



UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION



The Textile Industry – Sustainability and Inclusivity at its Core

CONTEXT

From the farm to the consumer, the textile, retail, and apparel production industry has a lot of economic, environmental and social impacts. The textile industry is also a large manufacturing sector globally, employing more than 75 million people (mostly women). The sector contributes to \$2.4 trillion to global manufacturing and the market size is worth \$1412.5 billion.

Fashion became a complex business involving long supply chains of production – from raw material, textile manufacturing, clothing construction, shipping, retail, use and ultimately disposal of the garment. Innovation in the way clothes are made has not kept pace with the acceleration of how they are designed, made and marketed. Therefore, textile innovations and recycling processes can play a major role in the development of a more sustainable future of fashion.

APPROACH

UNIDO supports all stakeholders in the textile value chain: from producers of raw materials to workers, manufacturers, service providers as well as supporting institutions and policy makers. UNIDO provides a

combination of services including capacity building, advice on adequate technology, product diversification, identification of market opportunities, investment promotion and policy support. UNIDO initiatives are promoting sustainability, inclusiveness and innovation along the value chain, adopting a market driven approach.

Some initiatives of the organization in the textile industry include, for example, the strategic cooperation with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC), China National Textile and Apparel Council (CNTAC) and Ethiopian Textile Industry Development Institute (ETIDI) to ensure sustainability in Ethiopia's textile and garment sector and to promote export, by providing comprehensive technical support to the Ethiopian government. UNIDO also plays an important role in the development of the cotton textile industry in Egypt, by supporting the revival of the famous Egyptian cotton improving the economic, social and environmental performance of cotton growers and processors, strengthening support institutions and partnering with local private sector, international brands and retailers.

WORKING TOWARDS



GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

GLOBAL



PARTNERS

Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, ITFC, GIZ

Other UN agencies: UNGC, ILO, UNECE, WTO



FOCUS AREAS



- Partnerships
- Sustainability
- Gender equality



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FROM COTTON SEEDS TO CLOTHING: ENHANCING THE SUSTAINABILITY, INCLUSIVENESS AND VALUE ADDITION OF THE COTTON VALUE CHAIN IN EGYPT

The Egyptian cotton is among the finest and most lustrous varieties and the highest quality fibre. Egypt's textile industry has historically been considered of paramount importance to the country and its economy. Nonetheless, Egypt still plays a marginal role in the global textile value chain as its textile industry is highly fragmented and its textile products do not meet the needs of the international market.

The Egyptian Cotton project aims to enhance the sustainability, inclusiveness and value addition of the Egyptian cotton value chain by providing technical assistance to

the local stakeholders, including cotton growers, processors and public sector and connecting them with relevant international players, including international brands and retailers as well as recognized certification schemes specialized in cotton, such as the Better Cotton initiative.

The Egyptian Cotton project prioritizes enhancing the overall living standards of workers along the cotton production chain, promoting gender equality, bridging the talent gap in the market, and introducing entrepreneurship competencies in schools leading to employment opportunities.

“The UNIDO’s Egyptian Cotton Project by enhancing the availability of high quality and sustainable cotton is an important initiative for Hugo Boss to achieve its sourcing strategy for more responsible materials”

Mr. Heinz Zeller,
Head of Sustainability and Logistics at HUGO BOSS Ticino

“Sustainability is a must for everybody: it is a win-win situation.”

Mona Kassem, Export Manager at Alkan Mohamed Nosseir for Trading and Industry



Project video

BCI country start-up
launched in Egypt in 2020

3628

cotton growers licensed
BCI (about 7,000
growers reached)



10% increased yield and
20% less water use for
trained cotton growers



34
Technicians from 17 firms
certified ZDHC

LCA on denim recycle
mixed with virgin Egyptian
cotton



250,000 USD
Leverage investments on
sustainability