

Organic Cotton Fact Sheet

Conventional textile production:	Organic and fair textile production:
↓	↓
Cultivation of cotton:	Cultivation of cotton:
Amount of cotton produced per year: 25 million tons	Yearly produced amount: 25,000 tons – only 0.1% of the worldwide production is organic cotton
Amount of water needed for 1 kilo of cotton: 29,000 litre	Amount of water needed for 1 kilo of cotton: 7,000 litre
25% of all worldwide used insecticides and 11% of all pesticides are used for the production of cotton even though the cultivation of cotton accounts for only 2.4 % of the agriculturally used areas.	Application of pesticides and insecticides is forbidden
Many of these plant protection agents are highly efficient neurotoxins which were formerly used as chemical weapons	Fighting of pests only with organic herb mixtures, crop rotation and natural enemies
Each year around 25,000 field workers are dying because of the impacts of the use of pesticides and insecticides	Healthy work environment and sustainable cultivation of the fields
An additional estimated 30.000 factory workers die every year because the cotton that was treated with plant protection agents pollutes the air in the warehouses and working areas	No secondary damage for factory workers
In India alone 450.000 children under the age of 14 work every day at cotton farms in debt slavery and free of charge and without any chance to visit a school or to gain further education	Child and forced labour and slavery work are forbidden
Since 1998 more than 40.000 Indian cotton farmers committed suicide due to the price and patent politics of gene technology industry	Cotton farmers and cooperatives are independent from the price and patent politics of multinational companies

Manufacturing:	Manufacturing:
Work on unsecured machines and in an unsecured environment	Safety regulations and machines have to be according to international ISO-standards
Unsecured work with highly toxic chemicals and dyestuffs, direct waste water disposal line	No organic halogens, no azo-dyestuffs, no chlorine bleaching, no formaldehyde..., integrated sewage plant are mandatory
Massive violations of human rights: confinement of textile workers in the dorm rooms after 10 p.m.; corporal punishment and abuse; wages are withheld for up to 6 months; to join the labour unions results in immediate discharge; wages are often only one third of the legal minimum wages	Compliance of ILO core work standards, like free choice of employment and right of cancellation, freedom to form associations and unions, ban of child and forced labour, ban of corporal intimidation, work only in accepted employment; payment of "living wages" (sufficient for food, lodging and cultural activity)
Only around 10-20% of all workers (26.5 million) are employed in an official employment relationship. Official number of employees: 26.5 million; estimated number of informally employed workers: 132.5 up to 265 million; female proportion: 80-90%	Work only in official employment contract
Almost no independent controls; inspectors are often not admitted access into the production area; workers are threatened with violence and dismissal in case they talk to the inspectors	Compliance of environment and social standards controlled through independent and unannounced inspections. Inspectors have access to the whole production areas. Workers have the possibility to address the certifying agencies through preprinted forms without knowledge of their supervisors.