success and value of GOTS, we aim to strengthen Global Standard’s impact, support diverse sustainability challenges and empower stakeholders across global value chains,” said Rahul Bhajekar, Managing Director of Global Standard.

Following ISEAL principles, the new standards will be released for public comment in 2025 with final release to follow.

Regional Focus: Expanding GOTS' Footprint Across Africa

In 2024, Global Standard strengthened its footprint across Africa through the efforts of Muktar Dodo, GOTS Representative in Africa, who led several key initiatives to deepen partnerships and enhance regional engagement. A highlight of the year was the organisation of a roundtable in South Africa, bringing together brands, retailers, and certified entities to foster collaboration and exchange best practices.

Dodo's work extended across the continent, with targeted engagement of weavers in West Africa and garment manufacturers in East Africa, promoting the adoption of organic textile practices. In Ghana, he co-organised a GOTS workshop with GIZ, while in Egypt, he facilitated discussions with the Cotton Research Institute to clarify laboratory testing requirements for certification.

Beyond industry collaboration, Dodo actively promoted sustainability awareness by interacting with fashion students, giving industry interviews, and amplifying GOTS' visibility at key events like the East Africa Textile and Leather Week and Africa Sourcing and Fashion Week. His impactful presentations on organic textiles and sustainability further cemented GOTS' reputation as a trusted standard for responsible textile production in Africa.

An eye in the sky to prevent fraud

In September 2024, Global Standard, the European Space Agency and AI firm Marple unveiled the results of the revolutionary Satellite Cotton Monitoring Project in India, which demonstrated a 97% accuracy rate in detecting cotton fields and over 80% accuracy in determining their organic status.

This innovative project, co-financed by Global Standard and the European Space Agency's Business Applications and Space Solutions programme, addresses critical challenges in the industry, aims to increase organic cotton availability by facilitating the organic certification process for farms, and has the potential to secure fibre integrity. Global Standard is eager to see this technology extend to other regions and additional fibres, which could revolutionise how crops are monitored.

Educating millions of consumers

In its ongoing commitment to stakeholder and consumer education, Global Standard took its #BehindTheSeams campaign to new heights by extending it to a full month, reaching more than 70 million people worldwide and seeing 265 GOTS brands participate. Throughout September 2024, consumers visited behindtheseams.eco to answer trivia questions for entry into grand-prize drawings of a trip to Paris or a new mattress. In addition, daily social media giveaways from GOTS-certified brands increased consumer-brand engagement while educating the public about the importance of organics.

Read the new interactive web version of the full 2024 Annual Report [here](#).

Read the PDF Version of the 2024 Annual Report [here](#).

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About Global Standard

As a leading voluntary sustainability standard setter, non-profit Global Standard owns and operates the Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS), which is the world's leading processing standard for organic textiles, from fibre to finished product. Global Standard is on a mission to ensure the highest level of positive social and environmental impact in textile value chains through voluntary sustainability standards and related activities and believes in a world where all textiles are produced in accordance with the principles of health, ecology, fairness and care to enhance people's lives and the environment. For more information, visit www.global-standard.org.

About Global Organic Textile Standard

GOTS (Global Organic Textile Standard), owned and operated by non-profit voluntary sustainability standard setter Global Standard, is the world's leading processing standard for organic textile, from fibre to finished product. It sets strict environmental and social criteria for the entire textile value chain, from the harvesting of raw materials to the finished product. GOTS certification ensures the integrity of finished organic textiles and provides comprehensive solutions for the industry and assurance to consumers worldwide. The rules and tools of GOTS certification help businesses comply with legal regulations while empowering them to further exceed requirements. For more information, visit www.global-standard.org.