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Non-Conventional Fibres Industry Gets Its Own Representative Body - NCFA

Non-Conventional Fibres Association Urges Maha Govt. To Include Machines Specific To NCF In New Textile Policy

The newly formed Non-Conventional Fibres Association (NCFA), with its aim of promoting the production and consumption of sustainable, non-conventional fibres, has made a strong representation to the government for addressing some of the obvious omissions in the textile policies and schemes that have been holding back the adoption of these fibres in mainstream textile industry in India.

NCFA team – Aditya Mody – President, S.K. Gupta – Vice President, Dr G.S. Nadiger – General Secretary – met with the Textiles Secretary, Government of Maharashtra, to give their recommendations for the new Maharashtra State Textile Policy 2023-28.

NCFA underlined the need for publishing the list of machines specific to the processing and wet spinning of flax/linen (which comes under non-conventional fibres). According to Aditya Mody, "These machines are either completely missing, or appear under inapplicable chapters, in both the RR-TUF and A-TUF schemes for capital subsidy under the current Textile Policy 2018-23, thus making these machines ineligible for the subsidy."

The NCFA has identified 12 machines that miss out on the capital subsidy. "We have requested the ministry to introduce the appropriate clause for listing these additional machines specific to processing and wet spinning of non-conventional fibres," said Mody.

The Indian government has adopted a `Focus Fibre Focus State' (FFFS) approach for development of sustainable, natural fibres in the country. Tamil Nadu has been identified for banana fibre development, Tripura for pineapple fibre, Orissa for sisal fibre, Uttarakhand for hemp/nettle and Madhya Pradesh for flax.

"We have pointed out that Maharashtra has the potential to develop all these natural fibres too. In fact, the Maharashtra State Textiles Policy

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Non-Conventional Fibres Industry Gets Its Own...

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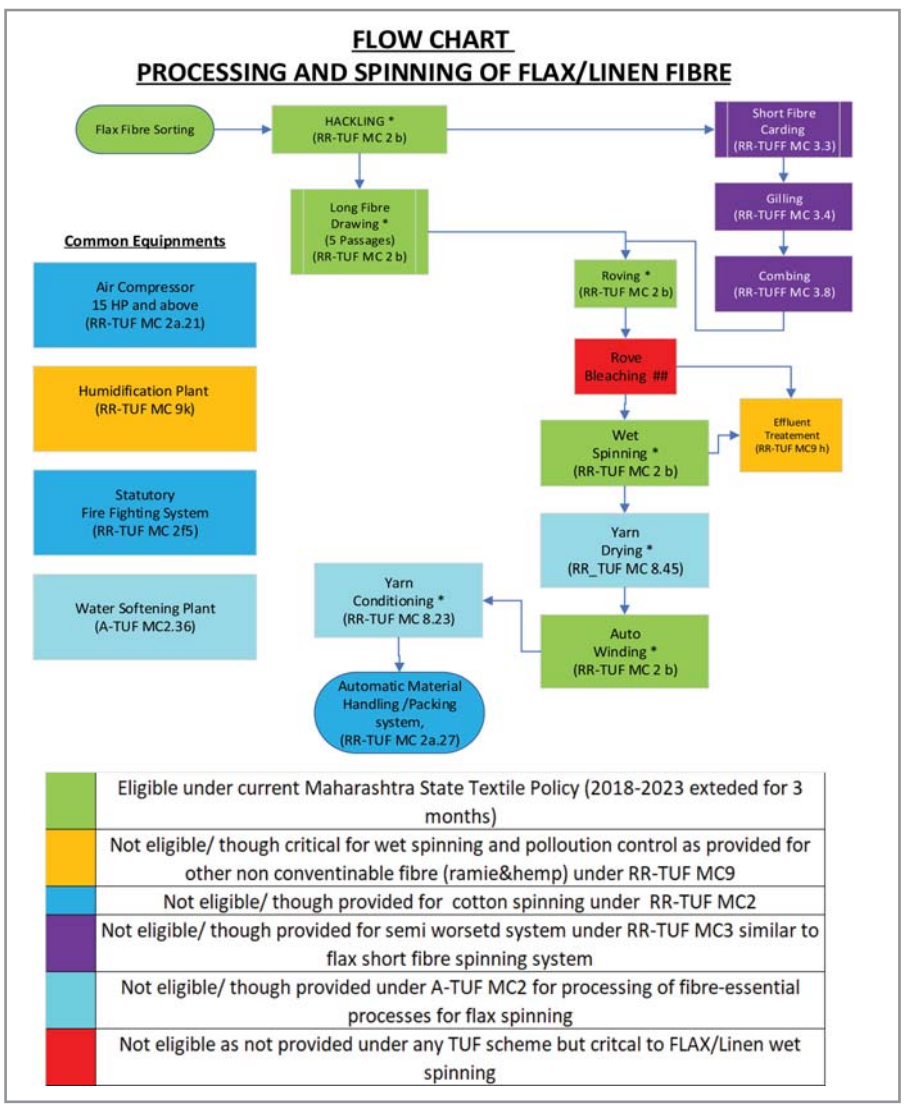
(2017-2023) had thus stipulated the above class of fibres as `non-conventional fibres' for planned development," he stated.

According to research on flax fibre by NCFA, from 2022 onwards, Asia has begun playing an important role in flax fibre investments worldwide, even as Europe remains a leader in flax fibre production. Surprisingly, Ethiopia too is emerging an important player in flax fibre.

Flax/linen is the most widely used of non-conventional fibres in the global textile and clothing industry. Fortunately, other non-conventional fibres too are garnering the attention of the industry.

Says Aditya, "Last year I planned to set up a spinning unit for non-conventional fibres but faced some policy level impediments. While there are organisations dedicated to promoting specific fibres, there is none that actually promotes all non-conventional fibres and their applications. That made me think about the need for an organisation like NCFA to deal with issues related to the non-conventional fibre industry and promote its applications. NCFA symbolises the coming of age of the non-conventional fibre industry."



Said S.K. Gupta, Vice-President of NCFA, and a textile industry veteran, "Formation of NCFA couldn't have been more timely as it coincides with the accelerated global pursuit for environmental protection and sustainability. I am confident that this association would be instrumental in developing and growing this sector as enshrined in its statement of objectives."

Said Dr. Nadiger, "Awareness of, and demand for non-conventional fibres is inching ahead. These non-conventional fibres can help the textile industry become more sustainable, while effectively utilising the agro byproducts. Moreover, most of these fibres have inherent functional properties, doing away with the need for chemical applications. The NCFA is a platform for like-minded people with a vision to harness the advantages of these fibres."

One of NCFA's main objectives is to promote and grow production and consumption of non-conventional, plant-based fibres, and to support all initiatives that pursue similar mission. NCFA will work closely with other associations and organisation for the same, and more importantly with the agriculture sector and research institute to develop quality fibres and testing facilities. ■

India's Potential To Bring Textile Waste Back Into Apparel Supply Chain

At the end of 2021 the Sorting for Circularity-India project was launched. Led by Fashion for Good and funded by Laudes Foundation, Reverse Resources has been the key partner to help mapping out the textile waste flows in India with its SaaS platform.

From 2019-2020, the Indian textile and apparel industry was valued at US$ 108.5 billion, forming 2% of total GDP, 12% of total exports. In addition to being an important stakeholder in textile and fashion production, India is also one of the few and largest mechanical recycling hubs in the world, with over 900 recycling units. While India possesses a huge mechanical recycling infrastructure and potential, the country has not been able to establish the complete circularity of textile wastes.

Approximately 7,793 ktons, or 8.5% of global textile waste, is accumulated in India every year. Fifty-nine percent of this waste finds its way back into the textile industry through reuse and recycling but only a fraction of this makes it back into the high-end global supply chains due to quality and visibility challenges. The remaining 41% is downcycled (19%), incinerated (5%) or ends up in a landfill (17%).

Out of total waste circulation, 51% comes from domestic post-consumer collection, 42% from pre-consumer

sources, and only 7% is imported post-consumer waste. The space where RR is currently most active in - helping textile-to-textile recyclers access cutting scraps from garment production transparently, or find post-consumer sorted by exact fibre composition - is quite similar to other countries in terms of being rather inefficient, says RR.

Majority of recycling is built up on the use of soft fibre waste from fabric production - the easiest type of waste that can be used by recyclers. This has been part of the fabric production practices since long because adding a share of recycled fibre into the products helps reduce the cost of yarn and fabric production rather efficiently.

While 46% of pre-consumer waste is being recycled, around 86% of this waste consists of fibre waste, while 10% consists of cutting waste, and the remaining 4% is from mill waste. This clearly highlights that a large percentage of cutting waste is going into other uses.

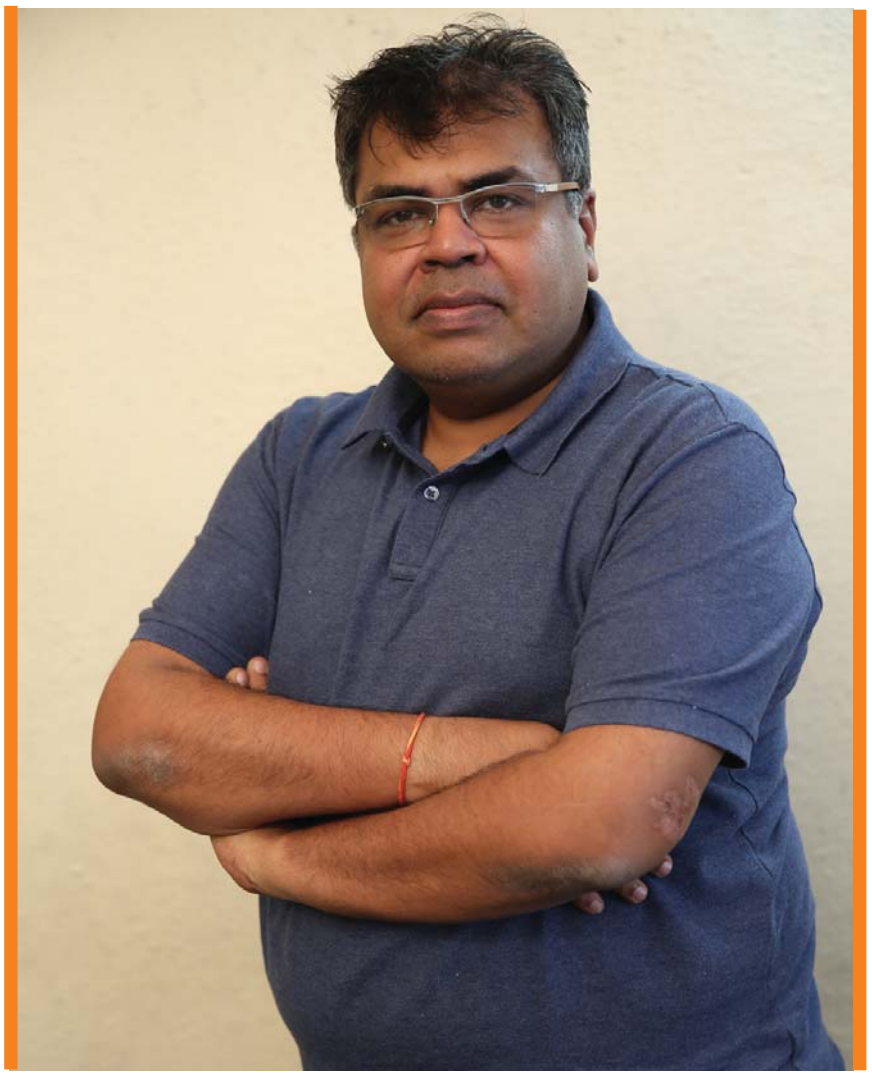
And around 60% of waste is made of cotton and cotton rich materials, making these materials highly valuable for the emerging textile-to-textile recycling sector globally.

Reverse Resources has been active in India to help connect waste from garment production straight with recyclers, skipping steps in the process when moving through the middlemen, and thereby reducing the cost of sourcing for recyclers along with providing transparency for the large brands. "By now there are 27 garment factories registering their waste volumes on to RR platform in real time and five recyclers sourcing waste through us in India," RR claims.

"As part of the next phase of the Sorting for Circularity we are conducting pilots with six large brands in the country to trace their share of waste moving from factories to recycling. And we are very excited to also start piloting with trace of post-consumer waste to recycling," said RR. ■

‘NCFA Symbolises The Coming Of Age Of The Non-Conventional Fibre Industry’

Reena Mital



Aditya Mody,
President, NCFA

Non-conventional fibres are attracting the attention of the textile consumer and producer. However, the adoption of such fibres in mainstream textile industry has been slow for a number of reasons – lack of accurate technical information, market information. To address every aspect of the business of non-conventional fibres for the textile industry, the **Non-Conventional Fibres Association** was formed earlier this year. In an exclusive interview, **Aditya Mody, President, NCFA** talks about the organisation’s mission of helping the industry and the consumer go green.

What inspired you to start an association like NCFA?

Today, the exploitation of nature by man has descended into abuse. Mother Earth is our source of energy, and abusing it will only lead to degradation of our surroundings and depletion of our resource pool. Every aspect of production and disposal takes energy, and the way to the sustainability of Mother Earth is to reduce our demands on it.

On a scale of preference, natural fibres are better than today’s conventional fibres, but the most sustainable and eco-friendly form of fibres are the non-conventional ones, the ones derived from agrowaste, or are plant-based. Beyond sustainability and eco-friendliness, non-conventional fibres offer distinct and unique advantages.

Last year I planned to set up a spinning unit for non-conventional fibres but faced some policy level impediments. While there are organisations dedicated to promoting specific fibres, there is none that actually promote ALL non-conventional fibres and their applications.

That made me think about the need for an organisation like NCFA to deal with issues related to the non-conventional fibre industry and promote its applications.

NCFA symbolises the coming of age of the non-conventional fibre industry.

We aim to connect conventional fibre farmers and consumers as producers and marketers.

In doing so, we will help restore our damaged ecosystems, alleviate farmers' earnings, and combat climate change. Moreover, India is blessed with a large volume of cultivable and fertile land, some of which can be diverted towards producing non-conventional fibres.

How do you propose introducing non-conventional fibres to the industry? Also, there is a mindset that the technology for these fibres is not readily available, and there is a small market for such textiles. How do you propose to change this mindset?

Non-conventional fibres offer several benefits compared to conventional fibres. These fibres are easy to recycle and cause less damage to Mother Earth. India already has farmers who produce non-conventional fibres. The Indian government under PM Narendra Modi has articulated its intent under the Grow in India Policy to promote using such fibres. We - industry and farmers - must take the initiative ahead. Given the rising environmental consciousness of our consumers, there is reason to believe they would buy such products once they know the benefits. I remember hearing a speaker in an industry forum stating that nearly 80% of oceanic plastic pollution originates from synthetic fibre. Any move that reduces this pollution while fulfilling our utility will be welcome. Governments all over the world are yet grappling with the difficulties and expenses of recycling synthetic fibres. So introducing easy to recycle and sustainable fibres will find a ready reception. On the demand side, I firmly believe that the availability and variety of fibres dictate the choice. I have experienced how the availability and promotion of non-conventional fibres lead to their demand and consumption in international markets, and there is no reason to believe that the Indian market will behave differently.

This is a massive task in front of you. What are your targets for the first two years?

I do not see this as a task but an ongoing initiative to promote the production and use of eco-friendly and sustainable fibres. In doing so, all stakeholders in the value chain – from farmers to textile producers and consumers will benefit, along with Mother Earth. The possibilities are unlimited, given the variety of non-conventional fibres and the possibility of blending these with other fibres. Moreover, we have environmentally conscious consumers who actively opt for and adopt green energy and eco-friendly choices. Moreover, non-conventional fibres are an ideal fit into the 3R approach to life - Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.

Your message to the industry?

I Invite all of you to join NCFA and next time you are shopping, consider not only the price tag and the way clothes look but also the material that the item is made from. Treat yourself and the Planet right. ■

Siddhi Knitfab Invests In Best In Class Textile Machines

Plans afoot for next phase of capacity expansion.

A new entrant in the Indian textile industry – Siddhi Knitfab Pvt. Ltd. is a company with a very clear vision and mission. The company has set up state-of-the-art spinning and processing unit, with major expansion plans in the near future.

In an exclusive interaction with Textile Excellence, Rajkumar Basotia, Director, Siddhi Knitfab said, "Currently we have a capacity of producing 20 tons of dyed and printed knit fabrics per day. We have very modern machines – Bruckner stenters for auto dosing and dyeing; relaxed dryers and compactors from Santex Rimar. We have the latest 12-colour printers from EFI Reggiani; loop steamers from Salvade. I am proud to say that in this area of knit processing we are the only ones to have invested in these steamers."

Siddhi believes in investing only in the best of technologies, and is contemplating knitting machines from Mayer & Cie and Fukuhara, a total of 100 machines, in the near future.

As the company's high-end production takes off, the facilities were visited by Regina Brueckner, owner of Brueckner Textile Technologies, Germany, accompanied by Siddhi Group Director Jay Parikh. "I am very happy and grateful to be here to experience the Siddhi facilities in Gujarat. This is a very modern, clean, visionary and well-managed set-up. It is seldom that we get to see something like this," said Mrs. Brueckner.

Regina Brueckner gets a guided tour of Siddhi Knitfab's facility in Gujarat, by Raj Basotia (L) and Jay Parikh (R). This is one of the most modern and well-managed set-ups in the textile industry.

Further talking about her company's experience of partnering with Siddhi Knitfab, she said: "We are happy that we have partners like Siddhi in India, who have such a great and clear vision of where they want to be. Our machines are among the most productive machines in the industry. Brueckner has been talking sustainability with customers for many years, even before sustainability became an important buzzword. And here is a company that understands the need to invest in the best technologies."

Rajkumar Basotia echoed these credentials. "Brueckner is the number one company in stenters in the world. When you talk of fabric finishing, the combination of Brueckner stenter and Santex compactors is the best in the world. In fabric, finishing is extremely important. And Brueckner delivers seamlessly, every time. Looking at the fashion trend, most of the fabric is now blended with lycra. So for lycra you have to heat-set the fabric. With Brueckner stenters, we have excellent production, great finishing and amazing heatsetting."

For Brueckner, sustainability, and improving the production efficiency of customers is paramount. "We have been doing some exemplary work in energy savings. We have helped some European customers - we measured their energy input and output, and gave them tips on how to improve energy efficiency. We have technologists who help our customers to improve their old machine settings and this is something that is really helping them to reduce their energy consumption by a big margin. We will showcase this during ITMA 2023 - how to improve your digital settings and improve your manufacturing with our machines."

Not just this, the company is looking at different ways of heating in the stenters. "For instance, we now have a lot of machines that use photo voltaic technologies for heating, we are also looking at hydrogen heating, the focus being on cleaner ways to run our machines. In the end it is about using as little energy as possible per meter of fabric."

Siddhi will be looking at more stenter installations once it achieves its optimal capacity of 600 tons of production per month. "We have already purchased land for the next phase of expansion, which will be 100 knitting machines, and some more stenters. We already have a 25,000 spindle spinning unit. In the next phase of expansion, we will also go for bedsheeting, 100% digital printing, continuous dyeing lines, as always the best in class technologies. With these investments, we will become a vertically integrated composite unit."

Rajkumar Basotia will visit ITMA 2023 alongwith his team. "At this ITMA, our main aim is to scout for mechanical finishing machines, look at the latest developments in mechanical finishing, from companies like Mario Crosta, and others." ■

INVISTA Works With Mobideo To Improve Turnaround Management

Global manufacturer INVISTA's Victoria, Texas, facility experienced the power of digitalization when working with industrial software company Mobideo, said INVISTA Turnaround Execution Coordinator Michael Goranson.

One of the challenges the facility had been dealing with was not having real-time visibility, Goranson explained.

"Because the term 'real time' is thrown around loosely, Mobideo defines it as following events as close to the work as possible by tracking the person who's actually doing the work; tracking when the event is completed; or tracking that the work's actually going on," said North America Mobideo President Daniel Goulet. "An example of that is a simple schedule update in which the person who is doing the work uses the app to say 'Hey this work is complete,' which is more real time then a foreman coming to the scheduler at the end of the shift and saying this is the work that was done today, update this manually."

"Being able to have that real-time data and have an official awareness to monitor key decision making was crucial for INVISTA," Goulet said.

Mobideo's work package software offers a suite of digital applications used in turnarounds, for job package tracking, workforce communication, auditing, material packaging and tracking, form management, buildouts, permitting and geolocation capabilities.

Since Mobideo's software is designed for mobile use, real-time updates improve scheduling as lag time in data entry becomes obsolete. With a smart device, workers gain the ability to update schedules in the field instantaneously after completing a task.

With that same smart device, all areas of the turnaround can be opened to the user, such as using the turnaround work package to log environmental, health and safety auditing conducted in the field. Pictures, drawings and specifications can additionally be accessed using the app. Making the hike from one plant block to another to access needed information is no longer necessary.

"Mobideo's mobile application serves with such success due to its ability to be customized on various levels," said Goulet. "While turnarounds include multiple jobs taking place simultaneously, Mobideo accommodates all in real time representation."

While supply chain issues and inflationary fears influence a rise in material costs, efficiency drives profitability and Goranson believes that Mobideo's software enabled efficiency by reducing operating costs and decreasing bottlenecks in completing processes. ■

Only 26 Of 98 Textile Parks Sanctioned By Govt. Since 2005 Completed: CAG Report

Of the 98 integrated textile parks sanctioned by the government since 2005, only 26 have been completed, with 30 parks still under construction and 42 having been cancelled, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India has found.

A CAG report tabled in Parliament, disclosed that the government released grants totalling Rs 1,593 crore for these 98 parks. It pointed out that the parks — envisaged to be attractive destinations for investment and job creation — have fallen well short of all of their targets. "Out of the 98 sanctioned parks, only 26 parks (26.53%) had been considered as 'completed' as of February 2022," it said. "Of the remaining 72, 30 parks (30.61%) were ongoing while 42 parks (42.86%) had been cancelled."

Of the Rs 1,593 crore released, Rs 688.03 crore were released for parks that still haven't been completed or that were outright cancelled.

"During the 10th Plan period (2005-07), it was envisaged to complete 25 parks in around 18 months," the report said. "The scheduled time for completion for parks sanctioned during the 11th Plan period (2007-12) was kept as 24 months from the first release of grants by the Government of India. Further, during the 12th Plan period (2012-17), the completion period for the parks was estimated to be three years."

Of the 30 parks where work is ongoing, five were commissioned between 2005 and 2007, which means they are at least 25 years past their deadlines. Ten of the currently-ongoing projects were sanctioned during the 11th Plan, putting them about nine years past their deadlines. By this calculation, the 15 ongoing projects sanctioned in the 12th Plan are at least three years overdue.

The CAG said that the major reasons for delay in completion of parks were delays in obtaining statutory clearances, issues related to land allotment for the parks and the weak financial strength of the Special Purpose Vehicles created for the parks.

As a result of the delays and the cancellations of projects, the various targets set for the projects in terms of employment generation, investments and the setting up of textile units all remained unmet by a substantial degree.

"There was a huge shortfall in achievement of targets by the parks sanctioned under the Scheme," the CAG said. "Even after a lapse of 16 years from the inception of the Scheme, the actual achievement of the 56 completed/ongoing parks (audited by the CAG) was 30% in terms of employment generation, 50% in terms of investments and 37% in terms of setting-up of textile units, as against the targets set in the detailed project reports of the parks," it pointed out.

Karnataka launches Kalaburagi Mega Textile Park under PM-MITRA Scheme

Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj laid the foundation stone for Karnataka's mega textile park at Kalaburagi district that will be set up under the PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel (PM MITRA) scheme. The mega textile park will come up on 1,550 acres of land, and the total cost of the infrastructure development of the park will be Rs 1,834 crore. ■

Market Intelligence Reports

Textile Commodity Prices

Products	12-Feb-23	28-Feb-23	12-Mar-23	28-Mar-23	% Change
Brent	85.6	81.2	86.2	75.8	-12.1
PTA	83.1	81.2	81.2	84.9	4.6
MEG	57.1	57.1	56.5	56.5	0.0
PFY					
POY 130/34	111	109	108	109	0.6
POY 250/34	104	102	101	102	0.9
FDY 70/34	130	128	127	128	0.5
FDY 70/72	132	130	129	130	0.7
FDY 100/48	124	122	121	122	0.9
80 roto	129	127	125	127	1.2
80 Tex	125	123	122	123	1.0
80/108	131	129	128	129	0.6
150 roto	122	120	119	120	0.7
150 tex	121	119	116	118	1.4
150/108	124	122	120	121	0.8
50 flat	139	137	134	136	1.1
75 flat	131	129	127	128	0.5
150/48 Flat	121	119	116	118	1.4
Nylon					
20/1 den	330	330	330	330	0.0
44 den	280	280	280	280	0.0
70 den	260	260	260	260	0.0
PSF					
1.4 den	106	106	106	106	0.0
1.2/1.0 den	106	106	106	106	0.0
Cotton price/candy*=355.62 kgs					
Beng Desi (RG)	63800	63900	63900	66100	3.4
Beng Desi (SG)	64300	64400	64400	66600	3.4
V797	46400	47500	45800	45500	-0.7
Jaydhar					
J-34	59600	61000	59300	58100	-2.0
H4/ Mech 1	61100	61200	60200	59000	-2.0
Shankar 6	62000	61600	60500	59500	-1.7
Bunny/ Brah	62400	62500	61300	60100	-2.0
DCH-32	71000	71500	71500	70300	-1.7
Spun yarn					
30s p/c (65/35)	205	205	205	204	-0.5
40s p/c (65/35)	204	204	204	203	-0.5
40s p/v (65/35)	217	217	217	215	-0.9
45s p/v (65/35)	220	220	220	219	-0.5
20s carded	160	160	160	158	-1.3
30s carded	198	198	198	198	0.0
40s carded	242	242	242	242	0.0
40s combed	265	265	265	264	-0.4
60s combed	305	305	305	305	0.0

Cotton Insights

Six Chinese Cotton Firms Bestowed 'Sustainable Cotton Production' Certificates

A total of six Chinese cotton manufacturers were awarded with the first batch of sustainable cotton production certificates by the Cotton China Sustainable Development Program (CCDS), marking a new push to phase in China's first homegrown independent certification and evaluation system on standardising cotton products.

The six companies include China National Cotton Group, Xinjiang Cotton Limited Company, Xinjiang Lihua Group, Hubei Yinfeng Cotton, Xinjiang Guoxin Seed Industry Co, Xinjiang Guotai Cotton Industry Co and Xinjiang Jiashenghua Cotton Industry Co.

They were presented with the certificates at a press conference titled "Sustainable Cotton - The Promise Begins In The Cotton Field" held during China International Fashion Fair 2023.

With the goal of "producing and promoting sustainable cotton," it holds the principles of "environmentally friendly, excellent quality, respect for labour and fully traceable," and aims to establish the brand reputation of China sustainable cotton, Wang Jiandong, vice chairman and secretary general of the CCA, said at the press conference.

Wang further stated that to date a total of eight producers, 13 supply chain enterprises and nine brands have participated in CCDS. And the new program has commissioned relevant companies to complete online and offline review and certification work on 1.2 million mu (80,000hectares) of cotton fields, and 170,000 tons of cotton were identified as "sustainable under the standard".

The management committee of CCSD was established last week at the conference. The committee is made up of 15 members, all from cotton and textile industries, research institutes, organisations and company representatives across the country.

"China's cotton production and consumption are ranked No.1 in the world, and the quality of Xinjiang cotton is not inferior to cotton grown elsewhere. But in terms of high-quality development, Chinese cotton still has a long way to go and it is hoped that [the new program] will help boost Chinese cotton output from seeding, plantation, manufacturing, to production," Li Jianquan, founder of Purcotton, said. Li also serves as the rotating chairman of CCSD.

In 2022, China's cotton output reached 246,000 tons, up 4.3% year-on-year, data from the National Bureau of Statistics showed. ■

CAI Further Reduces Cotton Crop Estimate To 313 Lakh Bales For 2022-23 Season

Cotton Association of India (CAI) has further reduced its cotton crop estimate for the 2022-23 season to 313 lakh bales as production is expected to decline in Maharashtra, Telangana and Haryana. The total cotton production in the last season is estimated at 307.05 lakh bales, the CAI said in a statement. The cotton crop season begins in October.

The cotton production in the current season, which began in October 2022, is expected to decline by 2 lakh bales in Maharashtra, by 3 lakh bales in Telangana and by 1 lakh bales in Haryana, CAI added. The total cotton supply for October 2022-February 2023 is estimated at 192.73 lakh bales, which consists of the arrivals of 154.84 lakh bales, imports of 6 lakh bales and the opening stock estimated by the CAI at 31.89 lakh bales at the beginning of the season.

Further, cotton consumption during October 2022-February 2023 period is estimated at 120 lakh bales, while the export shipments up to February 28, 2023, are estimated at 8 lakh bales. Stock at the end

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Turkey, Europe Buying Indian Cotton Yarn

Indian cotton yarn exporters are witnessing growing demand for Indian cotton yarn from Turkey and Europe since February. Turkey's spinning sector has been severely impacted due to the devastating earthquake, forcing mills to import cotton yarn from India. Similarly, European mills are unable to get their cotton yarns from Turkey, and have therefore shifted sourcing to India, Said Rahul Shah, co-chairman of GCCI textile taskforce, "We received good orders for yarn from China in December and January. Now, there is significant demand from Turkey and Europe. The earthquake destroyed many spinning factories in Turkey, so they are buying cotton yarn from India. The European countries have also placed orders with us. The demand from Turkey and Europe accounts for 30% of total exports from earlier 15%." India's cotton yarn exports were down by 59% to 485 million kgs from April 2022 to January 2023 compared to the corresponding period of the previous year.

Cotton yarn exports were down to 31 million kg in October 2022, but increased to 68 million kg in January, which was highest after April 2022. Industry experts said that exports in February and March have been encouraging. According to Jayesh Patel, vice president of Spinners' Association of Gujarat (SAG), "Spinning mills across the state are functioning at 100% capacity due to the steady demand. The inventory is empty in the value chain and in the next few days, we will see good demand." ■

El Nino Is Expected To Improve Cotton Output In US

The El Nino weather pattern could boost yields in the second half of the year for US cotton farmers, who were forced to abandon a big chunk of their cropland in 2022 due to one of the worst droughts in years. This comes at a time of weakening global demand for fibre, with the USDA lowering its 2022/23 world cotton consumption estimates to 110.11 million bales.

The USDA's weekly export sales report showed net sales of 310,200 running bales (RB) of cotton for 2022/2023, up 38% from the previous week and 33% from the prior four-week average. Net sales increased primarily for Vietnam, followed by China.

Bangladesh seeks duty-free access to US for garments made of American cotton

Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association, or BGMEA, has sought duty-free access to the US for apparel made from US cotton.

BGMEA, made the request by sending an official letter addressing Peter Haas, the US ambassador to Bangladesh.

Two separate letters with similar wording were issued to be delivered to Greg Abbott, the Republican governor of the US state of Texas, and to Ted Cruz, the firebrand Republican junior senator elected to represent Texas at the US Senate.

The letters, signed by BGMEA President Faruque Hassan, argued that the US importers of the Bangladeshi garments could save at least US$ 1.55 billion if the country allows duty-free access of products from Bangladesh made of US cotton.

In 2022, Bangladesh imported 409 million pounds of US cotton. BGMEA data also revealed that the Bangladesh exported to the US US$ 9.74 billion worth of apparel, including US$ 6.91 billion or 71% made of cotton. ■

Punjab Agri Dept Forms Teams To Check Sale Of Spurious Cotton Seeds

After a huge quantity of spurious cotton seed from Gujarat made their way into Punjab last year, the Agriculture Department has increased vigil to keep tabs on traders. The Agriculture Department has formed various teams and deputed them on the borders of Haryana and Rajasthan.

Bathinda Chief Agriculture Officer Dr Dilbagh Singh said 48 Agricultural Development Officers and seven Agricultural Extension Officers had been deputed in the district to ensure that spurious cotton seed from outside the state does not reach the market.

He said the teams at block and circle level would also keep an eye on illegal seeds. A six-member surveillance team had been set up in the district. He appealed to the farmers to go to the government portal and apply online for purchasing cotton seed. By doing so, the farmers would get good quality seed along with 33 per cent subsidy, he said. Last year, spurious cotton seed from Gujarat was sown in this cotton belt. Farmers who planted this particular seed suffered financial losses. In many cases, the cotton crop didn't bear fruit at all.

In 2021, whitefly and pink bollworm caused massive damage to the cotton crop, after which some people sold seeds procured from Gujarat to the farmers ensuring that this variety was whitefly resistant. ■

Stora Enso Collaborates With Kolon To Develop Biobased Polyesters

Stora Enso and Kolon Industries will combine their expertise to develop a new sustainable polyester.

The development will combine Stora Enso's proprietary process for converting fructose into FDCA (Furandicarboxylic acid) via HMF (5-hydroxymethylfurfural), FuraCore, with Kolon Industries' leading expertise in polyester and phenolic resin development, as well as manufacturing for a range of applications.

Kolon Group CTO Sung Han said: "This partnership is significant in that it enables the solidification of the foundation for building a new bioplastics ecosystem. We will continue to accelerate the development of sustainable polymer technologies for a greener environment."

FDCA is an organic chemical compound that occurs in nature and is the key building block for bio-based plastics such as polythene furanoate (PEF). PEF holds great potential as a packaging material and for technical films where its attractive barrier properties open exciting opportunities.

PEF may also enable renewable textiles, offering consumers a more sustainable choice. HMF is the precursor to FDCA in the FuraCore process. As a versatile speciality chemical, it adds renewability and performance to certain resin formulations. ■

CAI Further Reduces Cotton Crop Estimate...

....Contd. From Page 6

of February 2023, is estimated at 64.73 lakh bales, including 45 lakh bales with textile mills and the remaining 19.73 lakh bales with the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI), Maharashtra Federation and others (MNCs, traders, ginners among others), including cotton sold but not delivered.

The cotton supply estimated by the CAI till the end of the cotton season 2022-23, that is up to September 30, 2023, is 356.89 lakh bales. The supply consists of the opening stock of 31.89 lakh bales at the beginning of the cotton season on October 1, 2022, the crop for the season estimated at 313 lakh bales and the imports for the season.

The domestic consumption for the season is estimated at 300 lakh bales, which is at the same level as estimated earlier. The exports for the season have been estimated at 30 lakh bales, CAI stated. The carry-over stock, which was earlier estimated at 35.39 lakh bales, is now estimated at 26.89 lakh bales, CAI added. ■

Can Digital Textile Printing Offer A Green Future Over Rotary

Textile production is estimated to create around 20% of the worlds industrial water pollution and consumes an estimated 79 billion cubic metres of fresh water annually. The water saving credentials of digital textile printing now provide a welcome eco-friendly solution to the textile industries negative environmental legacy.

Is digital textile printing greener than traditional printing?

To anyone who has visited a traditional rotary or flat-bed screen textile printing mill the answer to this question is glaringly obvious. Add to that the dramatic shift in market trends and print volumes – and you now witness an industry sector built for mass production, struggling to flex towards a new era of on-demand manufacturing.

A traditional rotary screen machine printing 12 colours at 3.6 metres wide, with a steam or gas dryer, automated colour kitchen and screen washing zone, will take over 5,000 square feet of factory space. In contrast, a similar digital print machine, using the same components will take less than 400 square feet. Add on to that the large amount of warehouse space to store rotary printing screens and large drums of bulk colour, plus ancillary machinery, and the difference in scale between digital and rotary print operations becomes exponential. Approaching twenty times the space required for screen printing as opposed to a high-tech digital textile printing installation.

In the world of sustainability great premium is put on minimising the use of resources.

When comparing factory space, digital textile print machinery drastically reduces the manufacturing footprint and sets a new sustainability benchmark in textile production, clearly leading the way to more efficient use of the planet's resources.

The second difference, and equally striking- - is one of water and ink volumes. In the traditional rotary screen-printing plant water and ink are everywhere - a stark contrast to the digital printing environment. However, it must be noted that many of the analogue printing machines in use across the globe are workhorses, that routinely deliver millions of metres of printed fabric worldwide. There have been many new developments in recent years to successfully improve the environmental impact of high production analogue mills, but in the main, the traditional rotary printing factory remains a tasking environment.

> "A 10,000-metre print run on a rotary screen printer will use over 540 kilos of ink as opposed to the 90 kilos used by the digital printer. Since the main component in aqueous dispersions of ink is water, this implies a water saving of 600% by the digital textile printer."

Why does rotary screen printing use large volumes of water and ink?

When rotary screen printing, the ink is forced through the screen mesh by a flexible squeegee and depending on the mesh size, along with the fabric weight, will use ink at the rate of 35-60 cc's per printed metre. In contrast - Digital textile printing utilising Piezo electric printheads that spray micro droplets of ink onto the surface of the fabric, uses between 6 and 9 cc's per printed metre.

In simple terms this means that a 10,000-metre print run on a rotary screen printer will use over 540 kilos of ink as opposed to the 90 kilos used by the digital printer. Since the main component in aqueous dispersions of ink is water, this implies a water saving of 600% by the digital textile printer.

But the water saving story of digital textile printing doesn't end there.

At the end of every print run rotary screens must be emptied of surplus colour and then washed prior to storage. This causes contaminated water to flow into the factory's effluent system, which in many cases consists of a simple river discharge - causing extensive environmental harm if the textile production effluent is not treated.

In contrast - the digital textile printing process incurs no wastewater or the creation of effluent where post fabric finishing is a dry process. Pigment inks, by way of example generate no wastewater.

The differences between the process of digital and rotary textile manufacturing are self-evident when you explore the simplicity of the digital process.

The digital ink-jet process offers a green, clean footprint, where both ink and print technology are combined. Rotary printing requires a team of technicians and the support of additional ancillary resources; ink kitchen, screen engraving, washing and finishing to name just a few.

Textile production is estimated to create around 20% of the worlds industrial water pollution and consumes an estimated 79 billion cubic metres of fresh water annually. The water saving credentials of digital textile printing now provide a welcome eco-friendly solution to the textile industries negative environmental legacy.

How does digital textile printing save energy?

Powering a traditional rotary screen print system; including screen print stations, print blankets and gas dryers, as well as the installations exhaust fans and colour mixers makes a heavy demand on energy resources.

In a recent comparison study by the Epson Textile Solution Centre, the carbon footprint of the conventional rotary printing system alone (without ancillary machinery) generated 139.56 kg of CO2eq, while the digital system used 85.66 kg of CO2eq - a saving of nearly 40%.

In the traditional rotary screen business model, competitiveness is only achieved through volume production. For all parties in this transaction this means that large volumes of print must be shipped and stored pending sale and distribution worldwide. The traditional textile supply chain is slow and built for stock – leaving all stakeholders, their resources, and their finances exposed to risk.

Digital textile printing continues to disrupt the traditional textile business model across its complex value chain.

Accelerated by the global pandemic, the growth of on-demand production continues to generate and to enable a risk averse environment by dramatically reducing the risk of close-outs and stock clearances.

Ink-jet is leading the textile print industry away from its negative environmental legacy to offer a sustainable future for all stakeholders throughout the supply chain. ■

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Editor: Dibya Jyoti Gohain

Swiss Machinery Makers Have Raised The Sustainability Quotient - I

Swiss textile machinery makers discuss the various features in their machines, and initiatives in their companies, that make this sector truly sustainable.

Swissmem recently organised the Pre-ITMA press conference, with its members giving a preview of what's expected at ITMA 2023. Sustainability was once again the underlying theme for the industry. This is obviously so as the movement towards green is gathering pace with some interesting European legislations that encompass every aspect of manufacturing and consumption.

A common thread that emerged from the presentations was of course, how to improve sustainability – lower energy and resource consumption – while improving quality and productivity- for the machine user. It's a given that textile manufacturers at ITMA 2023 will get to witness a lot of advancements in these areas.

Textile machinery makers however, are not just looking at improving sustainability for the end user. They are also making their own machines greener. And this was the topic of discussion for one of the panels.

According to Saurer's Markus Rennekamp, "Spinners are not into the practice of scrapping machines. They sell machines to others. And then there are many of us who help our customers to upgrade their old machines. Scrapping is really not a practice in the industry."

Said Ernesto Maurer, Chairman of the Board, CEMATEX, and President, Swissmem, "Sustainability is not just about the use of raw materials in textile production, but also raw materials to produce machines. And spare parts and components are an important factor here that keep the machines running longer."

Said Steiger's Carlo Corradi, "We design machines so they sustain longer. Quality is even more important today. And then we have intelligent machines, all these are developments to keep the machine running for as long as possible without compromising on efficiency and productivity."

According to Andre Imhof, of Autefa Solutions, "Sustainability is really important today. For instance, in nonwovens, the average profit rate is 5.8%. Fifty percent of your cost is material cost, then you have 22% energy cost, 20% manpower cost, and rest is overheads, profits. In nonwovens especially, if a machine breaks down, you do not have the option of shifting production to another line, you lose production. So that demands that the machine is robust. But we can go a lot further. We can try and bring down the energy costs for running the machine. And machine makers are increasingly looking at this aspect, as this is becoming more and more an issue, and a buying factor."

As the European Union introduces legislation for repair of goods, it is heartening to note that the Swiss textile machinery makers are quite ahead of the game, and have been offering machines that run longer, can be repaired, can be upgraded. ■

Working Towards A Circular Textile Economy

Marcus Rennekamp, Managing Director, Head of Business Unit – Open End Spinning, highlighted the Saurer Group strategy for transformation of the textile industry towards circularity. To achieve this goal, as Marcus pointed out, the company has successfully introduced the label³ with mandatory machine design guidelines to reduce energy consumption and to foster the recycling rate. Already today, the company offers machinery for processing recycled and regenerated fibres.
With `Recycling Extreme' Saurer launches a new patented performance kit for processing ultra-short fibres into yarn. The new solution will actively support the Saurer customers in their efforts to produce more yarn out of recycled material.

Carlo Corradi, Sales & Marketing, Steiger Participations SA said that 70% of the company's turnover is from the medical market segment, viz. compression knitwear for medical applications. And 30% is from technical textiles and nonwovens aimed at replacing conventional formworks with knit solutions for better performance. The company itself focusses on making machines that are greener, with recycling potential of 98% of its weight, uses solar power for 92% of its energy needs, besides many other initiatives.

Autefa's CEO, Andre Imhof talked about the various resource saving technologies that the company offers. He also highlighted Autefa Customer Loyalty Programme – Autefa Approved for second-hand machines, and Old Machines Club for owners of 30+ year old Autefa machines.

Swinsol's Dr. Laszlo Olah, Managing Director/CDO R&D Engineer, focussed on the company's innovations in compact spinning and recycling. Some of Swinsol's Recompact case studies in 2022 reveal an increase in production volume by 10%, 50% longer lifetime cots and aprons, and a less than 12 month return on investment.

Santex Rimar is among the leaders in textile drying technologies, offering mills immense savings in energy and resources. Citing a study of a mill in Bangladesh, **Natascha Meier, Senior Sales Director, Santex Rimar AG,** demonstrated how the mill accomplished immense savings – total steam consumption with SantexCompactRD came down to 250 kg/h compared to 500 kg/h the mill was using with another compactor. Steam consumption was down to 5,000Kg/20h, from 10,000 kg/20 h. The result, savings of Euro 16,800 per year.

Jakob Mueller Group is the number 1 supplier of systems and solutions for the ribbon and narrow fabrics industry, providing everything from warp preparation to the final product on a one-stop shop basis. Said **Christian Lerch, Head of Global Sales and Market, Jakob Mueller,** "We stand for resource conservation and sustainability and live according to these principles."

CREALET AG presented for the first time its innovation ECR warp tension control, which will be exhibited at the ITMA in Milan. Said **Walter Wirz,** "I alongwith Leo Kuster, Johann Georg Schmid created Crealet AG in August 2003. This year, we are celebrating the 20th anniversary."

Fritz Legler, Head of Marketing, Sales & Service, Stäubli, gave a sneak peak view on what is to come at ITMA Milan in June this year. "Product innovation, automation, sustainability and digitalization - we will have a lot to share with you - many solutions for our customers ahead."

Matteo Mutti, Managing Director, Itema (Switzerland) informed that at ITMA 2023, the company will showcase weaving solutions developed with the ultimate goal to make weavers' life easier by ensuring benefits in terms of : Textile mastery, Eco efficiency, Digitalisation, Easy weaving.

Ernesto Maurer, Chairman of the Board – CEMATEX & President – Swissmem Textile Machinery, and Cornelia Buchwalder – Secretary General – CEMATEX & Swissmem Textile Machinery hosted and conducted some interesting sessions during the two-day press conference.

New Dashboard Shows More Detailed US Forced Labour Statistics

A new dashboard made available by US Customs and Border Protection offers interesting insights on the agency's enforcement of the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act to date.

The Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act establishes a rebuttable presumption that goods made wholly or in part in mainland China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region are made with forced labour and excluded from entry into the US. Even companies not importing directly from mainland China may have goods detained if the materials used to produce those goods in a second country are tied at any level to the XUAR or to specific entities or commodities associated with forced labour in the mainland.

The Forced Labor Enforcement Taskforce has identified tomatoes, cotton and polysilicon-based products as high-priority sectors for UFLPA enforcement, but CBP states that it uses a dynamic, risk-based approach to enforcement that prioritises actions against the highest-risk entities based on an ever-changing data and intelligence environment. These include (i) entities involved in the production and/or exportation of goods, wares, articles and merchandise mined, produced or manufactured wholly or in part in the XUAR; (ii) entities affiliated with the Xinjiang Production & Construction Corps; (iii) entities on the UFLPA Entity List; and (iv) goods produced in or shipped through third countries if they contain inputs mined, produced or manufactured in the XUAR or by an entity on the UFLPA Entity List. CBP states that due to the complexity of supply chains and risk factors some industries may be considered high-risk and become subject to UFLPA enforcement actions more than others considered to be at lower risk.

In its new dashboard CBP provides aggregate statistics on the number and value of shipments stopped for UFLPA enforcement as well as the industries and countries of origin most affected. Highlights of the most recent statistics include the following.

- The number of stopped shipments fell from 1,491 in the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2022 to 940 in the first quarter of FY 2023 and is on pace to decline further in the second quarter of FY 2023 (standing at 764 as of 3 March 2023). The value of such shipments during these periods has declined as well, from US$ 464.9 million to US$ 304.7 million to US$ 183.8 million.
- In the case of mainland Chinese goods, the number of stopped shipments fell from 406 in the fourth quarter of FY 2022 to 404 in the first quarter of FY 2023 and 327, as of 3 March 2023, during the second quarter of FY 2023. The value of such shipments rose from US$14.9 million in the fourth quarter of FY 2022 to US$ 40.3 million in the first quarter of FY 2023 only to dip to US$ 34.1 million during the second quarter of FY 2023 (as of 3 March 2023).
- Of the 3,237 total shipments stopped since CBP began enforcing the UFLPA, 1,090 (33.7%) have been released, 424 (13.1%) have been denied and 1,723 (53.2%) are pending. Those figures are 38.9%, 18.5% and 42.6% for the most recently completed quarter.
- Electronics has been the industry sector with the most stopped shipments overall with 1,627, followed by apparel, footwear and textiles at 631, and industrial and manufacturing materials at 422. In the current quarter CBP has stopped 282 shipments in the industrial and manufacturing materials sector, 204 in electronics, and 135 in apparel, footwear and textiles.
- More than half the value of all stopped shipments to date (51.1%, or US$ 491.2 million) has come from imports from Malaysia, followed by 38.5% or US$ 369.9 million from Vietnam and 9.3% or US$ 89.7 million from mainland China. However, mainland China accounts for the largest number of stopped shipments at 36% (1,165 shipments), followed by Vietnam at 34.2% and Malaysia at 28.6%.
- Of the 1,165 shipments of mainland Chinese goods stopped since CBP began enforcing the UFLPA, 310 shipments were denied, 498 shipments were released and the remaining 357 shipments are pending. So far, apparel, footwear and textiles is the segment with the most stopped shipments at 345, followed by industrial and manufacturing materials at 244, agriculture and prepared products at 195, consumer products and mass merchandising at 191, pharmaceuticals, health and chemicals at 189, base metals at 41, machinery at 35, electronics at 23, and automotive and aerospace at six.
- All of the stopped shipments to date from Malaysia have been in the electronics sector. For Vietnam, 60% have been in electronics, 23.8% have been in apparel, footwear and textiles, and 16.1% have been in industrial and manufacturing materials. ■

USD 30 Million Worth Of US Fashion Imports Stopped For Forced Labour Inspections Last Year

A total of 631 apparel, footwear and textile shipments with a combined value of US$ 29.55 million have been stopped under the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act (UFLPA) since it came into effect in June 2022, according to statistics published by US Customs and Border Protection.

Over one-third (261) of these shipments were denied entry following examination by US Customs, while 136 were cleared for entry and a further 234 are still pending. The vast majority of imports came from China (345) and Vietnam (263).

After electronics, the apparel, footwear and textiles industry was the second-most impacted by UFLPA enforcement, but had by far the highest number of shipments denied entry, the statistics show.

The UFLPA was an unprecedented regulatory move to strengthen authorities' powers to seize goods they believe could be linked to forced labour in China and put a greater onus on businesses to prove their supply chains are free from such abuses. It followed previous crackdowns on US imports of cotton and tomato products linked to the Chinese region of Xinjiang, where according to widespread reports in recent years, Uyghur Muslims and other ethnic minorities have been subjected to human rights abuses including forced labour at the hands of the Chinese government, though Beijing denies the allegations. ■

News In Brief

UAE Opens Major New Freight Train Network

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) opened the new Etihad Rail freight train network on 23 February 2023, connecting four major ports and seven logistics centres, including Ruwais, Industrial City of Abu Dhabi (ICAD), Khalifa Port, Dubai Industrial City, Jebel Ali Port, Al Ghail and Fujairah Port. The freight network is the latest phase of the Etihad Rail national network project that will connect all seven emirates. The new service has a top speed of 120kph and can transport all types of goods with a capacity of up to 60 million tonnes annually.

The 1,200-kilometre network will link the UAE to Saudi Arabia through Ghuweifat in the west; and to Oman through Al Ain in the east. The rail service will also help the UAE achieve its UAE Net Zero 2050 goals of lowering carbon emissions in the road transport sector by 21% and road transport emissions per capita by 40%, by 2050.

Kenya Declares Three New Export Processing Zones

Kenya has announced three new export processing zones (EPZs). A 16 February 2023 gazette announcement named land in Bonje (Kwale County), space in a building in Bombululu (Mombasa County), and office space and land in Mavoko (Machakos County) to become EPZs. The three new EPZs are expected to further promote export-oriented industrialisation, attract investments, and boost economic growth and industrial development. They are an addition to the country's seven existing EPZs, located in Nairobi, Mombasa, Athi River, Kilifi, Malindi and Kerio Valley, managed by the Export Processing Zones Authority (EPZA).

Businesses within an EPZ are can import machinery, equipment and materials for the production of export goods tax-free. Aside from customs duty exemptions or deductions, EPZ-based operations are also entitled to a tax holiday.

All SACU Members Ratify AfCFTA; Tariffs Agreed

All member states of the Southern Africa Customs Union (SACU) have now ratified the agreement establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) following Botswana's ratification, according to the SACU in a statement released on 20 February 2023.

SACU also announced at the 36th Ordinary Session of the African Union Assembly held in Addis Ababa on 18 February that it had officially finalised the SACU Tariff Offer and submitted it to the AfCFTA Secretariat for verification. Once the tariff offer is verified, business communities in the SACU will be able to take advantage of the 7,111 tariff lines covered, accounting for about 90% of the SACU Tariff Book. ■

Proposal For EU Net-Zero Industry Act Published

The European Commission has published its proposal for a Net-Zero Industry Act (the NZIA). The EU's proposal, which is in the form of a Regulation to be applied directly in all EU Member States, aims to scale up the manufacturing of technologies which are key to achieving climate neutrality. The initiative's intention is, among other matters, to direct the EU towards energy independence. The proposed Regulation was announced by the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, as a part of the EU's Green Deal Industrial Plan.

Net-zero energy technologies are at the centre of strong geo-strategic interests and at the core of the global technology race, due to their important role in climate policy objectives. Global production of electric vehicles is estimated to increase 15-fold by 2050. Deployment of heat pumps will also increase – it is claimed – to more than six times by 2050, compared to today, and production of hydrogen from electrolysis or natural gas-based hydrogen with carbon capture and storage will, it is estimated, reach 450 Mt in 2050. The production of solar panels and batteries will likewise have to be scaled up to fulfil climate policy objectives.

However, regarding net-zero energy technologies, the EU is currently said to be heavily dependent on mainland China. The EU relies on imports for about one-quarter of its electric cars and batteries, and nearly all solar PV modules and fuel cells most of which are said to come from mainland China. For solar photovoltaic technologies and their components, this dependency exceeds 90% of products in certain upstream segments of the value chain, such as ingots and wafers. In other sectors, where the EU industry is still strong, such as wind turbines and heat pumps, the trade balance is said to be deteriorating, and EU producers face rising energy and input costs.

The initiative places emphasis on parts of the net-zero technologies ecosystem that contribute most to climate and energy objectives for 2030. The following technologies are crucial components for ensuring Europe's green transition:

- solar;
- batteries/storage;
- wind;
- electrolysers and fuel cells;
- heat pumps;
- biomethane;
- grids; and
- carbon capture and storage (CCS).

Generally, the goal is to reduce dependency and to simultaneously contribute to developing self-sustaining industry in the EU. To achieve these objectives, the European Commission proposes key actions to drive net-zero technology manufacturing investments.

The proposed Regulation will improve conditions for investment in net-zero technologies by, among other issues, reducing the administrative burden to set up projects and simplifying permit-granting processes. Additionally, it proposes to give priority to Net-Zero Strategic Projects, that are deemed essential for reinforcing the resilience and competitiveness of the EU industry, including sites to safely store captured CO2 emissions. The future law sets an EU objective to reach an annual 50Mt injection capacity in strategic CO2 storage sites in the EU by 2030, with proportional contributions from EU oil and gas producers. Furthermore, implementing measures must bring together key relevant assets to establish a Union single market CO2 storage service that large-scale CO2 emitters, including hard-to-abate industrial sectors, can rely on to decarbonise their operations.

The proposed Regulation aims to introduce new measures to ensure the availability of a skilled workforce needed for net-zero technology industries in the EU. It introduces mechanisms to design and deploy necessary skills in a manner that effectively targets the needs of net-zero industries at both European and local levels. To help learn these necessary skills, the Commission supports the setting up of specialised European skills academies, each focussing on a net-zero technology and working together with Member States and other stakeholders.

Member States will have the possibility to set up "regulatory sandboxes", which allow for and enable the testing of innovative net-zero technologies in a controlled environment, for a limited amount of time. These technologies falling under the sandboxes could eventually be considered essential to achieve the EU's climate neutrality objective, ensure the security of supply, and ensure the resiliency of the EU's energy system, and consequently enter the scope of strategic net-zero technologies under this future Regulation.

The creation of a unique structure at EU level, the Net-Zero Europe Platform, will allow the Commission to coordinate the above actions jointly with Member States to ensure a uniform application of the Regulation throughout the EU. The Platform is to be a reference body, in which the Commission and Member States can hold discussions, exchange information, and share best practices on issues related to the future Regulation, and in which the Commission may get input from third parties such as experts and representatives.

The proposed Regulation will henceforth have to be debated by the EU's lawmakers and then agreed by the European Parliament and the Council of the EU, before its adoption and entry into force. ■

EU Publishes Proposal For Common Rules Promoting The Repair Of Goods

On 22 March 2023, the European Commission adopted a new proposal on common rules promoting the repair of goods. The proposal, which comes in the form of an EU directive, will make it easier and more cost-effective for consumers to repair their goods throughout the EU, as opposed to replacing them, both within the period of and beyond the so-called 'legal guarantee'.

When goods become defective, they are often discarded prematurely instead of being repaired and reused. If they are still under the legal guarantee (which, due to Directive (EU) 2019/771 on the sale of goods, is a minimum of two years), consumers tend to opt for replacement rather than the repair of the goods. Furthermore, after the legal guarantee has expired, many consumers in the EU are believed to be discouraged from repair because it is difficult to identify a suitable repair service at an acceptable price.

Consumers will have easier and cheaper options to repair products that are technically repairable, even when the legal guarantee has expired or when the goods are not functional anymore as a result of wear and tear.

Regarding legal guarantees, Directive (EU) 2019/771 on the sale of goods regulates the situation where a product becomes defective in the after-sales phase. The Directive provides that for a period of at least two years, a consumer can request the seller from whom the goods were bought to repair or replace faulty goods free of charge, subject to conditions.

However, under the proposed new rules for the repair of goods, when repair proves to be cheaper or equal in cost to a replacement, sellers will have to provide free repair as a remedy instead, within a reasonable time and without any inconvenience to the consumer.

Beyond the legal guarantee, the proposed Directive introduces a new set of rights and tools which will be available to consumers to make repair a more accessible option. The producer will have an obligation to repair goods for 5-10 years after they were bought, depending on the type of product, for which reparability requirements are provided in EU legislation.

New repairability requirements are expected to come into force for tablets and smartphones, as well as for space heaters, in the near future. As the number of such product groups grows, the Annex II list will expand accordingly.

The Ecodesign Directive is the current framework for product reparability, in particular as regards product design requirements and availability of spare parts. It has led so far to the adoption of ecodesign requirements for 31 individual energy-related product groups of which the above-listed 8 categories are currently covered by reparability requirements, with – as already mentioned – more expected to follow.

In addition, the proposed Regulation on Ecodesign for Sustainable Products will eventually replace the framework Ecodesign Directive and continue to progressively expand the coverage of product groups, including reparability requirements, in the future.

The European Commission wants to ensure that consumers will always have someone to turn to when they opt to repair products, as well as encourage producers to develop more sustainable business models. Furthermore, if producers are obliged to repair goods, they need to inform consumers of that obligation and provide information on the repair services.

The proposed Directive introduces an obligation for repairers to provide standardised key information about their repair services via a new method, the European Repair Information Form. This Form will help consumers to easily compare different repair services based on key aspects, such as price, duration of repair or availability of a replacement product during repair. These conditions must remain unchanged for 30 days, once provided.

Where the producer that is obliged to repair is established outside the EU, its authorised representative in the EU will have to perform the obligation of the producer. Where the producer has no authorised representative in the EU, the importer of the product concerned will have to perform the obligation of the producer. Where there is no importer, the distributor of the product concerned will have to perform the obligation of the producer.

Despite the arrival of this long-expected proposed EU law, a certain level of disappointment has arisen with its publication. Advocates for a European right to repair were hoping for a more expansive set of rules. For example, a Right to Repair coalition spokesperson argued that "Asking sellers to repair during the first two years, but only when cheaper than replacement, and granting consumers post-guarantee access to repair, but just for a few product categories, simply isn't enough".

The proposed Directive will have to be debated in the Council of the EU and the European Parliament, with a view to obtaining their eventual approval of it, a process that could take over a year. Once adopted, the Directive will enter into force on the 20th day after it is published in the Official Journal. The obligation to repair products covered by the Sale of Goods Directive or by ecodesign repairability standards would apply from 24 months after the Directive's entry into force. ■

Flame Retardants Announced As Part Of EU Restriction Plan

On 15 March 2023, the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) released its Regulatory Strategy for Flame Retardants. This development is relevant for a number of consumer goods, as it identifies aromatic brominated flame retardants as candidates for an EU-wide restriction. Such restriction would, it is envisaged, minimise the exposure of people and the environment to these – according to ECHA – persistent, potentially bioaccumulative and toxic substances.

Protecting flammable (polymeric) materials against ignition and fast developing fires has been a steadily growing demand over recent decades. This is particularly the case in sectors that equip their products with flame retarded materials: electrical and electronic equipment, vehicles and buildings. Restrictions have until now focussed on a limited number of brominated flame retardants, but these have frequently driven the markets to substitutes that are not necessarily always without risk themselves, for example, the substance DBDPE being widely marketed as a replacement for decaBDE. Therefore, the new

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Flame Retardants Announced As Part Of EU Restriction Plan

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regulatory strategy aims to assess flame retardants as a market.

The substances in scope of the regulatory strategy are, in principle, all flame retardants. The strategy particularly focusses on halogenated flame retardants and organophosphorus flame retardants, as there is said to be evidence of a considerable number of substances with potentially undesirable properties that may require regulatory risk management. Particular attention is given to brominated flame retardants and their prioritisation for restrictions.

Before presenting a potential restriction proposal, ECHA notes that some preparatory work is required. This work could include an assessment of the waste stage to find out if hazardous substances are released when products containing flame retardants are dismantled, recycled, or disposed of. It could also include an assessment of the availability of suitable alternative substances or materials.

The strategy covers ECHA's assessment of regulatory needs for halogenated (including brominated) and organophosphorus flame retardants, which make up around 70% of the organic flame retardants market. The strategy was announced in the Restrictions Roadmap under the EU's Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability.

The aims of the regulatory strategy on flame retardants are to, among other things, identify substances used as flame retardants, identify hazard and use patterns, identify gaps in knowledge of the hazardous properties, and effective ways to address these gaps. It also aims to support informed substitutions and avoid regrettable substitutions, namely, avoid one hazardous flame retardant that is regulated being replaced by another which also turns out to have hazardous properties leading to concerns that subsequently need to be addressed.

The restriction scope could cover all aromatic brominated flame retardants that are confirmed or will be confirmed to be persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic (PBT) or very persistent and very bioaccumulative (vPvB) through harmonised classification, or identification as substances of very high concern (SVHCs).

No regulatory action is recommended for several non-halogenated subgroups of flame retardants, including certain organophosphorus-based flame retardants, since no or low hazard was identified at the current time. For chlorinated flame retardants, regulatory measures are said to be already in place or initiated.

Key sectors using fire-safe materials are:

- Producers of electric and electronic equipment (EEE), cables and wires (38% of global flame retardant use);
- Building and construction sector (B&C) (28%);
- Producers of transport vehicles: automotive, train, aeroplanes (20%);
- Producers of furnishing/upholstery and others (14%).

According to ECHA, Asia consumed the largest volume of flame retardants in 2019 with a 51% share, with mainland China being the largest single consumer at 27%. The European market consumed around 25% (23% for Western Europe and 2% for Central and Eastern Europe).

The global distribution of flame-retardant consumption illustrates that product manufacturers located in the EU make choices impacting on about 25% of the global flame retardant market. These choices may be more related to end-use in construction and automotive rather than electric and electronic equipment where the share of imported articles is particularly high (about 50% of the goods placed on the EU market is imported, mostly from Asia – this is based on EEA and EUROSTAT figures).

One of the actions under the Chemical Strategy for Sustainability towards a Toxic Free Environment (CSS), the European Commission prepared a Restrictions Roadmap. This was done so as to prioritise substances with specific hazards for (group) restrictions under REACH. The roadmap aims to ensure transparent and timely commitments by authorities and allow companies to anticipate (potential) upcoming restrictions.

REACH restrictions can be initiated by EU Member States or by the European Commission, which can request ECHA to prepare a restriction proposal. Once adopted, the restriction enters Annex XVII of the REACH Regulation, and applies throughout the EU. The restriction usually sets down the applicable criteria unique to it, such as what products containing the restricted chemicals are prohibited from the EU market, as well as exempted products, if any. ■

Mouse-Free Coiling With Rieter CLEANtube

CLEANtube – the option for intelligent control of the coiler speed on the Rieter draw frames – prevents trash particles and short fibres from accumulating in the sliver duct. The result is a mouse-free sliver that assures constant quality and reduces not only operator work but also the amount of waste and the number of ends down.

When processing waste- and noil-rich blends on a draw frame, trash particles and short fibres can accumulate in the sliver duct of the coiler during can filling. Once the can is full, the draw frame stops and this accumulation, known as "mouse", comes to rest on the top sliver layer. This can cause trash deposits in the rotor groove, which in turn result in ends down in spinning. If the mouse gets into the yarn, it causes significant yarn and fabric defects. To avoid this, the mouse is usually removed by the operator which causes additional work and generates soft waste.

In-mill study shows advantages of CLEANtube Founded in 2012, Gupta Threads Ltd. is based in Samana, District Punjab, India. In their spinning mill with 3,744 rotor spinning positions, they produce 100% cotton yarn with a count range from Ne 7 to Ne 30. The raw material used is mainly a blend of 60% to 70% waste or comber noil along with 30% to 35% cotton. An in-mill study at Gupta has shown the following advantages using CLEANtube:

• 500 work-hours can be saved per draw frame per year as the operator no longer needs to remove the mouse manually.

• When removing a mouse by hand, the operator typically takes away about half a sliver layer. This corresponds to about ten meters in length. Even if it can be reused as soft waste it leads to additional conversion costs in blowroom, carding and drawing – those further expenses of up to EUR 1 300 per year and RSB can be saved.

• By eliminating the mouse, ends down are reduced. Approximately around every tenth mouse results in an ends down at the rotor spinning machine.

• Spinning a mouse into yarn leads to an increase in yarn mass of up to 100% with a length of about six meters. Finally, these defects are clearly visible in the woven fabric and mean a high risk of rejection of the fabric. Such financial damages are avoided.

CLEANtube – coiling without trash accumulation

CLEANtube ensures that the sliver touches all surfaces of the coiler tube and, thus, keeps it free of accumulations. Pratap Singh Chouhan, General Manager at Gupta Threads states: "CLEANtube is an excellent feature of the Rieter draw frame RSBD 50 for mouse-free sliver which results in quality assurance while reducing the operator's workload". The CLEANtube function of the RSB-D 50 ensures consistent sliver quality and keeps the spinning process at a high efficiency level. Finally, it also ensures the quality of the yarn and fabric." ■

CLEANtube prevents trash particles and short fibres on the top sliver layer.

Pratap Singh Chouhan, General Manager at Gupta Threads, benefits from quality assurance while reducing the operator's workload.

SKUAST Scientists Researching On Gene Editing To Improve Pashmina Wool Yield

Twelve years after cloning the first Pashmina goat, 'Noorie,' scientists at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST) are working on gene editing technologies to improve the yield of prized cashmere yarn.

"Noorie died earlier this month after a life span comparable to that of a typical Pashmina goat. Yet, the SKUAST cloning team has not given up on enhancing animal quality. We recently submitted a few of projects to the ICAR. We are currently undertaking a project on gene editing of the same Pashmina goats, and we were able to make modified cloned embryos of these goats," said Dr. Riaz Ahmad Shah, Professor Cum Chief Scientist Animal Cloning Veterinary Sciences SKAUST- K.

The goal is to develop a cloned Pashmina goat with a modified genome. "The cloned modified goat will be born once we are able to transfer the edited genes to the recipients and create offspring. Our goal is simply to increase Pashmina (wool) production, so we have targeted a gene that will allow us to do so," Shah added.

According to him, the Pashmina goat is native to Ladakh and survives at high altitudes with little oxygen. "It took us nearly three years to standardise the procedure before we were able to develop 'Noorie,'" Shah remarked. The team of scientists was attached to Noorie since it was the first big animal cloning achievement at the SKUAST, but they are happy that it set the path for additional research in the subject. "Noorie's passing was particularly sad because she helped this department gain recognition." The Noorie project established a foundation for future studies such as this one (gene editing).

When asked if cloning may be utilized to save endangered species such as the Hangul (Kashmir stag), Shah responded, "We haven't done it yet because for rare species, we need a recipient where we can transfer the embryos. We rely on the wildlife department for such recipients. Species such as Hangul are not available to them. However, we could have attempted there as well, but our major concentration is on livestock species." ■

An 'Unsexy' System for Greening Fashion That Actually Works

Forget pants made of car tires — to truly make fashion more sustainable, a collaboration between dozens of brands is slashing the industry's carbon footprint.

For all the attention it might draw, when a brand releases a line of clothes made of ever-more unusual, allegedly eco-friendly materials like algae sequins, grape leather or rotten milk, chances are the real environmental benefits are low.

"A cool new next-gen material might get a lot of buzz, it could look good, but the production capability may not be enough," says Lewis Perkins, president of the Apparel Impact Institute. "Where's the long-term, systematic improvement?"

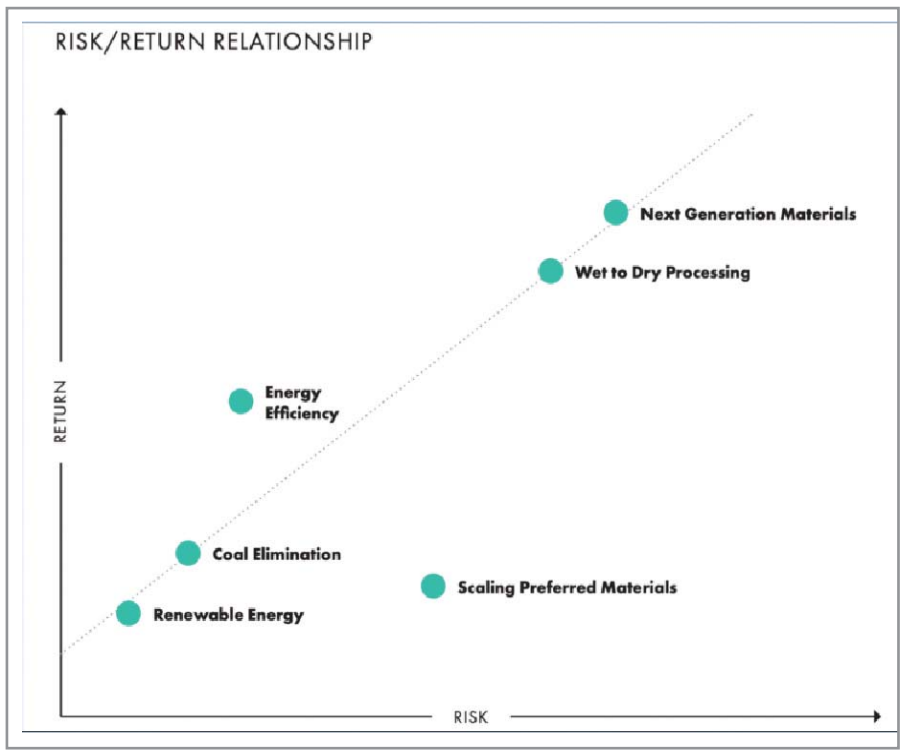
Perkins argues that rather than using novel materials or promoting one-off campaigns, the best way to decarbonize the fashion industry and make it more sustainable is a system-wide approach — largely using unsexy, tried-and-tested techniques.

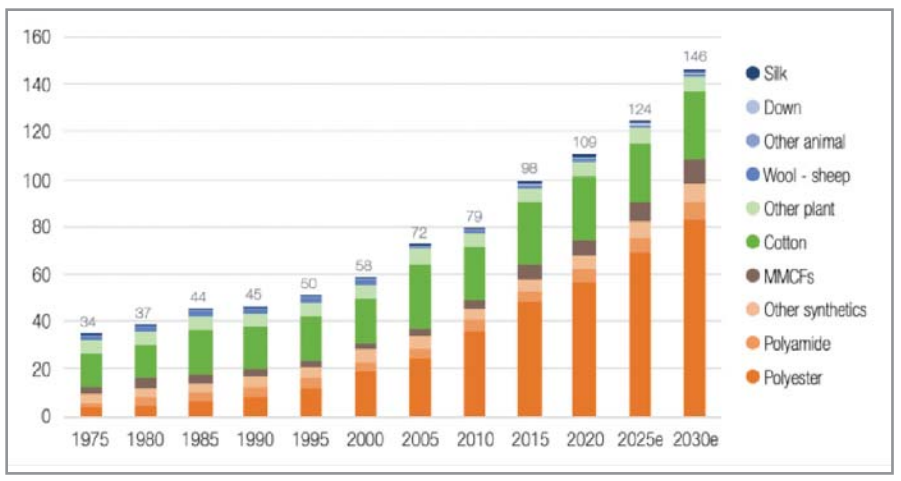
When the San Francisco-based Apparel Impact Institute launched at the end of 2017, it set out to deliver exactly that.

The institute estimates that existing solutions — such as phasing out coal use, maximising energy efficiency, increasing use of low-carbon fibres such as recycled polyester and shifting manufacturing to renewable electricity — can cut the industry's emissions by 1.2 gigatons, the equivalent of taking 200 million cars off the road.

Yet the Apparel Impact Institute does see room for innovation, too. It estimates that emissions could be cut by one gigaton through the use of more experimental tools such as bio-based materials, plant-based leather and increasing textile recycling.

In January, it launched a call for proposals for a US$ 250 million Fashion Climate Fund — raised through industry and philanthropic donors — for solutions that could be part of the Climate Solutions Portfolio, a registry of cutting-edge, scientifically proven technologies for issues like thermal heat, concentrated solar and modular hydrogen. "To date, we haven't placed risky bets," says Perkins. "But we are reviewing our appetite for risk. But ultimately, any projects we support will need to verify the claims made."





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But while the fashion industry is making improvements by itself through forms of self-regulation, some argue that national and transnational policy is required in order to fundamentally change how these businesses operate.

A report published in January by Zero Waste Europe, an advocacy group, concluded that the current model of fast fashion, seasonal collections and trends is "one of the main drivers of overconsumption, resource depletion and social exploitation."

"We can't just make the products more green, we need to address these business models that rely on aggressive marketing and vast overconsumption," says Theresa Mörsen, policy officer at Zero Waste Europe.

The scale of overproduction is enormous. Globally, an estimated 92 million tons of textiles waste is created each year. By 2030, the quantity of clothes we throw away is projected to reach 134 million tons and then 160 million tons in 2050. "It's been exacerbated by fast fashion," says Apirisi. "A lot of selections and clothes are put on the market continuously, with large volumes of low-quality textiles."

At the same time, the creation of waste, which often ends up in developing nations, is heavily skewed towards wealthier countries. The average American throws away around 37 kilograms of clothes every year. And around 85% of all textiles thrown away in the US are either dumped into landfill or burned. Much ends up abroad, illegally.

"Land use and water use to produce these clothes mostly occurs outside of the Global North," says Mörsen. "But most fashion products are consumed in the Global North. They are worn a few times and then end up in landfill on the other side of the world."

Mörsen says there have been interesting policy developments, such as the European Union's Strategy for Sustainable Textiles, focusing on eco-design rules. From 2025, textile recycling will also be mandatory in the EU. But these policies are limited in what they can achieve. "We need to change the entire business thinking," she says. "We need to think about sufficiency. It's better to increase the quality of the clothes."

It's a point acknowledged by the Apparel Impact Institute, which calls for "extending the useful life of garments, re-commerce, increasing rentals, improvements in materials efficiency, and reduction in overproduction" in its goals.

However, threads of hope already exist in that regard for the fashion industry, which can no longer dress up the naked truth of its carbon footprint. The French company LOOM, whose motto is "less but better," does not advertise or have seasonal collections, and rejects pricing (like $9.99) that encourages over-consumption. "We need to make the industry follow in these footsteps," says Mörsen. "Because if we don't, then the world is in real trouble." ■

The Algae Dress

Central Saint Martins graduate Scarlett Yang used algae extract and silk cocoon protein to create a glass-like dress that grows over time and can decompose in water within 24 hours. The biomaterial dress changes shape in response to different humidity and temperature levels, twisting and creasing as these conditions increase.

As the London-based graduate explains, this is variable depending on the geographic location and season that the garment is worn in. During a dry winter, for instance, the garment would stiffen and look more sculptural.

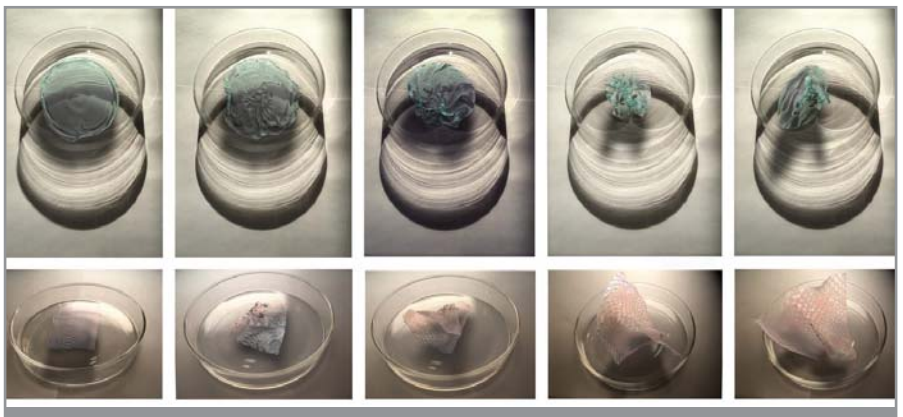
When exposed to water, the garment is able to decompose within hours. For example, the material decomposes within one hour when soaked in alkaline water at a temperature of 80 degrees celsius, or in less than 24 hours if soaked in 60-degree-celsius water. Alternatively, the garment would degrade naturally in rain, river or sea water – another element dependent on the environment in which it is worn.

Yang was initially drawn to developing a biomaterial that can be naturally decomposed after becoming aware of the amount of waste created by the fashion industry. "After studying fashion for five years at Central Saint Martins I realised how much material waste is generated within traditional fashion design project development," she explained.

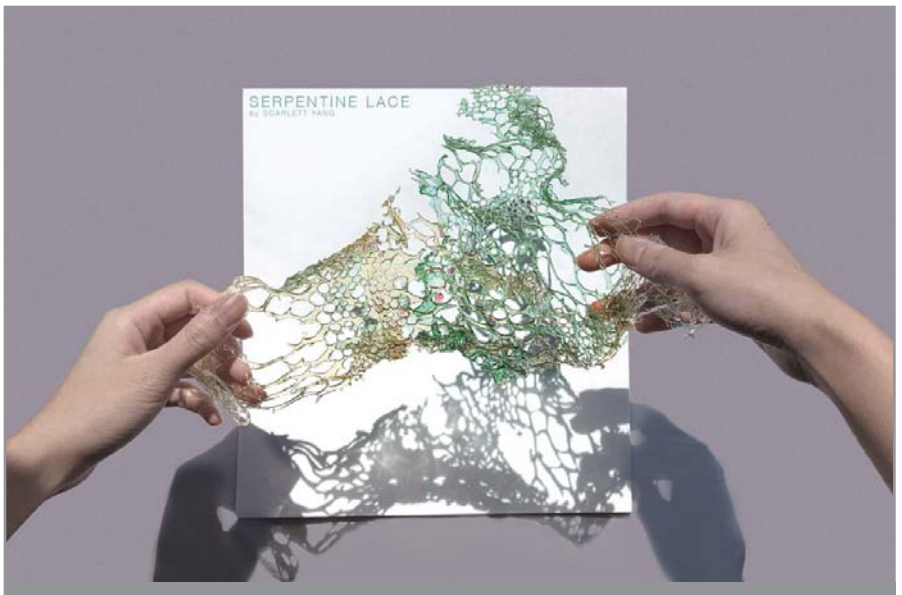
"Garment toiles (mock-up models) are made repeatedly before going into actual production, let alone with the manufacturing process that comes after. The vast majority of textiles on the market are not recyclable, which means we fashion graduates and students are also contributing to the pollution issues if we still do things the traditional way," she continued.

"My garments display the beauty of natural life forms, aiming to challenge audiences' perception of the concept of material life cycles." To make the dress, Yang first used generative design to create a 3D computer model of the textural shape that the material would take before digitally fabricating a casting mould using 3D-printing and laser-cutting technologies. This was to ensure she didn't create an excess of material that would go to waste.

Yang created a glass-like dress from the algae material



Yang created the material in a lab using water, coloured dye, algae extract and sericin



The biomaterial changes shape in response to different humidity and temperature levels

The designer then applied the biomaterial – made from a mixture of water, coloured dye and algae extract – in its liquid form onto the mould and left it to solidify. Following this, she applied a silk cocoon protein – known as sericin – onto selective parts of the material where she wanted it to crease and shrink in response to its environment. The protein has this effect due to its "hydrophobic" characteristics.

According to Yang, silk cocoon protein is commonly treated as refuse in industrial textile manufacturing, particularly in European and Asian traditional silk production plants. She therefore used the sericin to save it from going to waste.

While Yang created a physical version of the dress, she also used 3D modelling, animation and rendering to simulate the potential different outcomes of the material in various conditions.

For her final graduate presentation, she used these animated visuals to form a 360-degree showroom experience, which saw four digital versions of the biomaterial garment displayed in a gallery floating above the ocean, before gradually sinking into the water.

As Yang told Dezeen, if the algae-based material was to be used for commercial products, it could take several forms, including fashion garments, interior products or packaging materials. "Potentials lie in the research-and-development side of this design method for further commercial inquiries," she said. "Consumer products made with this biomaterial have the ability to degrade after the intended time of use, or alternatively it can change in size, shape and texture."

"The documentations on the material's decomposition phases allows an open-ended discussion on its potential use."

Other designers have also looked to plant-based materials to create more sustainable fashion products. Like Yang, New York designer Charlotte McCurdy used algae to make a water-resistant jacket that captures CO2 from the atmosphere. Similarly, Canadian-Iranian designer Roya Aghighi created clothes made from algae that turn carbon dioxide into oxygen via photosynthesis. ■

The Yarn Bazaar Expands Executive Team To Steer Company On Robust Growth Path

Jeetesh Kumar

Dheeraj Girase

Sayantani Panja

- Jeetesh Kumar named VP Operations, Dheeraj Girase appointed Head of Demand, and Sayantani Panja joins as AVP of Supply Chain Finance
- Strengthened leadership team will focus on driving robust growth of the platform and achievement of key business goals

The Yarn Bazaar, an online B2B marketplace creating a favourable and efficient ecosystem for yarn buyers and sellers, has announced the appointment of three new executives to its leadership team. Jeetesh Kumar has been appointed as the Vice President of Operations, Dheeraj Girase as the Head of Demand, and Sayantani Panja as the Associate Vice President of Supply Chain Finance. These strategic hires will play a crucial role in achieving the company's financial and business goals by leveraging their combined experience of nearly three decades in the corporate and start-up world.

Pratik Gadia, Founder & CEO, The Yarn Bazaar, commented on the new appointments and said: "We are thrilled to welcome Jeetesh, Dheeraj, and Sayantani to The Yarn Bazaar family. Their combined experience of operations, finance, and technology-driven startups will help us further strengthen our position as a leading player in the textile industry. With their valuable contributions, we are confident in our ability to drive growth, build a stronger and healthier ecosystem for all stakeholders, and bring more innovations to the market."

Jeetesh Kumar brings with him a wealth of experience in e-commerce and online marketplaces, spanning over 11 years. He has a proven track record of managing P&L, building profitable categories, and leading operations teams. With his passion for entrepreneurship and start-ups, Jeetesh is dedicated to improving verticals, such as supply chain, and building successful businesses. Jeetesh has gained expertise in logistics, supply chain, e-commerce, and shared mobility through leadership positions at Snapdeal, Dunzo and Rapido, where he was responsible for revenue and profit growth, cross-functional team leadership, and strategic planning. At The Yarn Bazaar, Jeetesh will be responsible for overseeing four key teams - demand, supply, supply chain, & Supply chain finance, and will leverage his analytical skills and experience to develop effective strategies for the company's growth.

"I am excited to work with The Yarn Bazaar team to develop and execute effective strategies that will lead to our success. I believe that with the right approach and a focus on innovation, we can successfully position The Yarn Bazaar as a leader in the textile industry and create long-term value for our stakeholders. My ultimate goal at The Yarn Bazaar is to transform the company into a profitable billion-dollar revenue company.," said Jeetesh.

Dheeraj Girase is an experienced Business Leader with a proven track record in Sales and Business Development in the B2C and B2B e-commerce segments. With over 12 years of experience, including stints at Bosch, Hero MotoCorp and Moglix, he is skilled in handling the P&L with end-to-end responsibility of Sales, account management, Sales planning and team management. Dheeraj's primary goals at The Yarn Bazaar are to increase sales and demand by acquiring new customers, building and growing the existing team, and expanding the business domestically and internationally with existing and new fashion and retail brands. His expertise in target achievement and P&L management make him well-suited for the task at hand.

Commenting on his new position, Dheeraj said, "I am absolutely thrilled to be a part of The Yarn Bazaar team and to take on the role of Head of Demand. The company's commitment to quality and innovation aligns perfectly with my passion for driving business growth. I am excited to leverage my experience and skills to increase sales and demand, expand the customer base, and build a dynamic team. I am confident that we will achieve great success together and I cannot wait to embark on this journey."

Sayantani Panja has over 8 years of combined experience in Consumer Fintech and Channel Finance. She began her career with Loan Frame where she handled the Southern zone operations, and built a successful co-lending book for PSL and Non-PSL sectors at Dhanvarsha. She initiated the consumer finance business at Capital Float and streamlined end-to-end processes related to credit and operations. She is a PhD scholar in Financial Inclusion from Christ University, and is actively pursuing the same. Sayantani has expertise in business development, strategic alliances, credit, operations, leadership, team building, product and program management, and stakeholder management. At The Yarn Bazaar, her primary focus will be to develop a robust portfolio providing buyers with easy access to credit and assisting suppliers with improved transactions, ensuring a healthy ecosystem for all stakeholders.

"I'm excited to join The Yarn Bazaar family and work towards building a strong financial ecosystem that benefits all stakeholders. My experience in consumer fintech and channel finance, coupled with my passion for technology-driven startups, will help me create innovative solutions for buyers and suppliers alike," commented Sayantani.

The Yarn Bazaar is a Managed (full stack) Vertical B2B Marketplace that provides a one-stop solution for all yarn-related requirements, including discovery, trading, financing, logistics, advisory, and market intelligence services. Founded in July 2019, the company has already completed transactions worth over Rs 370 crores with an average order value of Rs 19 lakhs. The Yarn Bazaar was featured on Shark Tank India Season One where they raised funding from 4 sharks - Peyush Bansal, Anupam Mittal, Ashneer Grover and Aman Gupta. The company is transforming the highly fragmented US$ 200 billion textile industry by solving supply chain and working capital constraints. ■

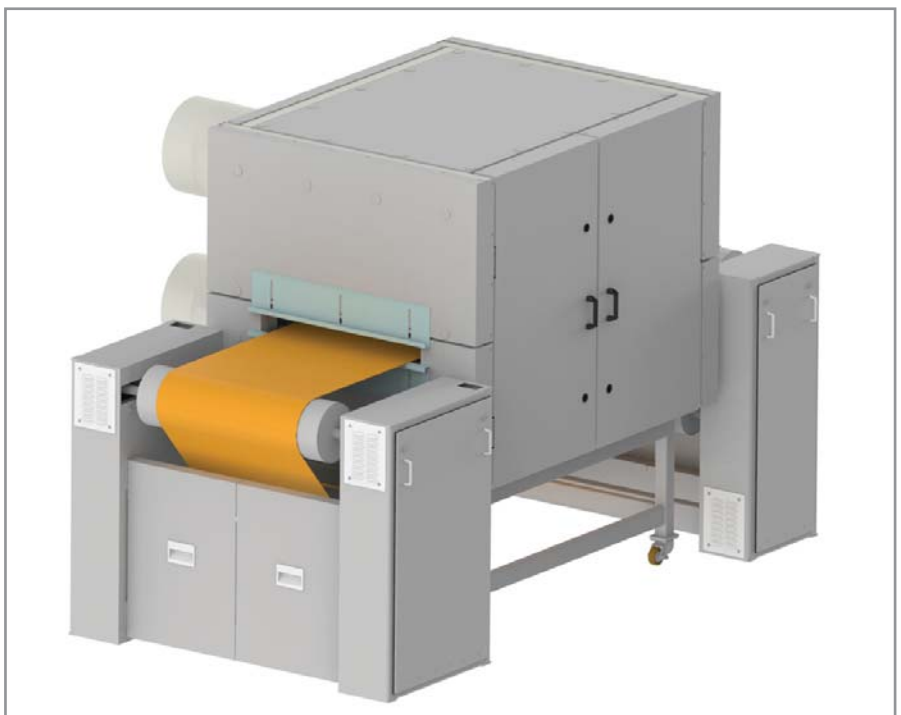
BRÜCKNER Will Present Latest Technology Trends At INDEX Geneva

On the occasion of this year's nonwovens exhibition INDEX in Geneva from 18 to 21 April 2023, the world's leading manufacturer of textile machinery BRÜCKNER will not only inform about its well-known delivery program which includes almost all types of dryers, thermofu-sion and heat-setting ovens with mainly convective heat transfer, but also about the latest trends in machinery technology and the related process technology.

In the last years BRÜCKNER realized some very challenging projects in the nonwovens industry. These include lines for the heat-setting of geotextiles, finishing lines for nonwovens in the medical technolo-gy as well as thermofusion lines for the bonding of voluminous nonwovens for the furniture industry.

Besides the current sales successes, the continuous further development of the processes and the associated line technology plays a decisive role for the German world market leader. The basis of each BRÜCKNER line is the technologically best possible line configuration, which is always individually tai-lored to the customer and his needs. For this purpose, customers and interested potential customers can carry out tests in BRÜCKNER's Technology Center at any time. Heat-setting, thermofusion, coating, laminating, drying and finishing tests can be carried out on two lines in production scale.

SUPRA FLOW BX double-belt thermofusion oven with rotary longitudinal cutter, guillotine cross cutter and semi-automatic winder for the production of voluminous nonwovens for the furniture industry


Through-flow belt oven/dryer in BRÜCKNER's Technology Center

In order to provide even better support in the future, especially for customers in the nonwovens pro-duction sector, a flow-through belt oven was added to the range of test machines at the BRÜCKNER Technology Center at the beginning of the year.

This is a small and compact thermo treatment line which, due to its short length, is excellently suitable to simulate also fast running processes with short dwell times at moderate test speeds. The electrically heated unit is equipped with all relevant sensors for measuring the local system pressures, the air vol-umes, the air temperatures, the material surface temperature and the process air humidity.

Visitors can meet the BRÜCKNER team at INDEX in hall 1, booth 1580 about the concrete possibilities for the optimization and development of nonwoven products in BRÜCKNER. ■

GoodWeave Letter To Readers

Time For Change At GoodWeave

March 23, 2023

Dear Friends,

It has been the honor of my life to establish and build GoodWeave as a leader in the field of child labour elimination over the past 24 years in solidarity with our founder Kailash Satyarthi. Collaborating with you and so many others who have made this organisation what it is today has been a continual source of joy and satisfaction.

Now, I am writing, as I want you to know I've decided to transition out of my CEO role this year and into a strategic advisory capacity. It is the right time: GoodWeave and I are both ready.

As I take stock, I see that our staff has never been stronger; we have grown our high-impact programming; we have served hundreds of thousands of beneficiaries; there are more than 400 businesses leading a transition to rights-based sourcing; and there is, finally, a global legislative environment that incentivizes companies to address child labour and modern slavery.

GoodWeave has transformed the carpet sector, and now we are engaged in several more industries, demonstrating how to protect children and workers, as well as participate in profitable commerce. Our strategy charts a course to multiply these achievements.

It's only through the engagement of thousands of individuals and organisations that we have produced these results and raised the bar for what's possible. Working alongside so many of you is at the heart of our model and values, and we will rely on your ongoing commitment moving forward.

The GoodWeave International Board has hired a recruitment firm, and the search to identify a new leader who shares our passion and commitment to the world's most vulnerable children is underway. We are committed to a smooth, stable transition, and I will keep you informed as this process advances. I welcome your input and advice along the way and look forward to being in touch on this and our continued work together.

Until then – thank you as always for your support and commitment.

Warm wishes,

Nina Smith

CEO, GoodWeave International

PERFORMANCE DAYS & Raddis®Cotton Join Forces To Revive Nature!

For every visitor attending the fairs ONE SQUARE METER OF SOIL will be rejuvenated

The production of natural, land-based fibres like cotton starts with a healthy soil, so the right farming practices used to make clothes and textiles are vital for achieving our climate targets. Improved soil health is just one of the many benefits brought by regenerative agriculture.

With the PERFORMANCE DAYS and Functional Fabric Fair by PERFORMANCE DAYS support, Raddis®Cotton farmers in South East India are actively able to transform their farmland from degenerative conventional mono-culture agriculture to a healthy regenerative organic eco-system approach.

"As we envision a textile and apparel industry that protects nature and restore biodiversity, we know that action is needed now. If we look at the alarming facts, we felt that we not only need to create awareness through our Forum and expert Talks, but we wanted to create positive impact ourselves and show a tangible example through collaboration with the Raddis System," said Marco Weichert, General Manager of PERFORMANCE DAYS.

The Raddis® System: It all starts with a seed

Raddis® stands for Radically Disruptive and is world`s first regenerative food and fibre ecosystem brand, that actively regenerates the environment, while improving vulnerable tribal women farmers` livelihood. The transparent "Seed-to-Shelf" cotton value chain secures a regenerative organic cotton supply for partners within the Raddis®System, simultaneously creating multiple positive impacts. One acre of a Raddis®Farm, for example, has the potential to harvest approximately 500 kilos of raw cotton and sequester about 2-3 tonnes of carbon annually. Besides cotton, many other symbiotic seeds are part of this eco-system: maize, pulses, marigold, castor, chilli and garlic, supporting natural pest and disease management, and acting as a windbreaker.

Improved biodiversity, soil water storage and increase of income for farmer families are other vital features of the regenerative Raddis®System.

Collaborate to regenerate

Raddis Brand- and Impact Catalyst Niccy Kol is proud on this collaboration between an Indian farmer family and the Performance Day's family. "It is important that we connect people and build relationships throughout the value chain. Getting to know eachother's stories, understanding the problems and enjoying mutual progress will give us an extra drive to actively transform our industry towards more good. Working with the family Weichert over 35 years already, this collaboration for sure is in many ways, the most valuable one. Our target is to support at least one farmer family with ca 1,5 acre farmland and involve many performance day's visitors to rethink their own value chain." ■