



Organic Cotton Circular 1/06

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Dear reader,

production of organic cotton not only makes sense in the light of social and environmental aspects. It also economically is an interesting option. This is shown by studies from India and Benin presented in this issue of the **PAN Germany Organic Cotton Circular**. You furthermore find several references to the literature, news from the textile sector, a summary of the Symposium on Organic Cotton in Lucerne and an appraisal of the WTO conference in Hong Kong. Finally we want to point to our booth and panel discussion at BioFach 2006.

In this email you find the summaries. Follow the "more" to the full texts. We hope you appreciate the content of the newsletter as interesting and useful.

Best wishes

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This issue is available as pdf-file in [english](#), [german](#) and [french](#). Find more about the background, content, finance, and distribution of the Organic Cotton Circular [here](#). If you do NOT wish to receive the Organic Cotton Circular any more, you may [unsubscribe](#) here.

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1. New Study: Organic cotton farming contributes to poverty reduction

The Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL) has analysed the impact of organic cotton production on the livelihoods of farmers in India. The research results show that organic farms can achieve similar yields as conventional farms, but at lower production costs and without burdening the soil and the environment with chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Due to these cost savings and the organic price premium for cotton, the organic farmers achieved considerably higher incomes than their conventional neighbours.

<http://pan-germany.org/newsletter/deu/news.html?id=130>

2. New extension tools for organic cotton production

The Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL), Switzerland, has developed a set of new guide books and training materials on organic cotton production in the tropics. The documents provide comprehensive practical know-how on producing organic cotton and on

designing projects with smallholder farmers. They draw on 3 years of research based on the Maikaal bioRe project in India, and integrate lessons learnt in other organic cotton projects in Asia and Africa.

<http://pan-germany.org/newsletter/deu/news.html?id=131>

3. Cotton in Benin: Competitiveness and sustainability of five production systems in the framework of the value chain

A study on the competitiveness of cotton within the framework of Benin's value chain has been carried out in 2005 with support of two programs of the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ): Support of the EU-African Partnership for Cotton and the Program Conservation and Natural Resource Management (ProCGRN), Benin. The study makes existing sector information available and provides analyses of its internal and external competitiveness as well as strategies for improvement. Five alternative cropping systems - including organic cotton - were treated in the light of world market trends.

<http://pan-germany.org/newsletter/deu/news.html?id=132>

4. PAN Germany Fact sheets online

The PAN Germany information sheets included in the folder baumwolle.organic now are available as downloads - besides the German version - in English, French and Netherlands.

<http://pan-germany.org/newsletter/deu/news.html?id=133>

5. New book on cotton by Oxfam-Magasins du monde

A book on cotton by Oxfam-Magasins du monde (Belgium) has been published in December 2005 in French: "Coton. Des vies sur le fil" (Cotton: Life on the fibre). It describes the cotton issues related to agriculture policies questions (such as the chronic fall of the world prices and its causes) and the impact of the production systems on the environment (including organic farming). It furthermore addresses the working conditions issue in production and processing of cotton and textiles, and presents the fair trade experience in the cotton sector.

<http://pan-germany.org/newsletter/deu/news.html?id=134>

6. New label for eco-textiles by Naturland

Naturland has adopted new standards for organic textiles in December 2005. The standards include Naturland processing standards as well as the basic principles of the International Association Natural Textile Industry (IVN) and indirectly the "Global Organic Textile Standards". Another label within the wide range of existing eco-textile standards opposes the efforts for a global harmonisation of standards for natural textiles. The attraction of an established agricultural association on the other hand bears the potential to bring organic textiles into the mind of new groups of buyers.

<http://pan-germany.org/newsletter/deu/news.html?id=135>

7. The initiative "Ethics in business" awards stamp of quality to the mail order business for natural textiles Hess Natur

In November 2005 Hess Natur was awarded for its outstanding engagement in the field of environment and social standards by the initiative "Ethics in business".

<http://pan-germany.org/newsletter/deu/news.html?id=136>

8. bioRe® textiles: certification according to social standard SA 8000

bioRe® textiles are not only made of organic cotton, they are also manufactured according to strict social criteria: no child labour, regulated working hours and minimum wages for example. Production is socially accountable - this is now certified according to the international standards for good working conditions, SA 8000. One after the other bioRe® suppliers get certified.

<http://pan-germany.org/newsletter/deu/news.html?id=137>

9. The WTO Cotton Initiative and the Conference in Hong Kong

Cotton was the controversial subject that made the WTO conference in Cancun fail in September 2003. Cotton again was one of the big issues raised at the WTO Conference in Hong Kong, 13th-18th December 2005. Some statements on cotton were included in the declaration. However, the poor Cotton producing countries have good reason to be disappointed.

<http://pan-germany.org/newsletter/deu/news.html?id=138>

10. Summary of the organic cotton symposium of November, 30 in Lucerne

Organic cotton is able to achieve double benefits of socio-economic and environmental advantages. This hypothesis that has been used by many organic cotton projects could now be verified with scientific studies that were presented in an international conference in Switzerland. Further presentations and a panel discussion enhanced the programme of this event.

<http://pan-germany.org/newsletter/deu/news.html?id=139>

11. PAN Germany information stall and panel discussion at BioFach 2006

Again in 2006, the Pesticide Action Network Germany (PAN Germany) is present at BioFach using this international platform to discuss the topic organic cotton from different perspectives. Additionally to the information stall, where international partners are present, a panel discussion will attract visitors of the fair to the topic. 12. Changes in the staff of PAN UK and PAN Germany

<http://pan-germany.org/newsletter/deu/news.html?id=140>

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