

ORGANIC TEXTILES, PART OF THE SOLUTION

Cotton production accounts for:



16.1% of the world's insecticides use (more than any other crop!) and 5.7% of the world's pesticides use



8.2 million tonnes of chemicals



Textiles industry accounts for:

3 billion tonnes CO₂/year
1,000 kg of textiles: 15-35 tonnes CO₂
6.7% global greenhouse gas emissions



And harmful impacts on biodiversity, water quality & human health



Organic cotton, part of the solution



Uses no hazardous pesticides & fertilisers



46%
40-46% less global warming potential



62%
less energy



70%
less acidification



26%
less eutrophication



Organic cotton: an expanding market

2018-2019

2019-2020



222,213 farmers

229,280 farmers

grew 239,787 tonnes

grew 249,153 tonnes

on 418,935 hectares

on 588,425 hectares

in 19 countries

in 21 countries



Consumers want to act but false claims and greenwashing can be confusing

GREEN



???



ECO



60% green claims in textile sector are exaggerated, false or deceptive



EU consumers care about environmental and labour conditions



82% think there is not enough information on environmental impacts



86% wants labels on clothes with indications about environmental and labour conditions

Organic textiles

- Ensure high environmental and social standards
- Prevent greenwashing
- Give consumers a clear environmental choice
- Protect organic producers



EU policymakers can help

- Protect the use of the term "organic" in the same way as it is for the food chain
- Amend the 2011 EU Textile Regulation to allow for a definition of organic textiles
- Recognise already-existing organic standards

Read more & sources:

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- Special Eurobarometer 501: [Attitudes of European citizens towards the Environment](#), European Commission March 2020.
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