



# Yarn Ethically & Sustainably Sourced

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# Agenda

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1. Quick Overview of YESS
2. Sponsorship Levels and Status
3. Pilot Project & Working Group
4. Timeline
5. Next Steps
6. Questions & Discussion





## YESS Mission

To implement industry-wide due diligence to empower and ensure spinners and mills eliminate cotton produced with forced labor from their value chains.



# Nine High-Risk Countries

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Moobol.com (China)

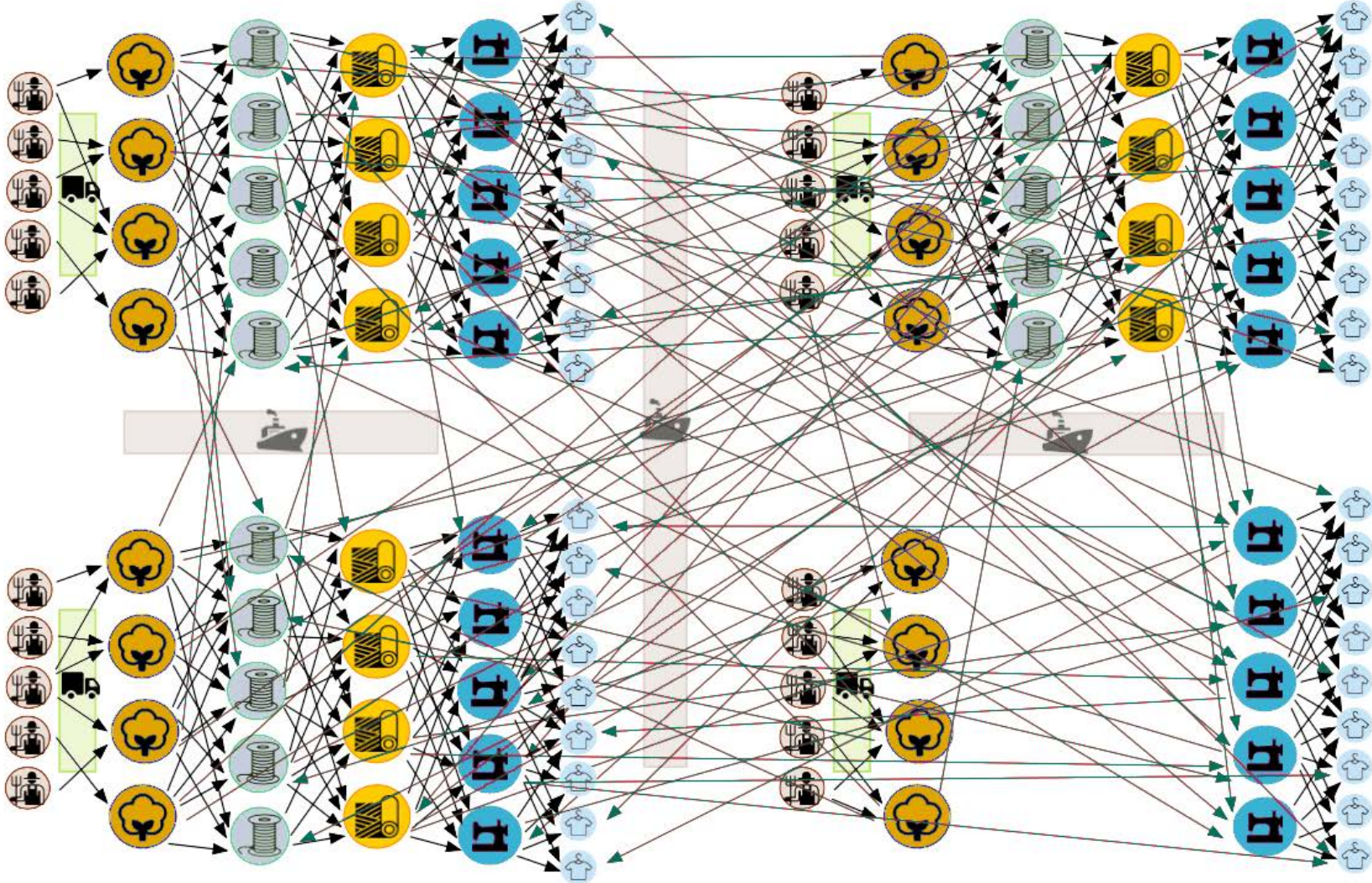


AsiaNews.it (Uzbekistan)

- Benin
- Burkina Faso
- China
- India
- Kazakhstan
- Pakistan
- Tajikistan
- Turkmenistan
- Uzbekistan



# Cotton's "Supply Web"





Traceability Lost



## SCOPE OF YESS

Cotton with a high-risk  
of being produced  
with forced labor

Low-risk cotton  
from BCI, CmiA, Fair Trade,  
and other initiatives

Conventional cotton  
with a low-risk  
of being produced  
with forced labor

Cotton accepted at YESS-verified  
spinning mills



# Scope of YESS

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## What YESS Does

- ❑ Capacity building and support to implement a risk-based due diligence approach
- ❑ Focus on management systems and material control systems
- ❑ Ensure reconciliation of all cotton inputs within the facility
- ❑ Annually assess if spinners and mills are conformant with the YESS Standard to avoid cotton that has a high-risk of involving forced labor

## What YESS Does Not Do

- ❑ Look at all human rights issues in cotton fields
- ❑ Identify and address labor conditions inside a cotton processing facility (ginning, spinning, weaving, or knitting)
- ❑ Create a check-the-box audit or a code of conduct
- ❑ Certify product or facility



# YESS Sponsorship Levels & Benefits

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## Pilot Sponsor (Fulfilled for 2021)

- Contribute \$60,000
- Participation in the YESS Pilot Project Team; Training, support, and remote and onsite pilot assessments of two nominated spinners/mills
- Online trainings on the YESS Standards and due diligence; and Select in-person training(s)
- Pilot Assessment Summary of Findings
- Invitation to participate in the YESS Implementation Working Group; and Access to quarterly updates

## Ambassador

- Contribute \$7,500 - \$20,000
- Online trainings; and Select in-person training(s) (per availability)
- Pilot Assessment Summary of Findings
- Eligible to participate in the YESS Implementation Working Group; and Access to quarterly updates

## Supporter

- Contribute \$4,500 - \$7,000
- Online trainings
- Access to quarterly updates

# YESS 2021 Work Streams

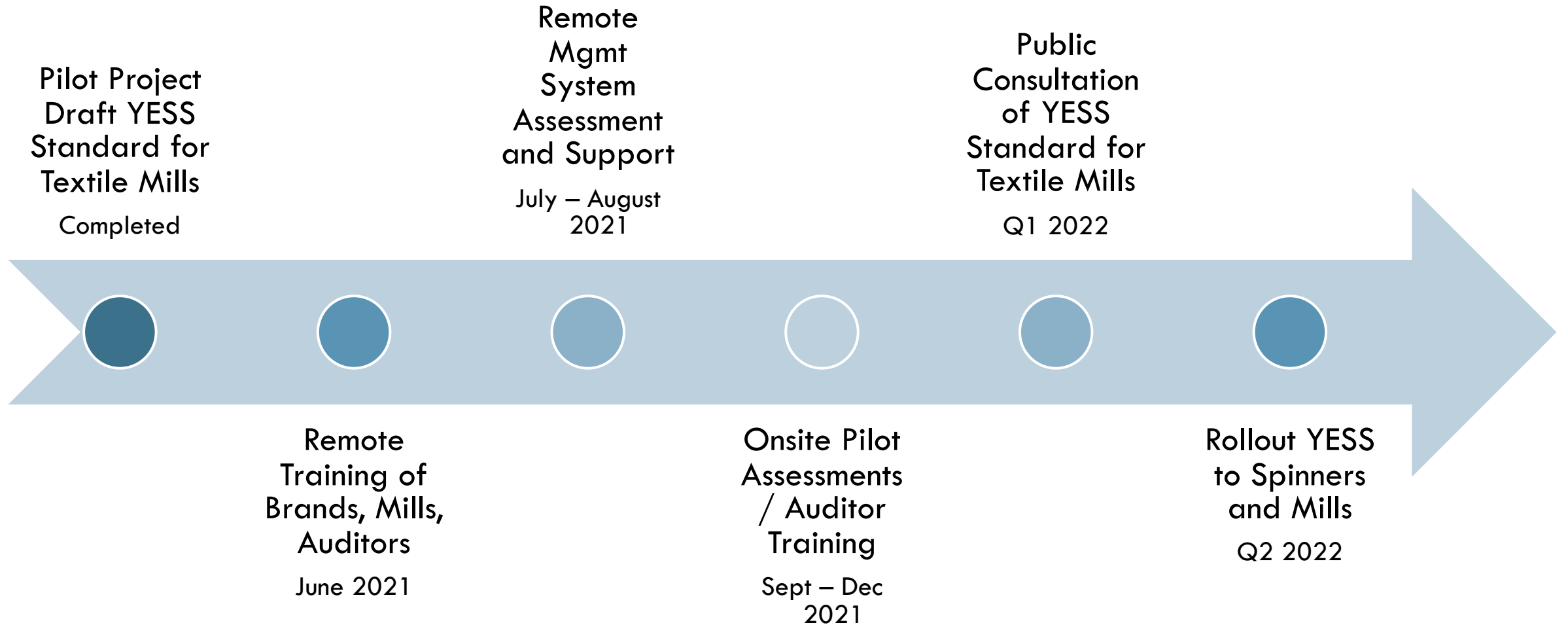
	YESS Pilot Project	YESS Implementation
<b>Goals</b>	<p>Pilot YESS Standard for Textile Mills (and inform standard adjustments or industry implementation)</p> <p>Pilot YESS Standard for Spinners (TBD)</p> <p>Develop and pilot trainings and resources</p>	<p>Design and begin building the YESS Initiative, a multi-stakeholder program that will oversee the implementation of the YESS Standards</p> <p>Collaboration and coordination with other initiatives; focus on sustainability, scalability, efficiencies</p>
<b>RSN Lead</b>	Liz	Patricia
<b>Terminology</b>	Pilot Project Team	Implementation Working Group
<b>Members</b>	<p>5 brands + nominated mills / spinners</p> <p>Audit firms to participate in parallel</p>	Brands, mills, spinners, industry experts, audit firms, NGOs, MSIs



# 2021 YESS Action Plan Timeline\*

\*With timely funding and pandemic improvements

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# Pilot Project Plan

Activity Description	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
<b>Planning</b>	[Gantt bar: February to May]										
Nominate mills, enlist audit firms	[Gantt bar: February to March]										
Introduce YESS to Spinners / Textile Mills	[Gantt bar: March to April]										
<b>Create YESS Elements</b>	[Gantt bar: February to May]										
Establish auditor qualifications, application, protocol	[Gantt bar: February to March]										
Create Trainings & Knowledge Assesments	[Gantt bar: March to May]										
Develop Resources and Tools	[Gantt bar: March to April]										
<b>Train Brands, Mills/Spinners, Auditors</b>	[Gantt bar: June to July]										
Present 5-part <b>textile mill</b> training webinars & resources	[Gantt bar: June to July]										
Present 5-part <b>spinner</b> training webinars & resources	[Gantt bar: June to July]										
<b>Conduct Desktop Assessments</b>	[Gantt bar: July to August]										
Introduce the desktop assessment to spinners and mills	[Gantt bar: July to August]										
Support spinners / mills establish due dilgence system	[Gantt bar: July to August]										
Conduct Desktop Assessments	[Gantt bar: July to August]										
<b>Conduct Onsite Assessments</b>	[Gantt bar: August to December]										
Train auditors on assessment protocol	[Gantt bar: August to September]										
Confirm onsite assessment logistics	[Gantt bar: August to September]										
Prepare in-person training	[Gantt bar: August to September]										
Present 1/2 day in-person training	[Gantt bar: August to September]										
Conduct Onsite Assessments	[Gantt bar: August to December]										
Report on Desktop Assessment Findings and CAPs	[Gantt bar: October to December]										



# Standards Review

	<b>YESS Standard for Spinners</b>	<b>YESS Standard for Textile Mills</b>
<b>Status</b>	Published	Draft for Pilot Project
<b>Scope</b>	Cotton lint at spinners	Cotton yarn at textile mills Includes cotton lint contained within yarn (full traceability if not spun by a YESS conformant spinner)
<b>High-risk source</b>	To be determined by spinner, but must include the nine high-risk countries identified by YESS  Fiber from reclaimed yarn or textile from YESS non-conformant spinners or mills	Any spinner (or textile mill) that is not YESS-conformant (including reclaimed yarn or textile), OR  To be determined by textile mill (and must include spinners in countries that import or consume cotton from RSN's list of nine high-risk countries for cotton lint)

# Implementation Working Group (IWG)

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## **Participants**

- Brands and retailers
- Spinners and textile mills
- Regional and industry experts; audit firms
- MSIs and NGOs

## **Objectives**

- Design an industry-wide program to empower and ensure spinners and mills eliminate cotton produced with forced labor from their value chains.
- Build support from stakeholders to achieve a harmonized approach to spinner engagement, assessment, and verification.
- Create a due diligence system that is sustainable, scalable, and efficient.



# IWG Sub-groups

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## Forced Labor Assessment / High-risk Regions / Farm-level Initiatives

- Support for / fine-tuning “high-risk,” determine criteria for credible cotton production

## Assessments / Auditors

- Management and scaling of credible auditors (remote & in-person)

## Continuous Improvement / Capacity Building

- Training, risk-readiness screen, on-boarding, in-person assessment

## Integrity, Governance and Collaboration

- Transparency, leadership, structure, coordination

## Financial Sustainability / Scalability

- Revenue structure, foundational support, efficiencies

## Technology

- Data back-end, access, e-learning, coordination with tech tools

# YESS Initiative and IWG Next Steps

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1. Finalize Pilot-level & Ambassador-level sponsors; Press Release
2. Determine IWG participants and sub-group leads
3. Project plans
4. Outreach and collaboration with key business initiatives
5. Quarterly update calls
6. Refine 3-5 year business plan



# Thank You for your interest in YESS!

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Responsible Sourcing Network

[sourcingnetwork.org/yess](https://sourcingnetwork.org/yess)

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