



Organic Cotton Circular 2/05

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Dear reader,

the second issue of the PAN Germany Organic Cotton Circular particularly looks at the production of cotton, discussing poisonings with pesticides in conventional cotton production, the social aspects of cotton production, the newly launched fair-trade cotton standard and the use of genetically modified cotton. Of course you also find contributions from the textile sector and information on past and future events.

Please inform others about the Organic Cotton Circular and the option of a free subscription at <http://www.pan-germany.org/newsletter/gbr/register.html>

Best wishes

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Find more about the background, content, finance, and distribution of the Organic Cotton Circular at <http://www.pan-germany.org/deu/~news-7.html>

If you do NOT wish to receive the Organic Cotton Circular any more, you may unsubscribe at <http://www.pan-germany.org/newsletter/gbr/delete.html> This issue is available as pdf-file for download at <http://www.pan-germany.org/download/occ-2-05-e.pdf>

From the field

- .. 1.. Poisonings on India's cotton fields
- .. 2.. Organic cotton as means to conflict prevention in Central Asia
- .. 3.. Fair-traded textiles launched by Max Havelaar in several countries
- .. 4.. Stink bugs on Bt cotton or „Bt cotton versus Bio cotton“
- .. 5.. New PAN Germany information folder on (organic) cotton

The Textile Sector

- .. 6.. Elsewear: a new Dutch initiative
- .. 7.. News from the organic cotton sector in UK

Events

- .. 8.. Organic cotton on tour - PAN Germany
- .. 9.. Organic cotton on tour - PAN UK
- ..10.. Proceedings Workshop „Back to the roots“ in Benin - now available
- ..11.. Intercot 2005 - Proceedings available
- ..12.. Workshop McCotton – An equitable cotton trade is possible
- ..13.. Symposium: Organic Cotton - combining consumer's concern and poverty reduction
- ..14.. Stakeholder meeting on organic cotton in France
- ..15.. Conference on Organic Textiles in Italy
- ..16.. Organic Exchange meeting and training in Turkey

1. Poisonings on India's cotton fields

Although men carry the spraying equipment on their backs, women are also victims of massive intoxication by pesticides in cotton growing. According to a recent study in Andhra Pradesh (India), more than 80% of the documented pesticide applications came along with poisoning of the users. The exposure to the pesticides used in conventional cotton growing means an extreme threat to the health and is an important argument, why organic cotton growing should be prioritised.

<http://pan-germany.org/newsletter/deu/news.html?id=54>

2. Organic cotton as means to conflict prevention in Central Asia

The renowned NGO International Crisis group has launched a report on the impact of the cotton sector in Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan. The report reveals that the conventional cotton sector contributes to political repression, economic stagnation,

widespread poverty and environmental degradation. Forced and child labour and other abuses are common. The organic cotton project of Helvetas in Kyrgyzstan was identified as a possible solution. The report also recommends numerous structural changes to the Governments and donor agencies.

<http://pan-germany.org/newsletter/deu/news.html?id=55>

3. Textiles made of fair-traded cotton launched by Max Havelaar in several countries

Recently, textiles made of fair-traded cotton labelled by Max Havelaar were launched in Switzerland, France, Belgium and Austria. Organic cotton production is recommended but not a requirement. GM cotton is still allowed in the FLO Standards but not in the standards of the French Max Havelaar Association. How can cooperation between the organic cotton sector and the Fair Trade Movement be improved?

<http://pan-germany.org/newsletter/deu/news.html?id=56>

4. Stink bugs on Bt cotton or „Bt cotton versus Bio cotton”

In the discussions about the feasibility of organic cotton production the question of its economic results compared with GM cotton production is frequently arising. In political strategy papers organic cotton is often described as a very limited solution for a tiny niche market while GM cotton is presented to offer a real solution for the problems of conventional cotton production. Many reports appeared in the medias about huge economic and ecological benefits of Bt cotton, especially in developing countries like India and South Africa. Some even presented the GM crops as the new "Green revolution" that will finally help to reduce the hunger in the world. Many scientists, politicians and other decision makers are tempted to believe these promises. GM cotton is used to introduce this technology in developing countries. But there are more and more reports of long term studies coming up that draw a different picture. New pest problems developed after some seasons and most cotton growers can not realise economic gains with the Bt cotton varieties. This contribution reviews these critical reports about GM cotton.

<http://pan-germany.org/newsletter/deu/news.html?id=57>

5. New PAN Germany information folder on (organic) cotton

The completely revised and extended PAN Germany information folder *baumwolle.organic* treats the different cotton production methodologies (conventional, GM, organic) and their risks and opportunities with emphasis on Africa. An overview of the organic cotton projects in Africa and the particular relevance of these production systems for women as well as an overview of cotton processing to the final textile rounds the folder off.

<http://pan-germany.org/newsletter/deu/news.html?id=58>

6. UK Elsewear: a new Dutch initiative

Last spring Niels Oskam and Marian van Weert established a new Dutch initiative: Elsewear. The objective of Elsewear is to stimulate man- and environmental friendly clothing production in developing countries by generating more demand from the Netherlands. Hereby, Elsewear specially focuses on organic cotton.

<http://pan-germany.org/newsletter/deu/news.html?id=59>

7. News from the organic cotton sector in UK

Some news from the UK: (1) The survey of the UK market is updated. (2) A new book was published on the textile industry and on ethically produced and traded cotton. (3) The use of Genetically modified Cotton in India was the issue of a seminar at Exeter University.

<http://pan-germany.org/newsletter/deu/news.html?id=60>

8. Organic cotton on tour - PAN Germany

PAN Germany discussed the potential of organic cotton for the outdoor sector during the trade fair Outdoor 2005. A booth at the consumer fair "Du und Deine Welt" addresses the consumer.

<http://pan-germany.org/newsletter/deu/news.html?id=61>

9. Organic cotton on tour - PAN UK

PAN UK had stalls at the Live 8 concerts in London and at the annual Natural Products Show trade fair. Furthermore PAN UK gave a talk at UKs annual Royal Europe Agricultural Show.

<http://pan-germany.org/newsletter/deu/news.html?id=62>

10. Proceedings Workshop „Back to the roots“ in Benin - now available

Representatives of the African and European organic cotton sector met in Abomey, Benin, from the 26th to the 30th of October 2004. An important issue of the workshop was the exchange between farmers and African organisations who support organic cotton projects on one side and European representatives who strengthen the sales market on the other. The proceedings are now available and can be ordered at PAN Germany

<http://pan-germany.org/newsletter/deu/news.html?id=63>

11. Intercot 2005 - Proceedings available

The 4th International Conference on Organic Textiles (Intercot) took place in Chicago in the USA, May 1-3 2005. Intercot 2005 focused on 'Global Approaches to Organic Textiles' and took an in-depth look at the global implications of organic fibre and textile production, design, trade and consumption with experts from around the world and from every facet of organic fibre production. The proceedings can now be ordered and the results of the workshops on the topics "Global organic textile standard/Processing", "Marketing" and "Social aspects" are now available for download at <http://www.intercot.org>.

<http://pan-germany.org/newsletter/deu/news.html?id=64>

12. Workshop McCotton – An equitable cotton trade is possible

Under the title "McCotton – An equitable cotton trade is possible", PAN Germany organised a workshop and panel discussion with stakeholders pro-active for organic cotton promotion in Germany and Europe. The workshop was held during the McPlanet Congress in Hamburg, which gathered 1200 participants and 300 speakers under the headline "globalisation.environment.consumption".

<http://pan-germany.org/newsletter/deu/news.html?id=65>

13. Symposium: Organic Cotton - combining consumer's concern and poverty reduction

The Swiss association for international cooperation, Helvetas, and the research institute of organic agriculture, FiBL, are conducting a symposium on organic cotton production and trade promotion on November, 30, 2005 in Lucerne, Switzerland.

<http://pan-germany.org/newsletter/deu/news.html?id=66>

14. Stakeholder meeting on organic cotton in France

On September 12 2005, PAN UK will lead a meeting in Valence, France, hosted by the company Lokaterre. The meeting will bring stakeholders of the organic cotton sector in

France together, facilitate information exchange and will be a kick-off workshop for the establishment of a French working group on organic cotton issues.

<http://pan-germany.org/newsletter/deu/news.html?id=67>

15. Conference on Organic Textiles in Italy

A Conference on Organic Textiles is organised by the Italian Association for Organic Agriculture (AIAB) and the Italian Institute for Ethic and Environmental Certification (ICEA). The conference will take place within SANA Exhibition, the main Italian Fair on Organic Food in Bologna, 10th September 2005.

<http://pan-germany.org/newsletter/deu/news.html?id=68>

16. Organic Exchange meeting and training in Turkey

The Organic Exchange will hold meetings for stakeholder of the organic cotton sector in Izmir, Turkey. The Organic Exchange Annual Conference (September 26-28th, 2005) will follow meetings and trainings for organic cotton farming and business development (September 23-24, 2005).

<http://pan-germany.org/newsletter/deu/news.html?id=69>

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