



Organic Cotton Circular 1/07

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Dear readers,

the Organic Cotton Circular's first edition in 2007 invites you to the organic cotton world around the globe and takes you to India, the USA and Switzerland.

A number of new publications support the necessity of a further increase of organic cotton production, in order to improve livelihoods of farmers in developing countries, but as well in order to reduce the use of dangerous pesticides. Figures from the USA confirm the expanding growth of the organic fibre. Further contents are reports about the workshop for bulk consumers in Switzerland, which was announced in the last edition of the newsletter, as well as a panel discussion on organic cotton and crop rotation conducted within the congress programme of BioFach fair. Announcements of shortly up-coming complete this newsletter edition.

Thank you for your interest,

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In this email you find the summaries. Follow the hyperlinks to the full texts. This issue is available as pdf-file in [English](#), [German](#) and [French](#). If you do NOT wish to receive the Organic Cotton Circular any more, you may [unsubscribe](#) here.

News overview

- .. 1.. Organic farming improves livelihoods in developing countries – new book available
- .. 2.. OTA announces increase in organic cotton acreage in the USA
- .. 3.. “The Deadly Chemicals in Cotton” – striking new report published
- .. 4.. UN resolution declares 2009 as International Year of Natural Fibres
- .. 5.. British Market for organic cotton still growing rapidly
- .. 6.. Results of the symposium "Ökologische und soziale Textilbeschaffung durch Grossverbraucher" on 30th November, 2006 in Zurich
- .. 7.. PAN UK guide helps to understand confusing statements on textiles
- .. 8.. Environmental Justice Foundation organises a two days meeting for sustainable and ethical cotton
- .. 9.. Organic Exchange 2007 Latin America Regional Meeting in April
- ..10.. Fibre, Food and Beauty Business – PAN Germany organised panel discussion at BioFach fair in Nuerberg

News in details

1. Organic farming improves livelihoods in developing countries – new book available

Dr. Frank Eyhorn recently published results of his 3 years research within a book titled “Organic farming for sustainable livelihoods in developing countries? The case of cotton in India”. He examined how organic management can be a viable option for improving the livelihoods of farmers in developing countries.

<http://pan-germany.org/newsletter/deu/news.html?id=505>

2. OTA announces increase in organic cotton acreage in the USA

According to a 2006 survey by OTA (Organic Trade Association), the US acreage planted to organic cotton in 2005 increased 14% from that planted the previous year. In 2006 the acreage planted with organic cotton remained at about the same level.

<http://pan-germany.org/newsletter/deu/news.html?id=506>

3. “The Deadly Chemicals in Cotton” – striking new report published

The British Environmental Justice Foundation in collaboration with PAN UK recently published a report titled “The Deadly Chemicals in Cotton”. The report reveals that chemicals worth 2 billion US Dollars are sprayed on the world’s cotton crop every year, almost half of which is toxic enough to be classified as hazardous by the World Health Organisation.

<http://pan-germany.org/newsletter/deu/news.html?id=507>

4. UN resolution declares 2009 as International Year of Natural Fibres

End of 2006, the UN General Assembly declared 2009 the International Year of Natural Fibres. According to FAO (Food and Agriculture Organisation) this will contribute towards the Millennium Development Goals by further developing the efficiency and sustainability of these agricultural industries that employ millions of people in some of the world poorest countries.

<http://pan-germany.org/newsletter/deu/news.html?id=508>

5. British Market for organic cotton still growing rapidly

A first extensive survey of the organic cotton market in the UK done by PAN UK revealed a market growth of 25% from 2004 to 2005. The 2005-2006 period was crucial for the development of the organic cotton market globally. The growth of the UK market is expected to accelerate in 2006 and 2007.

<http://pan-germany.org/newsletter/deu/news.html?id=509>

6. Results of the symposium „Ökologische und soziale Textilbeschaffung durch Grossverbraucher“ on 30th November, 2006 in Zurich

Public and private large scale consumers may impulse the market for sustainable textiles positively. Experts from various fields gathered on November, 30 2006 in Zurich in order to discuss the potential of this topic and to present pilot projects. They were invited by Helvetas and the environmental department of the Kanton Zurich.

<http://pan-germany.org/newsletter/deu/news.html?id=510>

7. PAN UK guide helps to understand confusing statements on textiles

PAN UK recently launched a new publication titled “My Sustainable T-Shirt – A guide to organic, fair trade, and other eco-standards and labels for cotton textiles”. The guide provides concise and fair information about the major textile certification schemes.

<http://pan-germany.org/newsletter/deu/news.html?id=511>

8. Environmental Justice Foundation organises a two days meeting for sustainable and ethical cotton

The Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF) will organise a roundtable on sustainable and ethical cotton production, which will be held in London on April 25th/26th. The organisations claims that despite growing public and corporate awareness of problems to cotton cultivation is growing there remains a need to develop cohesive policy solutions that go beyond the voluntary progress undertaken by some producers, traders, manufacturers and retailers.

<http://pan-germany.org/newsletter/deu/news.html?id=512>

9. Organic Exchange 2007 Latin America Regional Meeting in April

Organic Exchange is organising its Second Annual Latin America Regional Meeting in Asuncion, Paraguay at 16th to 19th April.

<http://pan-germany.org/newsletter/deu/news.html?id=513>

10 Fibre, Food and Beauty Business – PAN Germany organised panel discussion at BioFach fair in Nuerberg

At the BioFach congress in February in Nuernberg, PAN Germany organised a panel discussion about the importance to reduce dependency on cotton by creating markets for

other products out of cotton-based organic agricultural production system. Panel participants reported about their experiences and ideas for this important matter.

<http://pan-germany.org/newsletter/deu/news.html?id=514>

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