



# **Annotated Bibliography: Country Research**

## **YESS: Yarn Ethically & Sustainably Sourced in the Cotton Industry**

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with contributions from Jamie Fortin

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### Introduction

This annotated bibliography is a summary and introduction into the type of research that needs to be undertaken to gain a better understanding of the local landscapes of countries with a high risk for forced labor in their cotton production. The intent being that the more one can understand what is happening on the ground in each location, the more targeted an approach can be towards addressing the root causes of forced labor in these countries. Additionally, being aware of what sort of stakeholders and certification bodies are already present in each country can allow us to engage with the right people to expand farm-level initiatives that ensure the cotton produced is free of forced labor. This is a similar thought process as that regarding the need to know the gins, spinners, and mills in each country, as well as the chain of custody that connects all of the supply chain actors.

The next possible phase of this research can involve going further into detail about average farm sizes, how farm sizes are defined by particular cotton projects, and the breakdown of hand-picked vs. mechanized harvesting in each country. Additionally, a list of indicators covering a wider swath of socio-economic issues could be researched, giving further context as to why forced labor exists, and what is hindering and aiding in the pursuit to rid it from cotton production.

In the future, as research is expanded upon in each country, we will be able to develop a more thorough and detailed 'map' of each country's cotton landscape as it relates to forced labor, and clearly lay out the necessary activities and initiatives that need to be implemented to address and eliminate it. We envision all global cotton production empowering farmers and pickers and free of slavery once and for all.

### Indicators Researched:

- Forced/Child Labor Evidence
- Cotton Project Presence
- Industry Stakeholders Present
  - Govt Agencies
  - Non Profits
  - Social Enterprises
  - Trade Associations
- Trader Info
- General Info

## Benin

### Summary

Benin faces a human trafficking problem worse than some of its neighbors. Fair Trade cotton is present in Benin, however CmiA and BCI do not operate in Benin after standards were violated. There is evidence of forced child labor as defined by international organizations, however, it is still disputed if this is organized, or a tradition of family farm work. Some of this forced labor is forced migration, often to other countries. Little information is available regarding traders and cotton businesses in Benin, while conversely there are various national and regional trade associations.

#### Further research/data needed on:

- Evidence of forced/child labor outside of US government reporting, specifically from 3rd-party monitors.
- Enforcement of cotton project standards relating to FL/CL

### Production and Exports

Benin’s agriculture sector was owned by the government until the 1990s, when the sector began to privatize. ([Britannica](#), 2020). As the principal cash crop of Benin, raw cotton accounts for 34.5% of the country’s exports ([OEC](#), 2018). Production takes place mostly around the northern and central regions of Benin, deemed the nation's cotton belt (Cotton Advisory Committee, 2017). According to the [Heritage Index](#), “Benin continues its slide toward less economic freedom, with scores dropping steadily from a high-water mark in 2016.”

Area harvested (Hectare)	Production (1000 Tonnes)	Imports	Total Supply	Consumption (1000 Tonnes)	Loss	Lint Exports (1000 Tonnes)	Ending Stocks	Yield (Kg/Hectare)
680	318	0	1,683	1	0	294	468	468

Table 1: Summary data on Benin’s annual raw cotton lint supply and distribution as of 2019. Data in 1,000 480 lb bales, and 1,000 hectare. Data retrieved from 2019 Cotton Product Practices report from the International Cotton Advisory Committee unless otherwise linked.

#### **Benin exports its raw cotton to** (from [ITC 2019](#)):

- Bangladesh: 49.9%
- Viet Nam: 17.5%
- China: 9.7%
- Egypt: 6.5%
- Malaysia: 4.6%
- Turkey: 2.6%
- Singapore: 2.5%

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- Ukraine: 2%
- India: 2%
- Algeria: 1.4%

Benin accounts for 3.1% of the world's raw cotton exports. (ITC, 2019)

Benin exports its cotton yarn and sewing thread (HS 5204, 5205, 5207) to (OECD Trade Data 2018):

- India: 21.6%
- Bangladesh: 17.1%
- United Arab Emirates: 9.73%
- Vietnam: 7.53%
- Nigeria: 7.04% (100% of Benin's exports of non-retail pure cotton yarn)
- China: 6.03%
- South Korea: 3.14%
- Denmark: 2.64%
- Egypt: 2.61%
- Lebanon: 2.55%
- Niger: 2.24%
- United States: 2.64%
- Malaysia: 2.39%

Global Rankings: [Index Mundi](#)

Area harvested	Production	Export
8th	10th	5th

See [MIT OEC](#) for data visualization of Benin's cotton trade.

### Evidence Used to Determine High-Risk

U.S. Department of State. *Trafficking in Persons Report - Benin*. 2020.

<https://www.state.gov/reports/2020-trafficking-in-persons-report/benin/>

- *"Children from Benin and neighboring countries are forced to labor on farms, in commercial agriculture (particularly in the cotton sector) in artisanal mines, at construction sites, or as street or market vendors."*

Embassy of Benin. *Human Rights Report*. 2019.

<https://www.state.gov/reports/2019-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/benin/>

- There is evidence of child/forced labor in cotton fields and other agricultural work.
- *"Forced labor occurred, including domestic servitude and bonded labor by children. Forced labor was mainly found in the agricultural (e.g., cotton and palm oil), artisanal mining, quarrying, fishing, commercial, and construction sectors. Many traffickers were relatives or acquaintances of their victims, exploiting the traditional system of vidomegon whereby a child, usually a daughter, is sent to live as a servant with a wealthier family"*
- *"The government has established laws and regulations related to child labor, including its worst forms. The List of Hazardous Occupations sets the minimum age for employment in hazardous work"*

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at age 18. The list identifies 21 trades prohibited for children and defines 74 related hazardous activities. Specific trades noted on the list include mining and quarrying, domestic service, and agriculture. The government did not effectively enforce the law."

- "Labor laws were not effectively enforced. Despite the government's limited capacity to enforce child labor laws, the government took steps to educate parents on the labor code and prevent compulsory labor by children, including through media campaigns, regional workshops, and public pronouncements on child labor problems. These initiatives were part of the Labor Office's traditional sensitization program. The government also worked with a network of NGOs and journalists to educate the population regarding child labor and child trafficking. The ministries of Justice and Labor and Civil Service supported capacity building for officials and agencies responsible for enforcing child labor laws."

International Labor Organization. *Direct Request (CEACR) - adopted 2018, published 108th ILC session*. 2019. [https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100\\_COMMENT\\_ID:3780429](https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID:3780429)

- "The Committee previously noted that Benin has a large number of *vidomégon* children, namely children who are placed in the home of a third party by their parents or by an intermediary in order to provide them with education and work, who are mostly from rural areas and do not attend school. It noted that this practice, which has long been considered a sign of traditional solidarity between parents and family members, is now being abused in certain cases. Some of the children involved in the system are subjected to ill-treatment or even physical or psychological violence."
- "The Committee notes that the Government has not sent any information on this matter."

ILAB. *Goods Made with Forced or Child Labor Report*. 2020.

<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/ilab/resources/reports/child-labor/benin>

- "Children in Benin engage in the worst forms of child labor, including in the production of cotton and crushed granite, each sometimes as a result of human trafficking."
- "Trafficking of children occurs mostly within Benin but also to other countries, primarily Gabon, Nigeria, and the Republic of the Congo."
- "Although the Government of Benin has implemented programs to protect children from human trafficking and participated in programs focused on child labor in quarrying and mining, research was unable to determine whether the government implements programs to assist children engaged in other worst forms of child labor, including in domestic work, commercial sexual exploitation, or agriculture."

## Supplementary Sources

- [Verité](#). *Cotton Commodity Atlas*. 2020.
- [Environmental Justice Foundation](#). *The Children Behind Our Cotton*. 2007.
- [Afrol News](#). *Labour Standards Violated in Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali*. 2004.

## YESS Annotated Bibliography

### Cotton Project Presence

Better Cotton Initiative. (2019). *Multiple African Countries: Cotton made in Africa (CmiA) - Better Cotton Initiative*.

<https://bettercotton.org/where-is-better-cotton-grown/>

- BCI does **NOT** source from Benin.

Cottonmadeinafrica.org. (2013). *CmiA - Cotton made in Africa*. [online] Available at:

<https://www.cottonmadeinafrica.org/en/news/816-cotton-made-in-africa-cotton-from-benin-temporarily-suspended>

- *“The Aid by Trade Foundation has informed its partners that the verification of CmiA cotton from Benin will be suspended with immediate effect. The Foundation decided to take this step after the Benin government changed the framework conditions for the cotton sector such that the CmiA sustainability criteria could no longer be assured.”*

Fairtrade.org.uk. (2018). *West African Cotton Sourcing Coalition*.

<https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/Media-Centre/News/September-2018/West-African-Cotton-Sourcing-Coalition>

- *“Fairtrade collaborates with The Organic and Fairtrade Cotton Coalition (CCBE) West Africa, which aims to make ten times more organic and Fairtrade cotton available from the region than there is now within the next few years.”*
- *“CCBE is a new multi-stakeholder initiative which will help more than 500,000, or 5% of all West African small-scale organic and Fairtrade cotton farmers across Burkina Faso, Benin, Mali and Senegal access global markets. It’s hoped that by 2025, producers will have benefitted from a fair and sustainable income earned from farming and processing approximately 40,000 tons of cotton fibre.”*

### Industry Stakeholder Presence

Cotton-coalition.com. (2020). *About | Cotton Coalition*. [online] Available at:

<http://cotton-coalition.com/about/>

Contact: Tobias Meier, [tobias.meier@ecos.ch](mailto:tobias.meier@ecos.ch), [info@cotton-coalition.com](mailto:info@cotton-coalition.com)

- *“The coalition is a concerted effort to promote organic cotton systems and improve farmer skills in organic and Fairtrade cotton in West Africa. The coalition is sustained by the cotton producer organizations from Mali, Benin, Burkina Faso and Senegal, including AProCA and works closely with the national cotton societies while being supported by the Swiss based organizations ecos and FiBL and their cotton partners from the international organic and Fairtrade movement. Launched in December 2017 in Bamako, the coalition operates on a project-based level and in close cooperation with financial and commercial partners. The five pillars of marketing, production, information, institution building, and value added provide the framework for its activities.”*

Ecos.ch. (2018).

## YESS Annotated Bibliography

[https://ecos.ch/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Organic\\_and\\_Fairtrade\\_Cotton\\_Sourcing\\_Coalition\\_Onepager\\_EN.pdf](https://ecos.ch/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Organic_and_Fairtrade_Cotton_Sourcing_Coalition_Onepager_EN.pdf)

Contact: Tobias Meier, [tobias.meier@ecos.ch](mailto:tobias.meier@ecos.ch)

- ECOS is a partner in the West Africa Organic and Fair Trade Cotton Coalition.
- Since 1987, the ECOS consultancy has been supporting the sustainable development projects of companies, public sector institutions, associations, municipalities, cantons, foundations and public services.

Aproca.net. (2020). *Association des producteurs de coton africains*. Available at: <http://aproca.org/>

- *“The Association of African Cotton Producers was created on December 22, 2004 in Cotonou (Benin). Confronted by the crisis in the cotton sector which affects approximately 20 million people in West and Central Africa, cotton producers of twelve west and central African countries (Burkina Faso, Benin, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Senegal, Chad, Togo) met on December 21 and 22 in 2004 to analyze the crisis which affects the sector and to define together mobilization, positioning and actions' strategies to enable them to defend their interests.”*

Inter-reseaux.org. (2008). *The Interprofessional Cotton Association in Benin*. [online] Available at:

[http://www.inter-reseaux.org/IMG/pdf/Fiche\\_AIC\\_premiere\\_version\\_english.pdf](http://www.inter-reseaux.org/IMG/pdf/Fiche_AIC_premiere_version_english.pdf)

- *“The AIC is the framework for dialogue for the actors involved in the cotton commodity chain in Benin. It brings together professional families of cotton producers, importers and distributors of inputs as well as those involved in cotton grain shelling. It is an important avenue where negotiations to fix prices for inputs and cotton grain take place. It operates on the basis of agreements and conventions signed by the professional families/bodies. The guiding protocol agreement and convention signed between the state and the AIC authorizes it to manage all the critical functions of the cotton sub sector, namely: applied research on the production of cotton, supervision and follow up of farmers, provision of inputs, quality control (cotton grain and cotton fibre), commercialization of cotton grain; etc.”*
- Inter-reseaux is a French NGO aiding and supporting the AIC in Benin.

Africotton.org. (2020). *African Cotton Association*. [online] Available at: <http://www.africotton.org/aca/>

Contact: [a.c.africaine@gmail.com](mailto:a.c.africaine@gmail.com)

- African Cotton Association is a trade association that brings together all cotton professionals to address issues of common interest, in order to contribute to transparency in the equitable and sustainable development and competitiveness of African cotton.
- *\*Website contains good links/resources for more information on cotton in Africa\**

Panuk.org. (2020) *Pesticide Action Network UK. Cotton in Benin* [online] Available at:

<http://www.pan-uk.org/cotton-in-benin/>

- PAN UK's work with cotton farmers in Benin convinced the government to ban the use of the highly hazardous pesticide (HHP) endosulfan. They support almost 4000 farmers in growing organic cotton and have helped them to establish cotton co-operatives and to engage in local and national cotton forums.



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- *“A survey in Benin, in 2016, revealed that 42% of conventional farmers experienced symptoms of acute pesticide poisoning in the previous year and almost half of this group had lost days of work as a result.”*
- *“Children are much more vulnerable to the impact of pesticides due to their smaller body mass and lowered ability to process toxins. Children are often involved in the pesticide application process and are also at risk, along with their parents, when empty pesticide containers are used for storing drinking water and foodstuffs. Results of the survey showed that 48% of farmers had spent an average of £28 over the year on medication for pesticide-related illness – a significant amount when most farmers earn less than £600 per year from cotton.”*

### Trader Info

Benin, F. (2005). *Fila Courtage International Benin*. [online] Available at:

<https://www.gmdu.net/corp-33721.html>

- Fila Courtage International Benin is a company in Benin Republic specializing in the EXPORTATION AND DISTRIBUTIONS OF RAW COTTON of Benin Republic origin in West Africa. Annual turnover was USD1.7 Million.

## Burkina Faso

### Summary

There is a fairly large presence of stakeholders and initiatives aiming to address sustainable cotton production and forced/child labor issues. There are no GOTS facilities in Burkina Faso, but Fair Trade, CmiA and BCI are present. Public information on cotton traders is limited. There are various national and regional trade associations present.

#### Further research/data needed on:

- Traders, enforcement of cotton project standards relating to FL/CL, standards/projects operating there.

#### Indicators Researched:

- Forced/Child Labor
- Cotton Project Presence
- Industry Stakeholders Present
  - Govt Agencies
  - Non Profit
  - Social Enterprises
  - Trade Association
- Trader Info
- General Info

### Production and Exports

Comprising about 10.9% of Burkina Faso’s exports, cotton (specifically raw cotton) serves as the nation’s second largest export (gold makes up 70% of exports). All of this cotton is of the G. hirsutum variety grown from locally sourced seeds, and all of it is harvested by hand. Cotton is generally sown in May and harvested in October.

(Above information taken from the October 2017 Cotton Product Practices [report](#) from the International Cotton Advisory Committee and the 2019 [ITC Trade Map](#))

Cotton Area (hectars)	Production (1000 Tonnes)	Imports	Total Supply	Consumption (1000 Tonnes)	Loss	Exports (1000 Tonnes)	Ending Stocks	Yield (Kg/Hectare)
615	195	<a href="#">0</a>	<a href="#">1,280</a>	3	<a href="#">0</a>	190	<a href="#">430</a>	317

Table 1: Summary data on Burkina Faso’s annual raw cotton lint supply and distribution as of 2019. Data in 1,000 480 lb bales, and 1,000 hectare. Data retrieved from 2019 Cotton Product Practices report from the International Cotton Advisory Committee unless otherwise linked.

## YESS Annotated Bibliography

**Burkina Faso exports its raw cotton to** (from [ITC Trade Map, 2019](#)):

- Singapore: 48%
- Switzerland: 25.7%
- France: 17%
- United Kingdom: 4.3%
- Greece: 1.9%
- Mauritius: 1.5%
- Ghana: .9%
- United Arab Emirates: .5%

*Burkina Faso accounts for 2.3% of the world's raw cotton exports. ([ITC Trade Map, 2019](#))*

**Burkina Faso exports its cotton yarn and sewing thread** (HS 5204, 5205, 5207) to ([OEC Trade Data 2018](#)):

- Switzerland: 56.5%
- India: 20.5%
- Singapore: 4.45%
- Cote d'Ivoire: 3.7%
- Ghana: 1.92%
- China: 1.66%

Global Rankings: [Index Mundi](#)

Area harvested	Production	Export
9th	16th	9th

## Evidence Used to Determine High-Risk

Trafficking in Persons Report - Burkina Faso. US Department of State. 2020.

<https://www.state.gov/reports/2020-trafficking-in-persons-report/burkina-faso/>

- Tier 2. "Traffickers promise families educational opportunities but instead force Burkinabe children to labor as farm hands, gold panners and washers in artisanal mines, street vendors, and domestic servants."

Solidar Suisse. Annual Report. 2019.

<https://www.solidar.ch/en/annual-and-financial-reports>

- "A study by Solidar Suisse revealed that 250,000 children aged between 5 and 17 were working in the sector. Rather than going to school, they were working from early in the morning until late at night under dangerous conditions and at risk to their health."

International Bureau for Children's Rights. État des lieux du système de protection de l'enfant au Burkina Faso portant sur les rôles et responsabilités des policiers, des gendarmes, des travailleurs sociaux et du personnel de justice. 2017.

[http://www.ibcr.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Etat-des-lieux-Burkina-Faso\\_COURTE\\_web.pdf](http://www.ibcr.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Etat-des-lieux-Burkina-Faso_COURTE_web.pdf)

## YESS Annotated Bibliography

- (Translated from French) “More than two-fifths of children aged 5 to 17 are economically active in one of three sectors: domestic work, agriculture (especially in the cotton fields), gold mining sites and mines”

### Supplementary Sources

- [ILAB](#). Goods Made with Forced or Child Labor Report. 2020.
- [U.S. Department of State](#). Country Reports on Human Rights Practices. 2019
- [Verité](#). Cotton Commodity Atlas. 2020.
- [Environmental Justice Foundation](#). The Children Behind Our Cotton. 2007.
- [Afrol News](#). Labour Standards Violated in Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali. 2004.

### Cotton Project Presence

“Better Access to Clean water for Cotton Communities in Burkina Faso”: Cotton Made In Africa (CmiA), Better Cotton Initiative, 2019.

<https://cottonmadeinafrica.org/en/cotton-stories/better-access-to-clean-water-for-cotton-communities-in-burkina-faso/>

Contact: [info@abt-foundation.org](mailto:info@abt-foundation.org)

- CmiA partnered with Faso Coton in October 2018 to create a community project that improved access to water for cotton communities in Burkina Faso.

“Burkina Faso: 5,300 Smallholder Farms Learning Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic” - Cotton Made In Africa (CmiA), Better Cotton Initiative, 2013.

- In 2013, following three years of collaboration, BCI completed a Strategic Partnership Agreement with the Aid by Trade Foundation (AbTF), owners of the Cotton made in Africa (CmiA) standard. An independent study comparing the two standards led to a ‘benchmarking’ agreement between BCI and AbTF, whereby the cotton verified as CmiA can also be sold as Better Cotton (but not vice versa). Burkina Faso is a participating country with CmiA and thus, BCI.

Truscott, Liesel. “2019 Organic Cotton Market Report.” Textile Exchange, n.d.

<https://store.textileexchange.org/product/2019-organic-cotton-market-report/>

- 2019 Update: There are currently no GOTS facilities on the African continent

### Industry Stakeholder Presence

Cotton-coalition.com. (2020). About | Cotton Coalition. [online] Available at:

<http://cotton-coalition.com/about/>

Contact: Tobias Meier, [tobias.meier@ecos.ch](mailto:tobias.meier@ecos.ch), [info@cotton-coalition.com](mailto:info@cotton-coalition.com)

- “The coalition is a concerted effort to promote organic cotton systems and improve farmer skills in organic and Fairtrade cotton in West Africa. The coalition is sustained by the cotton producer

## YESS Annotated Bibliography

organizations from Mali, Benin, Burkina Faso and Senegal, including AProCA and works closely with the national cotton societies while being supported by the Swiss based organizations ecos and FiBL and their cotton partners from the international organic and Fairtrade movement. Launched in December 2017 in Bamako, the coalition operates on a project-based level and in close cooperation with financial and commercial partners. The five pillars of marketing, production, information, institution building, and value added provide the framework for its activities.”

Clear Cotton Project on Child Labor and Forced Labor: Eliminating child labor and forced labor in the cotton, textile, and garment value chains: an integrated approach. ILO. 2018-2022.

[https://www.ilo.org/ipec/projects/global/WCMS\\_649126/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/ipec/projects/global/WCMS_649126/lang--en/index.htm)

- Objectives: map cotton, textile and garment supply chain, build capacity, improve access to education for children.

Ecos.ch. (2018). [online] Available at:

[https://ecos.ch/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Organic\\_and\\_Fairtrade\\_Cotton\\_Sourcing\\_Coalition\\_Onepager\\_EN.pdf](https://ecos.ch/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Organic_and_Fairtrade_Cotton_Sourcing_Coalition_Onepager_EN.pdf)

Contact: Tobias Meier, [tobias.meier@ecos.ch](mailto:tobias.meier@ecos.ch)

- ECOS is a partner in the West Africa Organic and Fair Trade Cotton Coalition
- Since 1987, the ECOS consultancy has been supporting companies, public sector institutions, associations, municipalities, cantons, foundations and public services regarding their sustainable development projects

“Revenue Through Cotton Livelihoods, Trade and Equity, Report.” crs.org. Catholic Relief Services.

<https://www.crs.org/our-work-overseas/research-publications/revenue-through-cotton-livelihoods-trade-and-equity>.

Contact: [Dominique.Bangre@crs.org](mailto:Dominique.Bangre@crs.org)

- Project ended in March 2020
- The RECOLTE project focused on upgrading the value chain by: installing an organic-priority gin; supporting the organic seed value chain; supporting smallholder farmers through the creation of farmer groups; creating access to financing and financial services; building capacity for the major cotton farmer’s union in the country, UNPCB; and assisting with market diversification.

“Burkina Faso Regional Organic Cotton Round Table, 2018.” Textile Exchange. 2018.

<https://textileexchange.org/event/burkina-faso-regional-organic-cotton-round-table/>

Contact: Liesel Truscott, Strategy Director [Liesel@TextileExchange.org](mailto:Liesel@TextileExchange.org)

- Textile Exchange began in 2018 Organic Cotton Round Tables in Burkina Faso, bringing together various industry stakeholders to promote sustainable cotton production in the area.
- TE is also an implementation partner in the West Africa Cotton Coalition

“2nd Regional Organic Cotton Roundtable, West Africa, 2020”

<https://textileexchange.org/organic-cotton-round-table/africa/>

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- “Textile Exchange was delighted to have the opportunity to collaborate on hosting the **second Regional Organic Cotton Round Table West Africa on January 31, 2020** in partnership with Catholic Relief Services (CRS), the Organic & Fairtrade Cotton Coalition West Africa (CCBE – represented by ecos and FiBL) and the UNPCB. The event was once held in **Koudougou, Burkina Faso**, during the International Cotton and Textile Fair (SICOT).
- “The aim of the Regional OCRT was to **identify the opportunities for growth** in the organic and fairtrade cotton sector in West Africa, and for **developing manufacturing infrastructure and textile value chains**. In addition to the partners mentioned above, the event was further supported by the Swiss Cooperation (SDC) through the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Handicrafts of Burkina Faso, and by the German government (GIZ/BMZ).”

“Burkina Faso | Helvetas”, n.d.

<https://www.helvetas.org/de/schweiz/was-wir-tun/wo-wir-arbeiten/partnerlaender/burkina-faso>

Contact: [burkinafaso@helvetas.org](mailto:burkinafaso@helvetas.org)

- Helvetas is an independent Swiss development organization that is building capacity in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe.
- They are implementation partners with ECOS on the West Africa Cotton Coalition

“Country Level Engagement and Assistance to Reduce Child Labor II ...”, n.d.

<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/ilab/country-level-engagement-and-assistance-reduce-child-labor-ii-clear-ii>.

- USDOL-funded capacity-building project implemented by Winrock International and partners Verité and Lawyers Without Borders in seven countries to build local and national capacity of the governments to address child labor. (91; 92; 93) Burkina Faso is 1 of the 7
- Project Duration 2014- July 2019, funding \$7.5 mil

Aproca.net. (2019). [Association des producteurs de coton africains](#). [online] Available at:

<http://www.rinoceros.org/article1809.html>

- “The Association of African Cotton Producers was created on December 22, 2004 in Cotonou (Benin). Confronted by the crisis in the cotton sector which affects approximately 20 million people in West and Central Africa, cotton producers of twelve west and central African countries (Burkina Faso, Benin, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Senegal, Chad, Togo) met on December 21 and 22 in 2004 to analyze the crisis which affects the sector and to define together mobilization, positioning and actions’ strategies to enable them to defend their interests.”

Africotton.org. (2019). African Cotton Association. [online] Available at: <http://www.africotton.org/aca/>

Contact: [a.c.africaine@gmail.com](mailto:a.c.africaine@gmail.com)

- African Cotton Association is a trade association that brings together all cotton professionals so that issues of common interest should be addressed in order to contribute to transparency in the equitable and sustainable development and competitiveness of African cotton.

\*has good links/resources for more information on cotton in Africa\*

## YESS Annotated Bibliography

“Salon International Du Coton et Du Textile (SICOT)” (International Cotton and Textile Conference) Sicot-bf.com, 2020.

<https://sicot-bf.com/en/index.html>.

Contact: [info@investburkina.com](mailto:info@investburkina.com)

- “The Salon International du Coton et du Textile (SICOT) aims to expose and promote Burkina cotton as an industry for capital investment into cotton processing. It will be an opportunity to increase international trade by creating linkages between cotton companies, the National Cotton Producers Union of Burkina (UNPCB), and buyers from all over the world. .”

“Société Burkinabè Des Fibres TEXTiles.” Sofitex.bf, 2020. <http://www.sofitex.bf/>.

Contact: Direction Générale BOBO DIOULASSO [dg@sofitex.bf](mailto:dg@sofitex.bf)

- “SOFITEX's activities can be summed up in its missions and objectives. The different missions are: The supply of inputs to producers; Support producer advice; Purchase, collection of seed cotton; Ginning seed cotton; The recovery of finished products (fiber) and co-products (seed, fiber waste). The activities are therefore: Purchase, transport and ginning of seed cotton; Marketing of fiber and seed; Supply of farmers with agricultural inputs; Aid for the development of cotton and associated cultures through its technical support, its services and its participation in the financing of the measures necessary for research and development; Direct promotion of textile fibers.”

“Union Nationale Des Producteurs De Coton Du Burkina (UNPCB ...)”, n.d. National Union of Cotton Producers of Burkina Faso (UNPCB)

<https://www.upadi-agri.org/union-nationale-des-producteurs-de-coton-du-burkina-unpcb/>

- “Lines of intervention: Development of professional agricultural organizations; Agricultural production and the environment; Collective marketing of agricultural products; Consultation between players in the food industry; Dialogue on agricultural policies.”
- Implementation partner with many NGOs and cotton projects.

## China

### Summary

Despite the size of China and the scale of their cotton industry, resources on these subjects are surprisingly vague, perhaps due to internet restrictions and government censorship. BCI, GOTS, and organic cotton production are present in the country, however, BCI completely left the XUAR region, and is reevaluating other regional activity. With regards to evidence of forced labor, attention was given specifically to the Xinjiang region and the local Uihgur population, where there has been extensive evidence that forced labor is affecting cotton production.

#### Further research needed on:

Trader/Spinner/Ginner Information, enforcement of cotton project standards relating to FL/CL, more standards/projects operating there, contact information.

### Production and Exports

The majority of cotton in China is of the G. hirsutum variety and grown mostly on small farms. While harvesting at one point was done completely by hand, this year’s harvest has seen a sharp [uptick](#) in mechanized harvesting. Soil preparation is largely motorized. Genetically modified cotton in the form of [Bt cotton](#) has helped increase resilience against pests, reducing pesticide use where such cotton is planted. (Information taken from the October 2017 Cotton Product Practices report from the International Cotton Advisory Committee)

Area harvested	Production (1000 Tonnes)	Imports	Total Supply	Consumption (1000 Tonnes)	Loss	Exports (1000 Tonnes)	Ending Stocks	Yield (Kg/Hectare)
3,230	6,020	<a href="#">7,500</a>	<a href="#">70,420</a>	8,250	<a href="#">0</a>	52.055	<a href="#">37,245</a>	1,710

Table 1: Summary data on China’s annual raw cotton lint supply and distribution as of 2019. Data in 1,000 480 lb bales, and 1,000 hectare. Data retrieved from 2019 Cotton Product Practices report from the International Cotton Advisory Committee unless otherwise linked.

#### **China exports its raw cotton to** (from [ITC Trade Map](#), 2019):

- Vietnam: 40.9%
- Indonesia: 19.2%
- Bangladesh: 18%
- India: 8.6%
- Taipei, Chinese: 3.7%
- Thailand: 3.1%
- Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK): 2.6%
- Japan: 2.3%
- Pakistan: 1.4%



## YESS Annotated Bibliography

China accounts for 0.6% of the world's raw cotton exports. ([ITC Trade Map, 2019](#))

China exports its cotton yarn and sewing thread (HS 5204, 5205, 5207) to ([OECD Trade Data 2019](#)):

- United States: 18.67%
- Japan: 6.44%
- South Korea: 5.14%
- Vietnam: 4.48%
- Germany: 3.61%
- India: 3.48%
- Netherlands: 3.37%
- United Kingdom: 2.81%
- Singapore: 2.52%
- Taiwan: 2.5%
- Malaysia: 2.44%
- Russia: 2.28%
- Australia: 2.15%
- Indonesia: 2.15%
- Thailand: 2.08%
- Mexico: 2.06%

Global Rankings: [Index Mundi](#)

Due to a high domestic demand for raw cotton, China's raw cotton exports account for less than 0.3% of the world's exports while its imports account for 40% of the world's cotton imports. This is despite the fact that it is one of the largest cotton producers in the world. ([MIT OEC](#))

Area harvested	Production	Export
3rd	2nd	29th

## Evidence Used to Determine High-Risk

*Specifically in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR)*

U.S. State Department. *TIP Report - China*. 2020.

<https://www.state.gov/reports/2020-trafficking-in-persons-report/china/>

- **Tier 3:** "Uyghur adults and children are reportedly forced to pick cotton under direction of the Bingtuan. The impact of formal discriminatory employment policies barring Uyghurs from jobs in many sectors—including in the annual cotton harvest—reportedly drives thousands of Uyghur farmers out of their communities in search of alternative work, placing them at higher risk of forced labor. The same is true of the government's targeted forced-displacement programs, including the Bingtuan's construction of new settlements designated for ethnic Han internal migrants, which reportedly disperses Uyghur communities and disrupts their livelihoods."
- "According to NGO reports, Bingtuan regiments manage at least 36 agricultural prison farms throughout Xinjiang; unlike the aforementioned mass detention campaign, this system primarily

## YESS Annotated Bibliography

subjects ethnic Han Chinese inmates—many of whom may be victims of arbitrary detention—to forced labor."

- "Xinjiang authorities issued a notice in 2017 abolishing rural obligatory labor under the hashar system, in which thousands of Uyghur adults and children were reportedly subjected to forced labor in government infrastructure projects and agriculture each year."
- "Traffickers subject PRC national men, women, and children to forced labor and sex trafficking in at least 60 other countries. They force PRC national men, women, and girls to work in restaurants, shops, agricultural operations, and factories in overseas Chinese communities."
- "PRC national-owned factories and agricultural plantations in Burma reportedly subject local and internal migrant populations to forced labor"
- "Traffickers subject [North Korean refugee and asylum seeker] women to forced labor in agriculture, as hostesses in nightclubs and karaoke bars, in domestic service, and at factories."

Radio Free Asia. *Uyghur women and children endure heavy labor amid detentions in Xinjiang's Hotan*. 2017. <https://www.refworld.org/country,,RFA,,CHN,,5a9427b4a,0.html>

- "But while "fundamentally, they have not" been involved in any "misconduct" themselves, "some could be" placed into re-education camps if they did not go to Aksu to join the heavy labor details, he added, without providing details."

Han, Lianchao, Chen, Anna. *Cotton: The Fabric Full of Lies: A report on forced and prison labor in Xinjiang, China, and the nexus to global supply chains*. 2019.

<https://www.amazon.com/Cotton-Fabric-report-Xinjiang-Monograph-ebook/dp/B07VSJHNGZ>

- "After being labeled as "rightist," Gan Cui, a college student at Renmin University in China, spent 20 years in a labor camp in Kashgar. The labor camp was a farm, adjacent to the Taklimakan Desert, where he lived in an underground hut, forced to work in extreme conditions to reclaim land for cotton fields by digging ditches to irrigate the land, leaching out salt and alkaline from the earth. The hard labor was endless. During the great three-year famine, Gan witnessed the death of an entire labor camp that was located near his camp, and Gan narrowly escaped death from starvation himself"
- "The campaign is called "Listen to the people's sentiment, Benefit the people's wellbeing and Unify the people's hearts." The title of the campaign obfuscates the real mission which is to spy on all villagers, and to neutralize the Uighurs' resistance to Chinese assimilation by doling out economic favors. The aim is total control of the Uighur population. At least 200,000 cadres have been dispatched to cover the entire XUAR, including 8,635 villages, 754 state-owned farm sites, and 931 key communities. These task forces identify the "extremists, or those who need to be corrected and reeducated," and send them to camps and vocational schools."
- "Since 2014, Xinjiang has added nearly half a million new cotton/textile/apparel jobs under its expansion plan. These workers are essentially from these so-called "rural surplus laborers" in Southern Xinjiang. Some of them may have voluntarily participated in the program but many are the extrajudicial forced laborers."

## YESS Annotated Bibliography

- "Even though some of the cotton produced by the XPCC was not directly planted by forced labor, the majority of the cotton fields used by the XPCC for cotton production have been reclaimed by forced labor. "

CSIS. *Connecting the Dots in Xinjiang*. 2019.

<https://www.csis.org/analysis/connecting-dots-xinjiang-forced-labor-forced-assimilation-and-western-supply-chains>

- "Forced labor combines with widespread surveillance and detention to accomplish the government's goal of stability through the eradication of minority culture and religion."

New York Times. *'Absolutely No Mercy': Leaked Files Expose How China Organized Mass Detentions of Muslims*. 2019.

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/11/16/world/asia/china-xinjiang-documents.html>

- "The document instructed officials to tell the students that their behavior could hurt their relatives' scores, and to assess the daily behavior of the students and record their attendance at training sessions, meetings and other activities."

## Supplementary Sources

- [ICIJ](#). *Exposed: China's Operating Manuals for Mass Internment and Arrest by Algorithm*, International Consortium of Investigative Journalists. 2019.
- [congress.gov](#). *Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act*. 2020.
- [DHS.gov](#). *DHS Cracks Down on Goods Produced by China's State-Sponsored Forced Labor*. 2020.
- [Environmental Justice Foundation](#). *The Children Behind our Cotton*. 2007.
- [gpo.gov](#). *Congressional-Executive Commission on China*. 2008.
- [OCHCR](#). *UN Committee on the Rights of the Child*. 2010.
- [World Action Vision](#). *Forced Labor and Child Labor in the Cotton Industry*. 2012.
- [NY Times](#). *Fast-Growing China Says Little of Child Slavery's Role*. 2007.

## Cotton Project Presence

"China - Better Cotton Initiative." Better Cotton Initiative, 2020.

<https://bettercotton.org/where-is-better-cotton-grown/china/>

- "In the 2018-19 season, 81,04 licensed BCI Farmers in China produced 896,000 metric tonnes of Better Cotton lint on 431,000 hectares."
- March 11, 2020: "BCI is suspending its assurance activities in the Xinjiang region of China for the upcoming cotton season (2020-21) based on the recognition that the operating environment prevents credible assurance and licensing from being executed. BCI assurance activities for the last season finished in September. There will be no licensed Better Cotton from Xinjiang next season (2020-21)."
- "...we will continue to support farmers in the [Xinjiang] region during this period."

## YESS Annotated Bibliography

“Cotton.” Fairtrade International, 2020. <https://info.fairtrade.net/product/cotton>

- There is no known fair trade cotton being produced in China.

Truscott, Liesel. “2019 Organic Cotton Market Report.” Textile Exchange, n.d.

<https://store.textileexchange.org/product/2019-organic-cotton-market-report/>

- 301 certified GOTS Facilities in China in 2018, a 3% increase from 2017.
- 726 OCS certified facilities, a 5% increase since 2017.

### Industry Stakeholder Presence

“Regional OCRT China - Textile Exchange.” Textile Exchange, 2019.

<https://textileexchange.org/organic-cotton-round-table/regional-ocrt-china/>

- Focus on regional round tables to promote and expand sustainable and organic cotton market, little emphasis put on forced/child labor.

“Sustainable Agriculture – Rare.” Rare. Rare, 2020.

<https://www.rare.org/program/sustainable-agriculture/>

- Emphasis here is on sustainable agriculture, no mention of forced/child labour.
- RARE is a US-based non-profit specializing in conservation and sustainability efforts, with an emphasis on agriculture.
- Rare’s Sustainable Agriculture program in China aims to adopt more sustainable practices to protect the water and soil and grow safer and healthier crops—and ultimately build the movement towards more climate-smart agricultural products. By transforming its farming practices, China has the opportunity to strengthen social and economic development.

“Sustainable Cotton - C&A Foundation.” Candafoundation.org, 2018.

<https://www.candafoundation.org/impact/sustainable-cotton>

- *“Currently C&A Foundation’s partners support farmers with organic cotton cultivation in three provinces – Hubei, Shandong and Xinjiang. Across these three regions 347 Hectare area is under organic cotton cultivation yielding 4 MT lint certified and 186 MT lint in conversion.”*
- Primarily works with Rare, Inc on China projects. They completed a 3.5 year project with Solidaridad Network which supported the “Better Mill Initiative.”

CottonConnect | Blog | China - Growing Sustainable Cotton Market Opportunity.” CottonConnect, March 6,

2017. <http://cottonconnect.org/china-growing-sustainable-cotton-market-opportunity/>

- CottonConnect introduced the Women in Cotton program into China, consisting of Farmer Business School and Rights and Life Skills.
- CottonConnect implements projects in Xinjiang, Hebei and Shandong regions, with 5,000 farmers trained since 2012.

## YESS Annotated Bibliography

“China Cotton Association.” China-cotton.org, 2010.

[http://english.china-cotton.org/news\\_more.php?keyword\\_one=Industry](http://english.china-cotton.org/news_more.php?keyword_one=Industry)

- Chinese non-profit federation specializing in cotton, which is voluntarily established by cotton farmers, cotton farmers' cooperative organizations, enterprises engaged in cotton production, purchase, processing and operation, cotton textile enterprises, cotton research institutes and other organizations and which accepts the supervision and management of the Chinese Ministry of Civil Affairs and the professional guidance of the All-China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives.
- Very thorough/good list of mills and other trade partners, most recently updated 2015.

## India

### Summary

The amount of information available on child labor and cotton in India is vast. Forced labor, whether child or adult, is also mentioned, but there is more focus on generalized child labor. There is a saturation of aid organizations from both local and international groups; it is hard to gauge the relevance of some. A recommended approach would be to focus on implementation partners with cotton projects and expand from there.

#### Further research needed on:

Trader/Spinner/Ginner Information, enforcement of cotton project standards relating to FL/CL, more standards/projects operating there, contact information.

### Production and Exports

The majority of cotton in India is of the *G. hirsutum* variety with quantities of *G. arboreum* and *G. herbaceum* grown as well. While harvesting is done completely by hand, most of the soil preparation is motorized. There have been [attempts](#) to mechanize cotton harvesting, however this is a long process. (Information taken from the October 2017 Cotton Product Practices report from the International Cotton Advisory Committee)

Area harvested (hectares)	Production (1000 Tonnes)	Imports	Total Supply	Use (1000 Tonnes)	Loss	Exports	Ending Stocks	Yield (Kg/Hectare)
12,742	6,500	<a href="#">2,200</a>	<a href="#">42,014</a>	5,535	<a href="#">0</a>	<a href="#">3,000</a>	<a href="#">19,014</a>	510

Table 1: Summary data on India’s annual raw cotton lint supply and distribution as of 2019. Data in 1,000 480 lb bales, and 1,000 hectare. Data retrieved from 2019 Cotton Product Practices report from the International Cotton Advisory Committee unless otherwise linked.

#### India exports its raw cotton to (from [ITC Trade Map](#), 2019):

- Bangladesh: 50.1%
- China: 25.3%
- Viet Nam: 9.1%
- Pakistan: 5.9%
- Indonesia: 2.4%
- Iran: 1.7%
- Malaysia: 1.3%

*India accounts for 8.3% of the world’s raw cotton exports. ([ITC Trade Map](#), 2019)*

#### India exports its cotton yarn and sewing thread (HS 5204, 5205, 5207) to ([OEC Trade Data 2018](#)):

- United States: 16%

## YESS Annotated Bibliography

- United Arab Emirates: 8.3%
- China: 5.1%
- Hong Kong: 3.94%
- Germany: 2.96%
- United Kingdom: 2.95%
- Singapore: 2.79%
- Netherlands: 2.17%
- Belgium: 2.06%
- Malaysia: 2.02%
- Turkey: 1.99%

Global Rankings: [Index Mundi](#)

India is the world’s largest harvester of cotton and third largest exporter. Its exports account for 13% of the world’s raw cotton exports. Cotton accounts for 0.49% of the country’s exports. ([MIT OEC](#))

Area harvested	Production	Export
1st	1st	3rd

### Evidence Used to Determine High-Risk

U.S. State Department. *TIP Report - India*. 2020.

<https://www.state.gov/reports/2020-trafficking-in-persons-report/india/>

- **Tier 2:** "With an international organization, Telangana state began a three-year project to map its cotton farms and spinning mills to monitor ethical labor practices; traffickers use forced labor in these sectors."
- "Traffickers exploit children as young as 8 in forced labor in agriculture (coconut, eucalyptus, ginger, and sugarcane); construction; domestic service; garment, steel, and textile industries (tanneries, bangle, and zari factories); begging; criminality; food-processing factories (biscuits, bread-making, meat-packing, and pickling); floriculture; cotton; ship breaking; and manufacturing (wire and glass)."
- "Multiple organizations note physical violence against trafficking victims—in both forced labor and sex trafficking—is particularly prevalent in South Asia, including India."
- "traffickers use debt-based coercion (bonded labor) to compel men, women, and children to work in agriculture, brick kilns, rice mills, embroidery and textile factories, and stone quarries."
- Traffickers promise large advances to manipulate workers into accepting low-paying jobs, where traffickers then add exorbitant interest rates; create new deductions for items such as lodging, health care, or wage slips; or fabricate the amount of debt, which they use to coerce workers into continuing to work for little or no pay.

Srivastava, Rajendra, N. *Children at Work, Child Labor and Modern Slavery in India: An Overview*. 2019.

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/31477640/>

## YESS Annotated Bibliography

- "Children working in agriculture-related activities mostly live within the family and may not be subjected to abuse and harsh treatment, although they face work-related hazards. However, they are usually deprived of education and proper health care"
- "In agriculture sector, exposure to pesticides, handling tools and implements carry significant hazards. They may be exposed to dangerous machinery and made to carry heavy loads. Children receive no training in their proper usage and protection. "
- "Poverty ridden and illiterate people are often lured with small sums as loans with promise of work. Subsequently they are made to work in difficult conditions with meagre pay and are unable to pay back. Children are often made to work to pay the debts incurred by their parents or guardians. That work could be for several years starting at a very young age."

The Coca-Cola Company, *Arche India Country Study*. 2019.

<https://www.coca-colacompany.com/content/dam/journey/us/en/policies/pdf/human-workplace-rights/addressing-global-issues/india-country-study.pdf>

- "However, agricultural work presents a myriad of risks to children, including potential injury from sharp blades, sun exposure, long work hours, as well as exposure to dangerous wildlife: vipers are a common presence in farm fields."

### Supplementary Sources

- [Equal Times](#). *Child labour and exploitation in India's cotton fields*. 2015.
- [Global March](#). *Dirty Cotton: A Research on Child Labor, Slavery, Trafficking, and Exploitation in Cotton and Cotton Seed Farming in India*. 2012.
- [BBC](#). *India's Exploited Child Cotton Workers*. 2012.
- [Verité](#). *Cotton Commodity Atlas*. 2020.
- [Environmental Justice Foundation](#). *The Children Behind Our Cotton*. 2007.

### Cotton Project Presence

"India - Better Cotton Initiative." Better Cotton Initiative, 2020.

<https://bettercotton.org/where-is-better-cotton-grown/india/>

- "In the 2018-19 cotton season, 684,274 BCI Farmers produced 652,000 tonnes of Better Cotton on 785,000 hectares, a considerable increase in both farmer numbers and cotton volumes, compared to the 2017-18 cotton season."

Truscott, Liesel. "2019 Organic Cotton Market Report." Textile Exchange, n.d.

<https://store.textileexchange.org/product/2019-organic-cotton-market-report/>

- 1,973 certified GOTS Facilities in India in 2018, an 19% increase from 2017.
- 1,018 OCS certified facilities, 9% increase since 2017.



## YESS Annotated Bibliography

“Fairtrade India - Cotton- By the Numbers.” <http://cotton.fairtradeindia.org/cotton-by-numbers/>, 2019.  
<http://cotton.fairtradeindia.org/>

- Fairtrade supports farmers with pre-finance of up to 60 per cent of the contracted value of the cotton, providing much needed capital and reasonable rates.
- Fairtrade cotton in India is geared towards helping the most vulnerable producers, who farm on small holdings of land.
- Fairtrade cotton has been certified in India since 2004. Today, over 25,000 Fairtrade certified cotton farmers operate across India.
- Almost 40 per cent of Fairtrade cotton producers are not educated but are supporting families.
- According to an impact study carried out in 2014, 60 percent of farmers reported that they had better economic benefits after joining the Fairtrade system.

### Industry Stakeholder Presence

“Cotton Corporation of India.” Cotcorp.org.in, 2018. <https://cotcorp.org.in/AboutUs.aspx>

- Trade associations extend marketing support to the cotton growers in selling their produce at the most competitive prices in the various market yards in all cotton growing States through timely intervention – procurement operations spread over more than 225 market yards in the country.

“India Country Study Fair Wear Foundation.” Fair Wear Foundation, 2016. <https://www.fairwear.org>

- FWF is a Dutch-Based non-profit organisation that works with garment brands, factories, trade unions, NGOs and governments to improve working conditions for garment workers in 11 production countries across Asia, Europe and Africa.
- pg 12- “8 million people (2019) total under forced labor in India, Child labour (number of people) Hazardous child labour (number of people) 8.2 million (5-14 years old) 5.8 million (5- 17 years old).”

bioRe Stiftung. “Development.” Biore-stiftung.ch, 2019. <http://www.biore-stiftung.ch/en/development/>

- The bioRe® Social and Environmental Standard specifies the requirements for production of organic cotton in the bioRe® projects. The criteria include the market price and a premium of 15% for organic cotton, a purchase guarantee for farmers according to which no less than 80% of their crop will be purchased, as well as services such as training, extension, community projects, farmers’ representation, economic development, labour rights and CO2 monitoring. The bioRe® Standard is reviewed annually and re-assessed in debates with farmers. Farmers have a 50% representation on the decision-making committee. Any amendments to the Standard must be approved by consensus.
- The bioRe® Foundation is a Swiss based organization that has invested in sustainable improvement of the living conditions of farmer families in India and Tanzania. Efforts are focused on organic-cotton farming as a sustainable source of income (Right to Ecology) as well as education (Right to Education), health (Right to Health) and secure livelihoods (Right to Work and Right to Development).

## YESS Annotated Bibliography

“Welcome to Chetna Organic | Chetna Organic.” Chetnaorganic.org.in, 2014.

<http://www.chetnaorganic.org.in/>

Contact: Tel: +91-40-23238211 / 64639944

- Chetna Organic is working with small and marginal farmers towards improving their livelihood options and making farming a sustainable and profitable occupation. They work with farmers from the rainfed regions of Maharashtra, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh, covering around 43,500 acres.
- 234 farmer members in 2004 has grown to around 35,852 in 2014.

“National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) Importers.” Apeda.gov.in, 2019.

<http://apeda.gov.in/apedahindi/organic/importers.html>

- This website is from the government website of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and includes a list of importers of organic products from India, and many lists of traders and buyers of organic cotton from all over the world. Needs to be researched more.

*BCI Implementation Partners (NGO’s, Mills, Traders)*

“C&A Foundation.” Candafoundation.org, 2018.

Contact: Anita Chester, head of raw material <https://www.linkedin.com/in/anita-chester-0214154a/>

<https://www.candafoundation.org/latest/stories/forced-child-labour/tackling-systemic-issues-within-india-child-labour>

- Funding partner for BCI and other initiatives like CottonConnect in India focusing on forced labor.

“CottonConnect | How We Work.” CottonConnect, 2019. <http://cottonconnect.org/how-we-work/>

- “Together with C&A Foundation, CottonConnect is promoting organic cotton production, training cotton farmers in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Maharashtra, enabling cotton farmers to connect with global supply chains and providing training to women.”
- Transparency and verification is important in cotton production, so CottonConnect developed a traceability software tool called Tracebale, which provides reassurance of sustainable cotton supply.
- CottonConnect is also now working with Kering on a project in India in which all supply chain partners collaborate to create a robust supply network in an effort to secure a traceable and reliable organic cotton supply for its brands. A case study exploring the findings from this pilot will be released soon.

Bharat Cotton	Cotton Mill and textile production	<a href="http://www.bharatcottons.com/company-profile.html">http://www.bharatcottons.com/company-profile.html</a>	Mr Prateek Jain (Director) Mobile :+919811394147, +919968832670	Mill
Vardhman	<b>Fully vertical textile mill</b> - brings up the issue of whether this is borderline serfdom/feudal or if it a legitimate, ethical business model	<a href="https://www.vardhman.com/">https://www.vardhman.com/</a>	Tel: +91-161-2228943-48 Fax: +91-161-2222447 Email: mngt@vardhman.com	Mill
PRDIS	Similarly during 2015, 2016 and 2017 PRDIS has been working with around 23500 farmers (7000, Mahabubnagar,	<a href="http://www.prdis.org/bci-programme.html">http://www.prdis.org/bci-programme.html</a>	91-40-24010544 +91-40-24010544 prdis@hotmail.com	NGO

## YESS Annotated Bibliography

	7000 Karimnagar, 6000 Guntur and 3000 Kurnool) in an area of about 28000 hectares. Resulted in 44194 MT of seed cotton during 2015, 45250 MT during 2016 and expecting 55000 MT for the current season (2017).		prdis1999@yahoo.com	
ACF (Ambuja Cement Foundation)	Elected as a member of the Global Council of Better Cotton Initiative — a key position to set the strategic direction and influence policies at BCI.	<a href="http://www.ambujacementfoundation.org/">http://www.ambujacementfoundation.org/</a>		NGO's
AFPRO (Action for Food Production)	Capacity Building and advocacy work for agricultural and cotton workers.	<a href="http://www.afpro.org/contact-us/">http://www.afpro.org/contact-us/</a>	Mr. D K Manavalan IAS(Retd) Executive Director ed@afpro.org	NGO's
Coastal Salinity Prevention Cell	Aiding in water salinity education efforts for BCI.	<a href="https://cspc.org.in/partners/">https://cspc.org.in/partners/</a>	info@cspc.org.in	NGO's
Farmer Association for Rural Management (FARM)	The core mission of the Organization has special emphasis on resource poor farming communities to provide them with livelihood opportunities and bring them into the mainstream of society.	<a href="http://www.farmgujarat.com/">http://www.farmgujarat.com/</a>	91 98256 00758 farm.gujarat@gmail.com	NGO's
Lupin Human Welfare and Research Foundation	The project covers 12000 families from 90 villages of Dhule and Nandurbar District.	<a href="http://www.lupinfoundation.in/development-projects/better-cotton-initiative.html">http://www.lupinfoundation.in/development-projects/better-cotton-initiative.html</a>	no phone/email link	NGO's
Mahila Arthik Vikas Mahamandal (MAVIM MH)	MAVIM is implementing developmental programs in all 34 districts of Maharashtra, including Mumbai suburban areas.	<a href="https://maviminda.org/our-work/">https://maviminda.org/our-work/</a>	Manager (Monitoring & Evaluation) me.mavim@gmail.com	NGO's
WWF-India	WWF-India is supporting the production of Better Cotton in Punjab, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh. Through its experience and network, WWF-India is providing the businesses with market and industry linkages that promote global standards for cotton production.	<a href="https://www.wwfindia.org/about_wwf/making_businesses_sustainable/cotton/">https://www.wwfindia.org/about_wwf/making_businesses_sustainable/cotton/</a>	Tel: +91 11 4150 4815 Email: contact@wwfindia.net	NGO's
Anandi Ecofarms	Anandi Enterprises have established their own farm projects and vertically integrated Spinning, Gassing, Mercerising and Finishing facilities.	<a href="https://www.anandi.co.in/about-us/">https://www.anandi.co.in/about-us/</a>	sbala@anandi.co.in	Spinner
Arvind	Approx. 40,000 acres of farmland working closely with approx. 6,000 farmers. An implementation partner of BCI India.	<a href="http://www.arvind-agri.com/sustainable-cotton.html">http://www.arvind-agri.com/sustainable-cotton.html</a>	agribusiness@arvind.in	Traders
Basil Commodities	Farming, Cotton Ginning, Trading and Raw Cotton Exports, one of the Implementing	<a href="http://cotton.basilgroup.in/">http://cotton.basilgroup.in/</a>	Pathik Patel skype, info@basilgroup.in	Traders

## YESS Annotated Bibliography

	partners of BCI. Currently has projects in Gujarat state working with 7000 farmers and approx. 31,500 acres of total land area under BCI project, which produces around 90,000 bales of Better cotton.			
K.K. Fibres	Manufacturer, Supplier and Exporter of Raw Cotton, Cotton Seeds, Organic Cotton Yarn, Organic Cotton Bales, Cotton Seed Cake and Biomass Briquettes.	<a href="http://www.kkfibre.in/">http://www.kkfibre.in/</a>	Mr. Ashutosh Agrawal 08042754396	Traders

## Kazakhstan

### Summary

Along with other Central Asian countries on this list, the amount of information available was much less than others that were researched. Particularly challenging was finding contact information for cotton businesses operating in Kazakhstan.

#### Further research needed on:

Trader/Spinner/Ginner Information, more standards/projects operating there, contact information.

### Production and Exports

All of the cotton grown in Kazakhstan is of the *G. hirsutum* variety, nearly all of which is from local seeds. While 30% of harvesting is done by hand, all of the soil preparation is motorized. Cotton here is generally sown in March and April and harvested in October. (Information taken from the October 2017 Cotton Product Practices report from the International Cotton Advisory Committee and [MIT OEC 2017](#))

Area harvested (hectares)	Production (1000 Tonnes)	Imports (1000 Tonnes)	Total Supply	Use (1000 Tonnes)	Loss	Exports	Ending Stocks	Yield (Kg/Hectare)
129	72	65	<a href="#">513</a>	13	<a href="#">0</a>	<a href="#">275</a>	<a href="#">178</a>	558

Table 1: Summary data on Kazakhstan’s annual raw cotton lint supply and distribution as of 2019. Data in 1,000 480 lb bales, and 1,000 hectare. Data retrieved from 2019 Cotton Product Practices report from the International Cotton Advisory Committee unless otherwise linked.

#### **Kazakhstan exports its raw cotton to** (from [ITC Trade Map](#), 2019):

- Latvia: 35%
- China: 22.3%
- Republic of Moldova: 21.5%
- Turkey: 10.9%
- Russian Federation: 5.2%
- Belarus: 4.8%

*Kazakhstan accounts for 0.6% of the world’s raw cotton exports. ([ITC Trade Map, 2019](#))*

#### **Kazakhstan exports its cotton yarn and sewing thread** (HS 5204, 5205, 5207) to ([OEC Trade Data 2018](#)):

- Italy: 16%
- China: 10%
- France: 6.09%
- South Korea: 4.64%
- Switzerland; 3.84%
- Spain: 3.12%
- Uzbekistan: 2.57%

## YESS Annotated Bibliography

- Austria: 2.41%
- Japan: 2.37%
- Romania: 2.33%
- Turkey: 2.12%
- Greece: 2.05%

Global Rankings: [Index Mundi](#)

Kazakhstan's cotton exports accounts for 0.2% of the world's total cotton exports. Raw cotton comprises only 0.16% of the country's exports. ([MIT OEC](#))

Area harvested	Production	Export
29th	24th	19th

### Evidence Used to Determine High-Risk

U.S. State Department. *TIP Report - Kazakhstan*. 2020.

<https://www.state.gov/reports/2020-trafficking-in-persons-report/kazakhstan/>

- "Increasingly, traffickers coerce or force Central Asian citizens, in particular Uzbekistani men and women, to labor in domestic service, construction, bazaars, and agriculture in Kazakhstan."
- "Some traffickers are friends or acquaintances of the victim in Kazakhstan and may use fraud and deceit to lure the victim."
- "NGOs reported increased instances of traffickers using debt-based coercion in the exploitation of migrants. Traffickers capitalize on tough law enforcement policies to coerce migrants to remain in exploitative situations and leverage these policies to threaten victims with punishment and deportation if they notify authorities, fostering distrust in law enforcement."

ILO. *Application of International Labor Standards*. 2017.

[http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_norm/---relconf/documents/meetingdocument/wcms\\_543646.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---relconf/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_543646.pdf)

- "The Committee previously noted that studies on child labour in Kazakhstan revealed that children were mostly engaged in the informal and agricultural sectors, particularly in tobacco and cotton harvesting."

ILO. *Application of International Labor Standards*. 2019.

[https://www.ilo.org/ilc/ILCSessions/108/reports/reports-to-the-conference/WCMS\\_670146/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/ilc/ILCSessions/108/reports/reports-to-the-conference/WCMS_670146/lang--en/index.htm)

- "Furthermore, the Committee noted that, in its concluding observations of 2016, the Human Rights Committee of the United Nations expressed its concern about reports of domestic servitude, forced and bonded labour, particularly of migrant workers in the tobacco, cotton and construction industries, and abuse of migrant workers such as poor and hazardous conditions, delayed payment and confiscation of identity documents"
- "Kyrgyz migrant workers fall prey to deceptive or informal recruitment practices, including misrepresentations concerning the place and nature of the work to be performed, the amount of wages and employees' legal status. In most cases, employers retained the migrants' identity"

## YESS Annotated Bibliography

documents and did not formalize the working relationship by signing an employment contract. Many migrant workers complained of restrictions on movement and the withholding of wages. Most migrant workers reported hazardous working conditions, including excessive working hours, lack of protective equipment and medical care, as well as inadequate living conditions, such as excessive heat and lack of basic amenities. The migrant workers did not receive any social protections and often suffered from intimidation and threats."

- "The Committee further noted that the CRC, in its concluding observations of 2015, expressed concern about the incidence of child labour in cotton harvesting, which involves the lifting or carrying of heavy weights, poor working conditions and health risks related to fertilizers and pesticides."
- "The Government states that minors are most frequently employed in picking cotton in the Martaaral district of Turkistan province."

FIDH. *Invisible and exploited in Kazakhstan*. 2018.

<https://www.fidh.org/en/region/europe-central-asia/kazakhstan/invisible-and-exploited-in-kazakhstan-new-report-she-ds-light-on-the>

- "But payment is usually made at the end of the season, after the products are sold. Until then, the worker doesn't receive anything, but he can borrow from the owner for food and other needs." This is why farmers frequently collect documents from workers as security and force them to work off this money. There are times when migrants give their passports to their bosses voluntarily, but the bosses do not return them and force migrants to perform additional work."
- "Without any formal contract and isolated, migrants work and live in sub-standard conditions, and are therefore more easily exposed to diseases and accidents."
- "In violation of legal bans and a number of other restrictions on the labour of minors in Kazakhstan, it is known that migrants under the age of 18 often work alongside adults, even in jobs that are banned for children. Some of the work performed by minor migrants (in the fields, at construction sites, etc.) directly contravenes Articles 2 to 4 of ILO Convention No. 138"

### Supplementary Sources

- [Verité](#). *Cotton Commodity Atlas*. 2020.
- [ILO](#). *Child Labour in Rural Kazakhstan: Baseline survey results in Almaty and South Kazakhstan Oblasts*. 2013.
- [ILO](#). *Child Labor in Tobacco and Cotton Growing in Kazakhstan*. 2006.

### Cotton Project Presence

"Kazakhstan - Better Cotton Initiative." Better Cotton Initiative, 2020.

<https://bettercotton.org/where-is-better-cotton-grown/kazakhstan/>

## YESS Annotated Bibliography

- In the 2018-19 cotton season, 334 licensed BCI Farmers in Kazakhstan produced 2,000 metric tonnes of Better Cotton lint on 3,000 hectares. Cotton is known as “М а қ т а” in Kazakh, “х л о п о к” in Russian.

“Cotton.” Fairtrade International, June 30, 2019. <https://info.fairtrade.net/product/cotton>

- There is no known fair trade cotton being produced in Kazakhstan.

### Industry Stakeholder Presence

“Cotton - Louis Dreyfus Company.” Ldc.com, 2019.

<https://www ldc com/global/en/our-business/our-platforms/cotton/>

- Implementing Partner with BCI, also a major global cotton trader.
- *“In 2016, we teamed up with BCI, as an implementing partner, to run a three-year project to help farmers in Kazakhstan meet BCI’s sustainability standards, which include pesticide use, water management, work conditions, record keeping, training and more.”*
- As of LDCs 2019 Report, they are still producing BCI Certified Cotton.

GI, Abdikerimova. “The Kazakh Cotton Industry and International Competitive Advantage.” Journal of Entrepreneurship Education. Allied Business Academies, May 26, 2018.

<https://www.semanticscholar.org/paper/The-Kazakh-Cotton-Industry-and-International-As-Mk/bfdd921ae006af1b336273f87689f2b9680cc1db>

- Large list of cotton processing plants in Kazakhstan; needs to be researched further.

### General Industry Information

“White Pride of Central Asia.” Theopenasia.net, 2017.

<http://theopenasia.net/articles/detail/belaya-gordost-tsentralnoy-azii/>

- Strong general information regarding cotton production in central Asia.
- A large part of this cotton will be harvested by hand.
- Modern combine harvesters remove up to 90% of raw material, leaving almost nothing for selection. Only large farms, whose plantations are spread over hundreds of hectares, can afford to own them or hire them for the season in Kazakhstan.
- Peasants with small plots - and there are many of them - with 3-5 hectares, can’t afford it. It is more profitable to work with your hands.

“Kazakhstan Agricultural Overview.” Usda.gov, 2009.

[https://ipad.fas.usda.gov/highlights/2010/01/kaz\\_19jan2010/](https://ipad.fas.usda.gov/highlights/2010/01/kaz_19jan2010/)

- Yields are lower than in neighboring Uzbekistan and production is hampered by a deteriorating irrigation infrastructure. All of the country’s cotton is irrigated.



## YESS Annotated Bibliography

Petrick, Martin, Dauren Oshakbayev, Regina Taitukova, and Nodir Djanibekov. "The Return of the Regulator: Kazakhstan's Cotton Sector Reforms since Independence." *Central Asian Survey* 36, no. 4 (October 2, 2017): 430–52. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02634937.2017.1392928>

- On average, individual farms in South Kazakhstan are much smaller than similarly organized farms in the rest of the country, about six hectares of arable land per farm.

"Monitoring the Development of Agricultural Co-Operatives in Kazakhstan." OECD.Com. OECD, 2019. <http://www.oecd.org/eurasia/competitiveness-programme/central-asia/Kazakhstan-Monitoring-Agricultural-Co-operatives-2019-EN.pdf>

Azhimetova, Gulfari. "Current State Of The Cotton And Textile Industry In Kazakhstan." *Perspectives of Innovations, Economics and Business (PIEB)* 05, no. 2 (February 2, 2010): 1–4. <https://ideas.repec.org/a/ags/jrpieb/92359.html>

- Speaks to the trend towards developing cotton clusters, and lists several businesses/organizations working in cotton, however when searching for them they are unable to be found.

"Cotton Fiber Produced in South Kazakhstan to Be Exported to the Czech Republic and India." *Kaztag.kz*, 2017.

<https://kaztag.kz/en/news/cotton-fiber-produced-in-south-kazakhstan-to-be-exported-to-the-czech-republi-c-and-india>

- "The company, launched in 2014 as part of the state program of industrial and innovative development, (**Makhtaral cotton-cleaning plant Myrzakent - KazTAG**) plans to process 60 thousand tons of cotton fiber this year. The daily production capacity makes 40 tons. Ready-made products are sent to a textile factory in Shymkent, while fiber surplus is sold to India and the Czech Republic," said the company.

## Pakistan

### Summary

Similar to India, there is an abundance of information to review regarding Pakistan. Various certifications, standards, and sustainable trade initiatives are present. Organic FairTrade cotton is all currently in transition, 2019/2020 will be the first time in 10 years Organic FairTrade cotton will be sold. Bonded labour continues to be a large problem in Pakistan, with arguments being made that lack of political will could be partly to blame.

#### Further research needed on:

Trader/Spinner/Ginner Information, enforcement of cotton project standards relating to FL/CL, more standards/projects operating there, contact information.

### Production and Exports

The majority of cotton in Pakistan is of the *G. hirsutum* variety. Small quantities of *G. arboreum* are grown as well. All cotton is grown from local seeds. While harvesting is done completely by hand, most of the soil preparation is motorized but, in some regions, still requires manual labor, especially during especially [harsh](#) weather conditions. (Information taken from the October 2017 Cotton Product Practices report from the International Cotton Advisory Committee)

Pakistan accounts for 1.1% of the world's raw cotton exports. ([MIT OEC](#))

Area harvested	Production (1000 Tonnes)	Imports (1000 Tonnes)	Total Supply	Use (1000 Tonnes)	Loss	Exports (tonnes)	Ending Stocks	Yield (Kg/Hectare)
2406	1,849	689	<a href="#">11,995</a>	2,358	<a href="#">25</a>	<a href="#">75</a>	<a href="#">2,895</a>	769

Table 1: Summary data on Pakistan's annual raw cotton lint supply and distribution as of 2019. Data in 1,000 480 lb bales, and 1,000 hectare. Data retrieved from 2019 Cotton Product Practices report from the International Cotton Advisory Committee unless otherwise linked.

#### **Pakistan exports its raw cotton to** (from [ITC Trade Map](#) 2019):

- Viet Nam: 38.4%
- Bangladesh: 27.1%
- Indonesia: 24.5%
- Oman: 6.3%
- Thailand: 2.8%
- China: 1%

*Pakistan accounts for 0.1% of the world's raw cotton exports. ([ITC Trade Map, 2019](#))*

#### **Pakistan exports its cotton yarn and sewing thread** (HS 5204, 5205, 5207) to ([OEC Trade Data 2018](#)):

- United States: 13.2%

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- China: 7.32%
- Germany: 6.68%
- Afghanistan: 6.26%
- United Kingdom: 6.07%
- Spain: 3.77%
- United Arab Emirates: 3.41%
- France: 3.29%
- Bangladesh: 2.94%
- Italy: 2.92%
- Netherlands: 2.65%
- Indonesia: 2.36%

Global Rankings: [Index Mundi](#)

Pakistan accounts for [0.1%](#) of the world's raw cotton exports despite being the 5th largest producer of cotton. Much of its raw cotton is used domestically as a majority of its cotton exports are in the form of textiles or processed cotton. ([MIT OEC](#))

Area harvested	Production	Export
4th	5th	33th

## Evidence Used to Determine High-Risk

U.S. State Department. *TIP Report - Pakistan*. 2020.

<https://www.state.gov/reports/2020-trafficking-in-persons-report/pakistan/>

- **Tier 2 Watchlist:** "The country's largest human trafficking problem is bonded labor, in which traffickers exploit an initial debt assumed by a worker as part of the terms of employment and ultimately entraps other family members, sometimes for generations. The practice remains widespread. Traffickers, including local government officials, primarily force men, women, and children to work in bonded labor in Sindh in agriculture and in both Sindh and Punjab in brick kilns. Traffickers also force men, women, and children to work to pay off exaggerated debts in other sectors in Sindh and Punjab and in Balochistan and KP in agriculture and brick kilns and, to a lesser extent, in fisheries, mining, and textile-, bangle-, and carpet-making. In agriculture, traffickers force workers to labor in wheat, cotton, and sugarcane, among other goods."
- "Traffickers often did not provide workers with access to their expenditure and earnings receipts, so traffickers control how much money they earn, the accrual of interest on their debt and when they have repaid the debt."
- "Pakistani men and women migrate overseas voluntarily, particularly to the Gulf states and Europe, for low-skilled employment such as agriculture, domestic service, driving, and construction work; traffickers exploit some of them in labor trafficking."

U.S. State Department. *Country Report on Human Rights - Pakistan*. 2019.

## YESS Annotated Bibliography

<https://www.state.gov/reports/2019-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/pakistan/>

- "Bonded labor was reportedly present in the agricultural sector, including the cotton, sugarcane, and wheat industries, and in the brick, coal, and carpet industries. Bonded laborers often were unable to determine when their debts were paid in full, in part, because contracts were rare, and employers could take advantage of bonded laborers' illiteracy to alter debt amounts or the price laborers paid for goods they acquired from their employers. In some cases landowners restricted laborers' movements with armed guards or sold laborers to other employers for the price of the laborers' debts."
- "Boys and girls were bought, sold, rented, or kidnapped to work in illegal begging rings, as domestic servants, or as bonded laborers in agriculture and brickmaking (see section 7.c.). Illegal labor agents charged high fees to parents with false promises of decent work for their children and later exploited them by subjecting the children to forced labor in domestic servitude, unskilled labor, small shops, and other sectors."
- "Minimum wage laws did not cover significant sectors of the labor force, including workers in the informal sector, domestic servants, and agricultural workers; and enforcement of minimum wage laws was uneven."

### Supplementary Sources

- [Environmental Justice Foundation](#). *The Children Behind our Cotton*. 2007.
- [Verité](#). *Cotton Commodity Atlas*. 2020.

### Cotton Project Presence

"Pakistan - Better Cotton Initiative." Better Cotton Initiative, 2020.

<https://bettercotton.org/where-is-better-cotton-grown/pakistan/>

- "369,264 BCI Farmers produced 906,000 tonnes of Better Cotton in the 2018-19 cotton season, up from 701,000 tonnes in the previous season, which made Pakistan the second largest producer of Better Cotton, after Brazil. Cotton was grown on 1,072,000 hectares."

Mowbray, John. "Pakistan Resurrects Organic Cotton Production | Materials & Production News | News." Ecotextile.com, February 7, 2019.

<https://www.ecotextile.com/2019020724037/materials-production-news/pakistan-resurrects-organic-cotton-production.html>

- Both organic and Fairtrade cotton were previously grown in Pakistan between 2002 and 2008/09, with a last reported cultivation figure of 289 tonnes of organic fibre ten years ago.
- The project was run by WWF-Pakistan and Directorate of Agriculture Extension with funding support from C&A Foundation.

## YESS Annotated Bibliography

### Industry Stakeholder Presence

“Eliminating Child Labour and Forced Labour in the Cotton, Textile and Garment Value Chains: An Integrated Approach.” Ilo.org, October 29, 2018.

[https://www.ilo.org/ipecc/projects/global/WCMS\\_649126/lang--en/index.htm#:~:text=The%20'Eliminating%20child%20labour%20and,and%20Agriculture%20Organization%20\(FAO\).](https://www.ilo.org/ipecc/projects/global/WCMS_649126/lang--en/index.htm#:~:text=The%20'Eliminating%20child%20labour%20and,and%20Agriculture%20Organization%20(FAO).)

- When: 1 March 2018 - 28 February 2022 Development partner(s): Co-funded by the European Union under the Development Cooperation Instrument.
- The expected outcomes of the project in Pakistan are:
  - The strengthening of legislations, regulations, policies and programmes, and in particular their implementation, in order to combat child labour and forced labour in the cotton, textile and garment sector.
  - Local governments, public services providers, social partners and other relevant stakeholders (e.g. CSOs, private sector, agricultural stakeholders, etc.) take effective action to stop child labour and forced labour in target cotton growing districts and communities and garment/textiles sector supply chains and factories.

“C&A WWF Pakistan Organic Cotton.” Candafoundation.org, 2018.

<https://www.candafoundation.org/grants/what?country=PK>

- World Wide Fund for Nature - Pakistan: Improve farmer livelihoods through organic cotton production in Pakistan. In Pakistan, C&A Foundation is testing the feasibility of organic cotton production in the world’s fourth largest cotton producing country.
- The foundation is currently supporting 4000 farmers in Balochistan province to transition to organic cotton production on 19,895 hectares yielding 9,143 MT lint. The program is implemented by WWF-Pakistan in collaboration with the Agriculture Extension Department (AED), Balochistan.

“SIA Foundation.” Facebook.com, 2019.

[https://www.facebook.com/pg/SiaFoundation/about/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/SiaFoundation/about/?ref=page_internal)

- SIA Foundation (Swabhiman Indian Association) is working for the welfare of children and women.
- The Foundation’s Organic Cotton Cultivation (OCC) program launched in 2017, with a pilot project initially for multiplication of non-GMO organic seeds for large scale organic cotton cultivation in the country. This pilot, which is located in the village Veyaro, Lesbela district of Balochistan, is set to expand up to 5,000 ha over the next two years.

Business, Pakistan. “List of Cotton Ginning in Pakistan - Cotton Ginning Companies in Pakistan - Pakistan Cotton Ginning Directory - BusinessBook.Pk.” Businessbook.pk, 2017.

<https://www.businessbook.pk/category/cotton-ginning-885>

## YESS Annotated Bibliography

“List of Cotton Traders in Pakistan - Cotton Traders Companies in Pakistan - Pakistan Cotton Traders Directory - BusinessBook.Pk.” Businessbook.pk, 2019  
<https://www.businessbook.pk/category/cotton-traders-902>

“Karachi Cotton Association Home Page.” Kcapk.com, 2018. <http://www.kcapk.com/>

- Association is the recognized Cotton Association for the whole of Pakistan.
- All sections of the trade are represented on the Board of Directors. Maintains a code of fair and equitable trading practices in the form of rules, regulations and by-laws.

“Exporter List, Members of Karachi Cotton Association” Kcapk.org, 2019.

<http://www.kcapk.org/aboutus.htm>

- Thorough list of traders/exporters.

“RBDC Pakistan.” Rural Business Development Center, 2017.

[https://www.facebook.com/RBDCPAKISTAN/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/RBDCPAKISTAN/?ref=page_internal)

- The RBDC is a dedicated Business Development Centre. It is an initiative as part of the regeneration of rural economies, development of a green rural economy and rural poverty reduction.
- Has worked with BCI and Textile Exchange on cotton projects in Pakistan.

Dadasons. “Dadasons Private Limited.” Dadasons.com, 2009.

<https://www.dadasons.com/info.html#about>

- One of the largest cotton traders in Pakistan, sells to all of the largest cotton companies in the world.

### *BCI Implementation Partners (NGO’s, Mills, Traders)*

CABI	The centre works to help farmers in the region increase yields, improve the quality of crops and access markets, in a sustainable, environmentally-sensitive way.	<a href="https://www.cabi.org/about-cabi/cabi-centres/pakistan/">https://www.cabi.org/about-cabi/cabi-centres/pakistan/</a>	No info available	NGO
Indus Farmer Welfare Association (IFWA)	No info available	No info available	No info available	NGO
Integrated Rural Development Council (IRDC)	No info available	No info available	No info available	NGO
Jaggarta	site under construction	<a href="http://jaggarta.org/">http://jaggarta.org/</a>		NGO
Kashtkar Development Organization Bahawalpur	No info available	No info available	No info available	NGO
Lok Sanjh Foundation	Lok Sanjh has launched Better Cotton Initiative and is working with 35,000 farmers in Toba Tek Singh and Bahawalnagar.	<a href="http://loksanjh.org/project-3/">http://loksanjh.org/project-3/</a>	Lok_Sanjh@yahoo.com	NGO
Mariam Rural Welfare	No info available	No info available	No info available	NGO

## YESS Annotated Bibliography

Rural Education Economic and Education Development Society (REEDs)	Rural Education and Economic Development Society (REED Society) is a non-profitable, non-government and humanitarian organization, registered under the Registration Act of 1860 with the government of Pakistan.	<a href="http://www.reedspk.org/">http://www.reedspk.org/</a>	No info available	NGO
Rural Sunshine Social Welfare Organization (RSSWO)	No info available	No info available	No info available	NGO
Rural Sustainable Development Organization	No info available	No info available	Rahim Yar Khan Punjab-Pakistan Ph: +92-068-5876693 E-mail: reedryk@gmail.com Skype: shahid.reed	NGO
Sangtani Women Rural Development Organization	The main target area of SWRDO is Southern Punjab with special focus on district; Rajanpur, DG Khan, Bakhar, Layyah, Muzaffargarh, Multan, Vehari, Bahwalnagar, Lodhran, Khanwal, Nankanasahib, Bahawalpur, Lahore, Shekhopura, Narowal, Channot, Fasilabad, Sargodha, Gujranwala and Rahim Yar Khan. The organization is planning to expand to other areas including Jhan and Mianwali. In Sindh, SWRDO has its own offices in District Kashmoor and Sukkur and networking for Mir PurKhas, Tando Muhammad Khan, Badin.	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Nonprofit-Organization/Sangtani-Women-Rural-Development-Organization-SWRDO-334491829952979/">https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Nonprofit-Organization/Sangtani-Women-Rural-Development-Organization-SWRDO-334491829952979/</a>	Mrs. NarjisAshfaq Sangtani Office Bodla Colony Street No, 03 City & District Rajanpur (Punjab) PakPhone: 0092-604-688997, Mobile: 0092-333-8827744 website: www.sangtani.org.pk Email: sangtani.wrdo@gmail.com Skype: sangtani.wrdo	NGO
Shadab Rural Development Organization	No info available	No info available	No info available	NGO
Society for the Empowerment of the People (SEP)	No info available	No info available	No info available	NGO
Sooraj Development Organization	No info available	No info available	No info available	NGO
Sustainable Agriculture and Friendly Environment (SAFE)	No info available	No info available	No info available	NGO
Sustainable Agriculture Farmers Welfare Organization (SAFWO)	No info available	No info available	No info available	NGO
Sustainable Development Organization	No info available	No info available	No info available	NGO

## Tajikistan

### Summary

Compared with other central asian countries, Tajikistan is not as engaged in project cotton. Human trafficking and forced labor is still a major concern, but less than Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan based on preliminary research. Lists of cotton businesses were available and need to be further researched. Additionally, there is evidence of Fair Trade, GOTS, and BCI production.

#### Further research needed on:

Trader/Spinner/Ginner Information, enforcement of cotton project standards relating to FL/CL, more standards/projects operating there, contact information.

### Production and Exports

Area harvested	Production	Imports	Total Supply	Use	Loss	Exports	Ending Stocks	Yield (Kg/Hectare)
190	450	0	746	50	0	425	271	516

Table 1: Summary data on Tajikistan’s raw cotton lint supply and distribution from 10/11/2018-10/11/2019. Data in 1,000 HA and 1,000 480-lb bales. Data retrieved from [USDA PSD](#).

#### **Tajikistan exports its raw cotton to** (from [ITC Trade Map](#) 2019):

- Turkey: 36.7%
- Uzbekistan: 16%
- Islamic Republic of Iran: 12.2%
- Latvia: 9.1%
- China: 7.4%
- Russian Federation: 6.9%
- Pakistan: 4.1%
- Georgia: 3.5%
- Bangladesh: 3%

*Tajikistan accounts for 0.9% of the world’s raw cotton exports. ([ITC Trade Map, 2019](#))*

#### **Tajikistan exports its cotton yarn and sewing thread** (HS 5204, 5205, 5207) to ([OEC Trade Data 2018](#)):

- Kazakhstan: 26.5%
- Switzerland: 18.3%
- Turkey: 16.9%
- Uzbekistan: 9.42%
- Afghanistan: 7.15%
- China: 6.57%



## YESS Annotated Bibliography

- Russia: 3.72%
- Chinese Taipei: 2.2%
- France: 1.9%
- Italy: 1.45%
- India: 1.27%

Global Rankings: [Index Mundi](#)

Tajikistan accounts for 0.9% of the world’s raw cotton exports ([ITC Trade Map](#), 2019).

Area harvested	Production	Export
25th	21st	15th

### Evidence Used to Determine High Risk

U.S. State Department. *TIP Report - Tajikistan*. 2020.

<https://www.state.gov/reports/2020-trafficking-in-persons-report/tajikistan/>

- "Labor traffickers exploit Tajikistani men and women in agriculture and construction in Russia, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Kazakhstan, Saudi Arabia, and to a lesser extent, in other neighboring Central Asian countries, Turkey, and Afghanistan. Labor traffickers exploit men in agriculture, construction, and at markets in Tajikistan; there are limited reports of domestic sex trafficking of men."
- "Tajikistani children and adults may be subjected to forced labor in agriculture, mainly during Tajikistan’s fall cotton harvest—and in dried fruit production."

eurasianet. *Teachers toil in cotton fields as Tajikistan tries to fix trade imbalance*. 2019.

<https://eurasianet.org/teachers-toil-in-cotton-fields-as-tajikistan-tries-to-fix-trade-imbalance>

- "Authorities in Tajikistan use a battery of tactics, ranging from threats to pleading, to get its government-sector employees to abandon their classrooms and clinics for the cotton field."
- "Those who refuse to comply with the program face the danger of dismissal. And the reluctant farmers, who would rather be growing other crops, are losing heaps of money. Teachers who were prepared to speak to Eurasianet on the record were eager to justify their presence in the fields, a fact that indicates that government propaganda campaigns have proven successful – at least on the surface."
- "Some doctors who are unwilling to do the work pay somebody to take their place. The cost of hiring a laborer for two weeks is 300 somoni (\$31). The person who does the actual labor also gets to pocket the fee for cotton picked."

U.S. State Department. *List of Goods Produced by Forced or Child Labor*. 2019.

[https://www.dol.gov/agencies/ilab/reports/child-labor/list-of-goods?tid=5629&field\\_exp\\_good\\_target\\_id=All&field\\_exp\\_exploitation\\_type\\_target\\_id\\_1=All&items\\_per\\_page=10](https://www.dol.gov/agencies/ilab/reports/child-labor/list-of-goods?tid=5629&field_exp_good_target_id=All&field_exp_exploitation_type_target_id_1=All&items_per_page=10)

- "There are reports that children ages 14-17 and some as young as 7 are forced to work during the annual cotton harvest in Tajikistan. Monitoring teams discover multiple cases of compulsory

## YESS Annotated Bibliography

mobilization across several districts of the country each year. In these cases, school officials mobilize classes to work in the harvest and teachers supervise them in the fields. Some children receive threats regarding exams, grades, and even expulsion from school for refusal to work. The children are typically sent to the fields after class hours. Farmers negotiate directly with the schools to mobilize the students to work, and the schools may keep some or all of the children's wages. Some of the children are required to pick a quota of 66 pounds of cotton daily."

### Supplementary Sources

- [International Organization for Migration](#). *Children and Student Participation in Tajikistan's Cotton Harvest*. 2012.
- [World Action Vision](#). *Forced Labor and Child Labor in the Cotton Industry*. 2012.

### Cotton Project Presence

"Tajikistan - Better Cotton Initiative." Better Cotton Initiative, 2018.

<https://bettercotton.org/where-is-better-cotton-grown/tajikistan/>

- "In the 2018-19 cotton season, 964 licensed BCI Farmers produced 12,000 tonnes of Better Cotton lint on 14,000 hectares."

"The Bio Kishovarz Co-Operative." Textileexchange.org, 2011.

<http://farmhub.textileexchange.org/learning-zone/organic-in-action/story-no-1>

- The Co-op was originally made up of 189 bio (organic) farmers. The biggest motivation for the farmers to form a co-operative was the opportunity to share problems and solve them together. Another reason is the fast growing organic sector in the Republic.
- Over the course of the year, the newly established Bio Kishovarz Co-op is expecting to grow by 400 farmers. So by the end of the year the total number of farmers will be 589.
- Listed by Textile Exchange to be Fair Trade, but FT websites cannot confirm.

"Cotton Farm Partners." Mecilla, 2017. <https://mecilla.com/pages/farms>

- GOTS, FAIR TRADE, and TEXTIL VERTRAUEN certified
- "Mecilla is an official trade partner of non-commercial cooperative Bio-Kishovarz, to sell organic agricultural products, mostly cotton, to China and ASEAN markets.
- "Established by Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation, the Bio-Kishovarz Co-operative began its history as the 'Organic Value Chain Development Project'".
- "The objective of the project was to enable autonomy amongst the Tajik farmers. NGO and donor support was intended to catalyse a 'system change' in the Tajik farming sector (particularly in cotton), allowing farmers to increase their incomes and improve livelihoods in a sustainable way through alternative value chains."
- 3413 ha certified organic or in-conversion cultivation, 1611 ha certified cotton cultivation, 847.6 ha organic area, 1180 farmers, 1100 tons certified cotton output with 600 tons organic cotton.

## YESS Annotated Bibliography

### Industry Stakeholder Presence

“Sarob Cooperative,” n.d. <https://www.linkedin.com/in/sarob-cooperative-44789788/detail/contact-info/>

- Became BCI’s Implementing Partner in 2014. They now take on the responsibility previously held by Framework and Finance for private Sector Development in Tajikistan (FFPSD), which is an ongoing programme assisted by the German Government via the Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH (German Technical Cooperation) and co-financed by UKaid, Department for International Development (DFID). This transition to an Implementing Partner is a very positive development for the programme in Tajikistan. Sarob reaches out to hundreds of farms and is facilitating them to grow Better Cotton.

GIZ. “Tajikistan.” Www.giz.de, July 13, 2019. <https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/382.html>

Contact:GIZ Office Tajikistan, Country Director Bernadette Neu [giz-tadschikistan@giz.de](mailto:giz-tadschikistan@giz.de)

- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH has been working in Tajikistan since 1995 on behalf of the German government, supporting efforts to build up the country’s economy and society and bring stability to the region. GIZ opened its own office in the capital, Dushanbe, in 1996, with two more offices supporting the federal enterprise’s activities in rural areas.
- *“On behalf of BMZ, GIZ is developing solutions for adapting to climate change and combating desertification, for example by reducing water consumption in agriculture.”*
- *“Another of its projects aims to stimulate the economy and create new jobs by encouraging private sector growth and a business-friendly environment. This includes supporting climate-aware producers and value chains for selected products, such as organic cotton. For example, GIZ promotes training for food experts to improve their employment prospects and combat the shortage of skilled labour.”*
- Cotton is one of their priorities.

“Projects Worldwide | Helvetas.” Helvetas.de, 2011.

<https://www.helvetas.de/en/what-we-do/how-we-work/our-projects>

- Helvetas works on various projects in Tajikistan relating to water consumption, justice and legal accessibility, and organic agriculture. Their connections in the country could be useful in ascertaining more information about forced labor.

“Cotton Trading | DoCotton Group Ithalat Ihracat San. ve Tic. A.S.” Docotton.com, 2019.

<https://www.docotton.com/en/cotton-trading>

- Turkish cotton trading company doing business in Tajikistan.

itc-tajikistan. “Olim Textiles | International Trade Centre, Tajikistan.” Itctj.org. International Trade Centre, Tajikistan, January 31, 2013. <https://itctj.wordpress.com/category/olim-textiles/>

- One of the largest textile facilities in Tajikistan, unable to find contact information.

## YESS Annotated Bibliography

“Tajikistan Cotton Suppliers, Manufacturers, Wholesalers and Traders | Go4WorldBusiness.Com . Page - 1.”  
Go4worldbusiness.com, 2017. <https://www.go4worldbusiness.com/suppliers/tajikistan/cotton.html>

- List of Tajik cotton businesses, need to research further

## Turkmenistan

### Summary

There are a large amount of sources that can confirm that Turkmenistan takes part in the use of forced labor in its cotton production. There is no project cotton currently, and it is difficult to find evidence of NGOs present in the country relating to cotton and forced labor, but information is available as to who is buying cotton from Turkmenistan. Turkey, Pakistan, and China are noted buyers of raw cotton, and Turkey in particular has made efforts in the last few years to sizably increase its business developments here. Russia is a major purchaser of cotton products (general) from Turkmenistan.

#### Further research needed on:

Trader/Spinner/Ginner Information, enforcement of cotton project standards relating to FL/CL, more standards/projects operating there, contact information.

### Production and Exports

The vast majority of cotton exported by Turkmenistan is in the form of “Cotton yarn other than sewing thread, containing  $\geq$  85% cotton by weight” (ITC Product Code 5205). This is exported primarily to Turkey, with Russia as a distant yet significant second. This is a significant shift from previous data; raw cotton exports have seen a 65% decline since 2018 (5201), with increasingly large rates of decline each year since peak exports in 2013 (over \$332,000 of cotton exports). Cotton yarn exports (5205) have remained relatively stagnant year over year, if declining slightly between 2018 and 2019. (See [ITC Trade Map](#), 2019)

Area harvested	Production (1000 tonnes)	Imports (1000 tonnes)	Total Supply	Use (1000 tonnes)	Loss	Exports	Ending Stocks	Yield (Kg/Hectare)
545	283	166	<a href="#">1,549</a>	141	0	<a href="#">100</a>	<a href="#">724</a>	519

Table 1: Summary data on Turkmenistan’s annual raw cotton lint supply and distribution as of 2019. Data in 1,000 480 lb bales, and 1,000 hectare. Data retrieved from 2019 Cotton Product Practices report from the International Cotton Advisory Committee unless otherwise linked.

#### **Turkmenistan exports its raw cotton to** (from [MIT OEC](#) 2018):

- Turkey: 65.5%
- Pakistan: 13.9%
- China: 11%
- India: 2.56%
- Malaysia: 2.04%
- Russian Federation: 1.89%
- United Arab Emirates: 1.8%

## YESS Annotated Bibliography

Turkmenistan accounts for 0.3% of the world’s raw cotton exports, down from 1.2% in 2017. ([ITC Trade Map, 2019](#))

**Turkmenistan exports its cotton yarn and sewing thread (HS 5204, 5205, 5207) to ([OEC Trade Data 2018](#)):**

- China: 80.2%
- Afghanistan: 3.54%
- Turkey: 2.81%
- Uzbekistan: 2.5%
- Georgia: 1.91%

Global Rankings [Index Mundi](#)

Turkmenistan accounts for .3% of the world’s raw cotton exports, based on “partner reported data” to the ITC ([ITC Trade Map, 2019](#)).

Area harvested	Production	Export
9th	14th	22nd

### Evidence Used to Determine High-Risk

U.S. State Department. *TIP Report - Turkmenistan*. 2020.

<https://www.state.gov/reports/2020-trafficking-in-persons-report/turkmenistan/>

- **Tier 3:** "To meet government-imposed quotas for the cotton harvest, government officials required some employees at private-sector institutions, soldiers, and public sector workers (including teachers, doctors, nurses, and others) to pick cotton without payment and under the threat of penalty, such as **dismissal, reduced work hours, or salary deductions**. Reports of local officials coercing public sector workers to pay for replacement pickers through an unregulated, informal system remained. Authorities threatened farmers with loss of land if they did not meet government-imposed quotas."

Turkmen.news. *Pandemic Leaves Teachers to Bear Brunt of Cotton Harvest in Turkmenabat*. 2020.

<https://en.turkmen.news/news/pandemic-leaves-teachers-to-bear-brunt-of-cotton-harvest-in-turkmenabat/>

- "Teachers will have to pick cotton on weekdays as well as Sundays. The school management has divided staff into three groups of 30 to 35 people each. For example, on Monday August 31, 31 people will go to harvest cotton. The list of teachers going to the fields on Tuesday will be announced the day before. So, every teacher will go cotton picking three times during the week and the entire staff will go on Sundays, the deputy principal said. Support staff – cleaners and security guards – have been going cotton-picking in groups of five or six since the second half of August. More of them will go in September."
- "The turkmen.news source said that staff could buy themselves out of cotton-picking by paying 20 manats (87 U.S. cents) to the school management."

## YESS Annotated Bibliography

- "Every fall in Turkmenistan tens of thousands of public sector employees are threatened with dismissal if they don't harvest cotton."

Anti-Slavery International. *Forced Labour Tainted Cotton: from Turkmenistan via Turkey*. 2019.

<https://www.antislavery.org/forced-labour-tainted-cotton-from-turkmenistan-via-turkey/>

- "The Government treats refusal to contribute to the cotton harvest as insubordination, incitement to sabotage, and even 'contempt of the homeland.' Officials are careful to not record refusal to pick cotton as the cause for termination of employment, making it impossible for workers to seek redress.
- "The Government of Turkmenistan uses systematic coercion to produce cotton, every year forcing farmers to grow cotton to fulfil government quotas and forcing other citizens to pick it," said Debbie McGrath, Head of Programme and Advocacy at Anti-Slavery International."

Turkmen.news. *Cotton Harvest 2019 Review*. 2020.

<https://en.turkmen.news/news/cotton-harvest-2019-review-disastrous-in-parts-of-turkmenistan/>

- "In the absence of any facilities at all, most people slept in the fields and ate the food they had brought with them. It was possible for the workers to buy themselves out of the trip, paying 300 manats (\$17) to the personnel department (port director Annadurdy Kosayev had instructed the department to organize the workers' trips to the cotton fields). Ordinary workers at the port are paid between 370 and 400 manats a month."
- "Coercion of public sector employees is systematic across the state, and this is evident from an audio recording (in turkmen.news' possession) of a staff meeting at a Turkmenabat school."
- "While at the staff meeting in a Turkmenabat school teachers were asked to "show some understanding and help with the cotton," the case was put more bluntly elsewhere: either agree to go cotton picking or to pay to hire someone else, or submit your resignation."

Turkmen.news. *Turkmenistan: Harsh Childhood in the State of Happiness. A turkmen.news film about child labor*. 2020.

<https://en.turkmen.news/human-rights/turkmenistan-child-labor-film/>

- "Children do still end up in the cotton fields too. Some replace their parents who are public sector workers, while others agree to go cotton-picking in place of teachers in order to earn some money. They don't pick cotton for the fun of it."

## Supplementary Sources

- [Cotton Campaign](#). *Recommendations for the 3rd cycle UPR of Turkmenistan: State-sponsored forced labour in the cotton sector and harassment and imprisonment of forced labour monitors*. 2017.
- [Alternative Turkmenistan News](#). *Turkmenistan: 2017 Findings of Forced Labor Monitoring during Cotton Harvesting*. 2018.
- [Verité](#). *Cotton Commodity Atlas*. 2020.
- [Radio Free Europe](#). *Children Back At Work In Turkmenistan's Cotton Fields*. 2013.

## YESS Annotated Bibliography

### Cotton Project Presence

BCI, Fair Trade, and GOTS do not operate in Turkmenistan

### Industry Stakeholder Presence

“HOME | ÇALIK Holding.” Calik.com, 2019. <https://www.calik.com/en/homepage>

- Calik Holding is one of the largest Turkish cotton traders with facilities in Turkmenistan. They are thought to be one of the companies bringing Turkmen cotton into the global market.

“List of Raw Cotton Companies in Turkmenistan.” Listcompany.org, 2020.

[https://www.listcompany.org/Raw\\_Cotton\\_In\\_Turkmenistan.html](https://www.listcompany.org/Raw_Cotton_In_Turkmenistan.html)

- Turkem companies- only a handful.

“T O B B -Yurtdışı İşbirliği Teklifleri.” Tobb.org.tr, 2020.

<https://tobb.org.tr/BilgiErisimMudurlugu/Sayfalar/KurulanKapananSirketistatistikleri.php>

- Government statistics on company establishment and liquidation.
- As of 2014, some companies include: Norsel, Cotam, Engin Group and Çalık Holding, Bisaş Tekstil



## Uzbekistan

### Summary

Information online regarding Uzbekistan is overwhelmingly about forced labor and the recent debate between ILO and the Uzbek-German Forum regarding whether government sponsored forced labor had been eradicated or not. Similarly to Turkmenistan, there is no project cotton currently, and it is difficult to find evidence of NGOs present in the country relating to cotton and forced labor, but information is available as to who is buying cotton from here.

#### Further research needed on:

Trader/Spinner/Ginner Information, enforcement of cotton project standards relating to FL/CL, more standards/projects operating there, contact information.

### Production and Exports

While most of the harvesting is done by hand (around 80%), all of the soil preparation is motorized. All cotton is grown from local seeds and generally sown in May (Information taken from the October 2017 Cotton Product Practices report from the International Cotton Advisory Committee).

The vast majority of cotton exported by Uzbekistan is in the form of “Cotton yarn other than sewing thread, containing >= 85% cotton by weight” (ITC Product Code 5205), at 393,245 tonnes exported in 2019, increasing from 2017 and 2018. This primarily goes to China, with Russia and Turkey as distant 2nd and 3rd export partners, respectively. Conversely, exports of raw cotton (5201) have decreased each year, totaling 159,436 tonnes in 2019. This is also largely exported to China, with Iran as a close 2nd. (See [ITC Trade Map](#), 2019)

Area harvested	Production (1000 tonnes)	Imports	Total Supply	Use (1000 tonnes)	Loss	Exports	Ending Stocks	Yield (Kg/Hectare)
1,085	692	<a href="#">0</a>	<a href="#">4,658</a>	592	<a href="#">0</a>	100	<a href="#">1,358</a>	637

Table 1: Summary data on Uzbekistan’s annual raw cotton lint supply and distribution as of 2019. Data in 1,000 480 lb bales, and 1,000 hectare. Data retrieved from 2019 Cotton Product Practices report from the International Cotton Advisory Committee unless otherwise linked.

#### **Uzbekistan exports its raw cotton to** (from [ITC Trade Map](#) 2019):

- China: 50.2%
- Islamic Republic of Iran: 40.1%
- Turkey: 4.5%
- Latvia: 2.1%

## YESS Annotated Bibliography

- Bangladesh: 1.4%
- Georgia: 1.2%

*Uzbekistan accounts for 1.8% of the world’s raw cotton exports, down from 3.4% in 2017. ([ITC Trade Map, 2019](#))*

**Uzbekistan exports its cotton yarn and sewing thread (HS 5204, 5205, 5207) to ([OECD Trade Data 2018](#)):**

- Switzerland: 23.6%
- China: 21.3%
- Russia: 15.6%
- Kazakhstan: 11.6%
- Turkey: 8.39%
- Afghanistan: 4.56%
- Kyrgyzstan: 2.4%
- Iran: 1.56%
- United Kingdom: 1.28%

Global Rankings: [Index Mundi](#)

Uzbekistan accounts for 1.9% of the world’s raw cotton exports ([ITC Trade Map 2019](#)).

Area harvested	Production	Export
6th	7th	32th

### Evidence Used to Determine High-Risk

U.S. State Department. *TIP Report - Uzbekistan. 2020.*

<https://www.state.gov/reports/2020-trafficking-in-persons-report/uzbekistan/>

- **Tier 2 Watch List:** "During 2019, the government continued to demand farmers and local officials fulfill state-assigned cotton production quotas or face penalties, which caused local officials to compel work in the annual cotton harvest. The ILO and observers noted the systemic mobilization of child labor was eliminated in the 2017 harvest, although isolated reports of the use of child labor continue."
- "local officials forced other groups of public employees to work in the cotton harvest when there was a lack of voluntary workers. International reports indicate some adults who refused to pick cotton, did not pay for a replacement worker, or did not fulfill their daily quota could face the loss of social benefits, termination of employment, or other forms of harassment."
- "Private companies in some regions mobilized employees for the harvest under the threat of increased government inspections of, and taxes on, their operations."

Uzbek German Forum. *Cotton Harvest in Uzbekistan. 2019.*

<https://www.uzbekforum.org/cotton-harvest-in-uzbekistan-2019/>

## YESS Annotated Bibliography

- "While most pickers work voluntarily, UGF documented cases of forced mobilization of public sector employees and extortion from employees to pay for replacement pickers. Except for large cities and some district centers, employees from all over the country complained that they were afraid to refuse to go to the fields themselves or to pay for someone to pick cotton instead of them when directed to do so by government officials or their employers."
- "The Uzbek government remained closely involved in cotton production, including privatized cotton clusters, and used coercion to meet quotas and production targets."
- "These employees had to pick cotton or pay for a replacement picker or face consequences at their jobs. Entrepreneurs and traders also had to pick cotton or pay money to contribute to the cost of the harvest or risk consequences with the tax inspectorate that could affect their businesses."

Uzbek German Forum. *Interim Findings on Uzbekistan's Cotton Harvest*. 2020.

<https://www.uzbekforum.org/interim-findings-on-uzbekistan-s-cotton-harvest-2020/>

- "Uzbek Forum monitors in Karakalpakstan, Fergana and Jizzakh have observed instances of children picking cotton. Independent activists have also documented child labor in Namangan, Tashkent, and Syrdarya. While it is not yet possible to assess the overall scale of child labor in this year's harvest, preliminary observations point to apparently more cases of child labor than in recent years, when only sporadic cases were identified."
- "Children are picking cotton together with their parents in the fields of farmers who are growing cotton for private textile clusters."
- "Employees of organizations who do not want to harvest cotton are required to hire cotton pickers in their place and are posting search announcements to find replacement pickers on various Telegram channels."
- "In an interview with Ozodlik, Bakhromova said that she had been publicly shamed for failing to recruit sufficient cotton pickers."

## Supplementary Sources

- [Uzbek German Forum](#). *We Pick Cotton Out of Fear*. 2018.
- [Verité](#). *Cotton Commodity Atlas*. 2020.
- [World Action Vision](#). *Forced Labor and Child Labor in the Cotton Industry*. 2012
- [Environmental Justice Foundation](#). *The Children Behind our Cotton*. 2007.
- [ILO](#). *Comments*. 2017.

## Cotton Project Presence

Bettercotton.org. "Frequently Asked Questions," 2020.

<https://bettercotton.org/about-bci/frequently-asked-questions/>

- "During the 2018-19 cotton season, the International Finance Corporation (IFC) launched an independent sustainable cotton project in Uzbekistan based on the Better Cotton Principles and Criteria, which are publicly available to whomever wishes to consult or apply them. BCI is encouraged by the progress that has been made through this project and has started participating in IFC's

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*Sustainable Cotton Project Consultative Council as an observer member, in order to encourage multi-stakeholder dialogue. The Consultative Council is a multi-stakeholder forum in Uzbekistan including the Uzbekistan Government, relevant line ministries and local authorities. Over the coming months BCI will increase its involvement in the IFC Cotton Project, participate in a Decent Work Working Group, and engage with the Uzbekistan Government. Once these activities are completed, BCI will determine if the appropriate conditions are in place to start the launch of the BCI new country start-up process.”*

Better Cotton, Fair Trade, and GOTS do not operate in Uzbekistan

### Industry Stakeholder Presence

“IFC Project on Sustainable Cotton Supply Chain Development in Uzbekistan Second Consultative Council Meeting,” February 28, 2019.

<https://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/f0ce0a83-8596-4dff-bf36-5b17d3137266/Communique-sustainable-cotton-supply-uzbekistan.pdf?MOD=AJPERES>

- Official summary from IFC and RSN about work being done in Uzbekistan.

“Uzbekistan: Forced Labor Associated with World Bank Projects.” Human Rights Watch, June 27, 2017.

<https://www.hrw.org/ru/news/2017/06/27/305696>

- The World Bank is funding half a billion dollars in agricultural projects linked to forced and child labor in Uzbekistan, Human Rights Watch and the Uzbek-German Forum for Human Rights said.

“Daewoo.” Daewootextile.com, 2009. <http://poscointltx.com/ethics>

- Largest textile company in Uzbekistan, originally a Korean company; their ethics page mentions nothing about social standards.

List of Raw Cotton Companies in Uzbekistan. Listcompany.org, 2019

[https://www.listcompany.org/Raw\\_Cotton\\_In\\_Uzbekistan.html](https://www.listcompany.org/Raw_Cotton_In_Uzbekistan.html)

- Needs to be researched further but a great list.

“Участники - Cotton Fair | XIII Международная Узбекская Хлопковая и Текстильная Ярмарка.” Cottonfair.uz, 2019.

<https://cottonfair.uz/participants/>

- Participant List of the Uzbek Cotton Forum, the list gives access to traders from around the world and where they are from.

“End Uzbek Cotton Crimes - Anti-Slavery International.” Anti-Slavery International, 2017.

<https://www.antislavery.org/take-action/campaigns/end-uzbek-cotton-crimes/>

- UK Charity working against unethical working conditions around the world; in Central Asia the focus is on cotton in Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan.

## YESS Annotated Bibliography

“Corruption and Human Rights Initiative.” Corruption and Human Rights Initiative, 2020.

<https://corruptionandhumanrights.org/>

- The Corruption and Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) is jointly convened by Ulster University, Queen Mary University of London, and a range of civil society organisations. CHRI is a forum for researchers and advocates to collaborate on a range of issues that sit at the interface between corruption and human rights.
- Working in Uzbekistan to fight against cotton corruption and forced labor.