



Organic Cotton Circular 2/06

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Dear readers,

the Organic Cotton Circular's edition at hand as usual addresses the issue of cotton production. The results of a study on the sustainability of cotton production are presented, as well as an organic cotton project in Kyrgyzstan. That organic cotton has a good future is shown both by the small farmer's realities in Africa and the worldwide statistics on the production and commercialisation of organic cotton. A further article refers to the possible relevance of the EU-Flower as ecological label for the commercialisation of organic cotton textiles in Europe.

On March this year one of the founders of the organic cotton movement died. With an article PAN Germany wants to give its honour to Heinz Hess and his work.

Finally a personal matter: As I'm going to dedicate myself to other functions, I will leave PAN Germany. Thus I would like to say good bye to you with this edition. In the future, my colleagues Alexandra Perschau (former Baier) und Susan Haffmans will continue providing you with news and background information around organic cotton via the OCC.

Very cordially,

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In this email you find the summaries. Follow the "more" 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.. The sustainability of cotton, consequences for man and environment
- .. 2.. Organic Cotton - a potential for Africa's smallholders
- .. 3.. Organic Cotton fibre supply quadrupled since 2001
- .. 4.. Partnership between Helvetas and Elmertex in the organic cotton project in Kyrgyzstan
- .. 5.. Increase of products containing organic cotton
- .. 6.. Revision of Europe's Eco-Label criteria concerning textiles
- .. 7.. Mourning for Heinz Hess

News in details

1. The sustainability of cotton, consequences for man and environment

A study of Wageningen University examines global cotton production in regard to its consequences for man and environment. Pesticide use and water consumption in irrigated cotton production cause major problems. The authors highlight problems related to pesticide use in developing countries. Particularly for regions where cotton is grown without irrigation they recommend a shift to organic cotton production. Furthermore, a more holistic sustainability approach should be stressed, taking social and trade-related aspects more into account.

<http://pan-germany.org/newsletter/deu/news.html?id=174>

2. Organic Cotton - a potential for Africa's smallholders

The cultivation of organic cotton offers interesting options for Africa's small farmers. A new publication written by authors with a long experience in this field presents the situation and the potential by means of case studies.

<http://pan-germany.org/newsletter/deu/news.html?id=175>

3. Organic Cotton fibre supply quadrupled since 2001

The global organic cotton fibre supply has increased from 6,480 metric tonnes in the 2000-01 harvest to 25,394 metric tonnes during the 2004-05 crop year. This is a result presented in the Organic Exchange Fibre Report Spring 2006 which analyses changes in organic cotton production between the 2000-01 harvest and the 2004-05 harvest, reports projected production and ending stocks for the 2005-06 harvest and provides initial thoughts about fibre production for the 2006-07 harvest and beyond.

<http://pan-germany.org/newsletter/deu/news.html?id=176>

4. Partnership between Helvetas and Elmertex in the organic cotton project in Kyrgyzstan

Helvetas and the German company of textiles Elmer & Zweifel cooperate in the organic cotton project in Kyrgyzstan, which exists since 2004. There are already 225 farmers cooperating in the project. In 2006, after the ending of the transformation phase, it will be possible to certify the first merchandise as originate 100% from controlled organic production.

<http://pan-germany.org/newsletter/deu/news.html?id=177>

5. Increase of products containing organic cotton

Retail sales of products containing organic cotton increased dramatically between 2001 and 2005, according to a report released by Organic Exchange. During the four-year period, global organic cotton product sales increased an estimated 35 percent annually, from \$245 million in 2001 to \$583 million in 2005.

<http://pan-germany.org/newsletter/deu/news.html?id=178>

6. Revision of Europe's Eco-Label criteria concerning textiles

The valid criteria that until today have to be met by textiles in order that their producers can apply for the European Eco-Label, are going to expire on Mai 30 in 2007. The new version will be discussed this year. As the organic cotton's market share has increased considerably, there is a good chance that organic cotton can be taken more into account than so far.

<http://pan-germany.org/newsletter/deu/news.html?id=179>

7. Mourning for Heinz Hess

On March 18, 2006 Heinz Hess - founder of Hess Natur - died at the age of 64 years. With his "consequently natural clothing" he was an outrider of a movement which applies the term "quality" for textiles not only on the end product. Since the 70ies, Heinz Hess has been setting signs for sustainable clothing and showed that ecology and economy don't have to contradict each other.

<http://pan-germany.org/newsletter/deu/news.html?id=180>

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