



## Organic Cotton Circular 3/05

Published by Pesticide Action Network (PAN Germany) in co-operation with ◀ **helvetas** ▶

Dear reader,

the third issue of the PAN Germany Organic Cotton Circular offers news on **organic cotton production** in Tanzania, Burkina Faso and Paraguay. Furthermore you find contributions from the **textile sector** and information on past and future **events**.

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. bioRe® Tanzania has opened its own training centre in Meatu

In September 2005 the Open House Day of bioRe® Tanzania has taken place, in order to celebrate the opening of the new training centre for bioRe® Tanzania. The aim of this training centre is to conduct trainings on organic agriculture for farmers of the Meatu region. The training centre forms a basis for improved organic agriculture and for the development in the region. This platform enables to exchange experiences and knowledge between farmers, bioRe® staff members and agricultural experts. At the beginning of October already the first workshop for bioRe® extension workers has taken place.

<http://pan-germany.org/newsletter/deu/news.html?id=103>

### 2. Helvetas and Hess Natur are cooperating in organic cotton project in Burkina Faso

Hess Natur, Reinhart et Helvetas join their efforts in the new organic cotton project in Burkina Faso. The national farmers cooperative UNPCB has set up a section for organic cotton to support this project, and will assume local management of the project as a partner with the support of Helvetas.

<http://pan-germany.org/newsletter/deu/news.html?id=104>

### 3. Organic Cotton production by Arasy in Paraguay

Organic cotton is growing in new countries, outside the core of India, Turkey, Peru and Africa. In Paraguay, private companies and NGOs are joining forces to support the development of local and export markets for organic cotton.

<http://pan-germany.org/newsletter/deu/news.html?id=105>

### 4. New Fieldguide on Non-chemical Pest Management on Cotton

The new PAN Germany fieldguide 'Non-chemical Pest Management on Cotton' is designed to make the control of cotton pests as easy as possible. The fieldguide not only gives information on all common cotton pests and the measures for curative treatment, but also includes preventive measures and methods for supporting natural enemies and other beneficials.

<http://pan-germany.org/newsletter/deu/news.html?id=106>

### 5. Sekem's comprehensive quality systems are re-certified

The organic cotton cultivated in the SEKEM-project is not only grown in Egypt, but it is also manufactured into garments following strict quality guidelines. Conytex, the textile company of the SEKEM-project was certified according to ISO 9001-2000 in its 8th year. Now for the

first time its environmental management system ISO14001 and the OHSAS (Occupational health and safety assessment series) were certified as well. The textiles made of organic cotton (Demeter) are now produced with guarantee of no environmental hazards or danger to the workers.

<http://pan-germany.org/newsletter/deu/news.html?id=107>

#### **6. Chef of textile company Switcher awarded Entrepreneur of the year**

On October, 21 Robin Cornelius, founder and CEO of the Swiss textile company Switcher, was appointed as Swiss Entrepreneur of the Year within the category trade / services in the Ernst & Young entrepreneurship contest.

<http://pan-germany.org/newsletter/deu/news.html?id=108>

#### **7. French workshop on organic cotton in Paris**

On September 12th 2005, PAN UK helped bring together actors from the French organic cotton sector with some other European groups to look at opportunities and constraints for developing the French market.

<http://pan-germany.org/newsletter/deu/news.html?id=109>

#### **8. Dutch event on organic cotton**

The Dutch event "It is green and it ... could become the new black" on October 18th was attended by about 250 stakeholders, mainly from the Dutch clothing sector. During this meeting on organic cotton and the working conditions in manufacturing plants, not only information was exchanged, but co-operations for the future were agreed upon. The event will be followed up by a bimonthly newsletter and a Dutch working group on organic cotton.

<http://pan-germany.org/newsletter/deu/news.html?id=110>

#### **9. Report from the Organic Exchange farmers meeting**

The Organic Exchange (OE) farmers meeting in Izmir, Turkey, was held just prior to the OE Annual Meeting and Marketplace in September 2005. Participants included NGOs, commercial companies, farmers, farm projects and consultants.

<http://pan-germany.org/newsletter/deu/news.html?id=111>

#### **10. Meeting of the working group organic cotton and symposium about organic cotton in Switzerland**

End of November there will be two coordinated events with regard to organic cotton in Switzerland: 1. a meeting of the German speaking working group organic cotton coordinated by PAN Germany and 2. the symposium "organic cotton - combining consumers' concern and poverty reduction" organized jointly by FibL and Helvetas.

<http://pan-germany.org/newsletter/deu/news.html?id=112>

#### **11. Report from the Helvetas organic cotton project in Burkina Faso**

On December, 07, Martin Epp, Helvetas programme coordinator for Western Africa, and Rolf Heimann, head of innovation and ecology with Hess Naturtextil, will report on the current state of the organic cotton project in Burkina Faso.

<http://pan-germany.org/newsletter/deu/news.html?id=125>

## 12. Changes in the staff of PAN UK and PAN Germany

The staff of PAN UK and PAN Germany working on the respective cotton projects partly changed.

<http://pan-germany.org/newsletter/deu/news.html?id=113>

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