ORGANIC TEXTILES, PART OF THE SOLUTION

Cotton production accounts for:
- 16.1% of the world’s insecticides use (more than any other crop) and
- 5.7% of the world’s pesticides use
- 8.2 million tonnes of chemicals

Textiles industry accounts for:
- 3 billion tonnes CO2/year
- 1,000 kg of textiles: 15-35 tonnes CO2
- 6.7% global greenhouse gas emissions
- And harmful impacts on biodiversity, water quality & human health

Organic cotton, part of the solution
- Uses no hazardous pesticides & fertilisers
- 46% less global warming potential
- 62% less energy
- 70% less acidification
- 26% less eutrophication

Organic cotton: an expanding market
2018-2019
- 222,213 farmers
- 239,787 tonnes
- 418,935 hectares
- 19 countries

2019-2020
- 229,280 farmers
- 249,153 tonnes
- 588,425 hectares
- 21 countries

Consumers want to act but false claims and greenwashing can be confusing
- 60% green claims in textile sector are exaggerated, false or deceptive

EU consumers care about environmental and labour conditions
- 82% think there is not enough information on environmental impacts
- 86% wants labels on clothes with indications about environmental and labour conditions

Organic textiles
- Ensure high environmental and social standards
- Prevent greenwashing
- Give consumers a clear environmental choice
- Protect organic producers

EU policymakers can help
- Protect the use of the term “organic” in the same way as it is for the food chain
- Amend the 2011 EU Textile Regulation to allow for a definition of organic textiles
- Recognise already-existing organic standards

Read more & sources:
- GOTS, Infographic, Compare! From field to fashion.

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