



GLOBAL ORGANIC TEXTILE STANDARD  
ECOLOGY & SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

# THEORY OF CHANGE OF THE GLOBAL ORGANIC TEXTILE STANDARD

VERSION 1.0  
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## Theory of Change of the Global Organic Textile Standard

### 1. Scope and purpose of our M&E system

The purpose of the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system of the Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS) is to ensure the implementation of a systematic approach for analyzing, monitoring, and assessing the impact of the interventions of our standard. With this we aim to track the progress regarding our vision and ensure the alignment with our strategic goals.

### 2. Stakeholders' identification and participation

With the purpose of identifying and fostering the participation of stakeholders in the M&E system of the Global Organic Textile Standard an impact survey was implemented with certified entities in September 2022. Out of this survey a first overview of the stakeholder map was drawn in with which we can identify the different sectors and steps in the supply chain. The outcome of the survey also gives a glance in the intended and unintended impact of GOTS according to the different views of the stakeholders.

### 3. Roles and Responsibilities

The responsibilities for the Monitoring and Evaluation system and GOTS are integrated into the whole organization in different units and teams. The managing directors lead the system in terms of the strategies and interventions done by the organization. The staff member(s) responsible for the implementation of aspects such as data collection, study design and further development of the M&E system relies on the monitoring and evaluation specialist. Other staff members of Global Standard gGmbH such as the Quality Assurance and Impact responsible ensure that there is a strong link with the standard development and the Data manager oversees the integration and coordination of all M&E related data into the information system of the organization.

Role	Responsibilities
Managing Directors	Strategic leadership
Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist	Coordination of monitoring and survey data collection, study design.
Quality Assurance and Impact Responsible	Data analysis, and link to the standard development.
Head of IT & Data Management	Data collection tools, data management.
Data Analyst	Data analysis, technical support
Knowledge Management	Internalizing learning and improving



## 4. Intended social, environmental, and economic impacts of GOTS.

### 4.1. Long-term intended impacts

- Increase the share of organic textiles available in the market.
- Reduce the negative environmental impact of textile supply chains (Ex. Development of low environmental impact textile chemicals, reduction of wastewater, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and energy usage).
- Improve the income and living conditions of farmers and workers in textile supply chains.
- To reduce the carbon footprint of the textile supply chain and in to increase the number of carbon-neutral products.
- Improved transparency and traceability in textile supply chains.
- Sustain GOTS as the gold standard in the organic textile industry.

### 4.2. Medium-term intended impacts

- Increased the amount, surface and proportion of organic fibres produced.
- Improved production facilities that reduce the environmental impact of textile production.
- Increase in the number of workers and farmers that receive a living wage or living income in the GOTS certified supply chains.
- Growing proportion of textile production facilities that reduce their GHG emissions.
- More efficient traceability along the supply chain
- Improved integrity and fraud prevention.
- Strengthening long-term business relationships with suppliers.

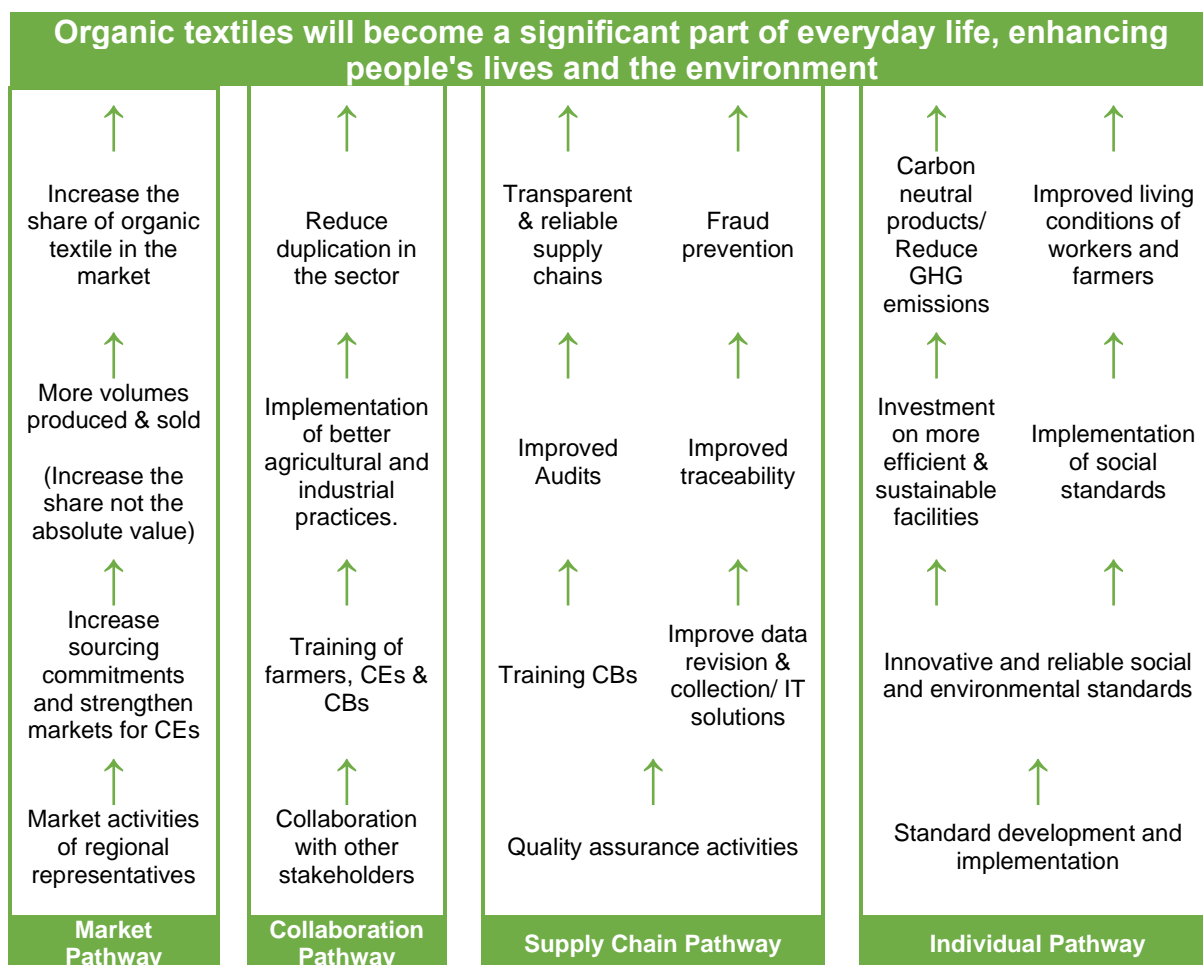


## 5. Unintended effects of GOTS activities

- Increased costs and workload associated with certification.
- Certified Entities with low-efficiency facilities will be required to invest more in more environmentally friendly and socially responsible facilities.
- Insufficient supply and rising demand can increase the probability and incentive for fraud in the organic textile supply chain.

## 6. Causal pathways

The causal pathways describe the expected steps towards the achievement of our vision. It is divided into four groups that represent the intervention areas and the stakeholders participating in driving the change. Here are some examples of the pathway's inputs, outputs, outcomes, and impacts:





## 7. Indicators

Below is a list of example indicators that are contained in GOTS's theory of change. A complete list of indicators will be published in a separate document:

### 7.1 Market Pathway

Input indicator: Number of fairs, events attended by GOTS representatives in the last year per region and target group.

Output indicator: Number of companies that have signed a sourcing commitment with new organic farmers in the last year per region.

Outcome indicator: Percentual increase in the volume of organic fibres processed by GOTS certified entities in the last year per region.

Outcome indicator: Percentual increase in the volume of organic fibres sold by GOTS certified entities in the last year per region and market group (private companies or public procurement).

Impact indicator: Percentual increase in the share of organic textiles in the market in the last year per region.

### 7.2 Collaboration Pathway

Input indicator: Number of partnerships or collaboration of GOTS with other organizations for improvement of farming or production practices in the last year per region.

Output indicator: Number of trainings provided to farmers or CE by topic, region and target group.

Outcome indicator: Number of agricultural organizations or production facilities that have been implementing the better agricultural and industrial practices provided in the trainings by topic, region and target group.

Impact indicator: e.g., Percentage of farmers that had an income improvement in the last years per region, and gender; percentage of workers that had made a progress towards the living income; percentage of workers that reduced the negative health effects of the textile production due to a GOTS certification.



### **7.3 Supply chain Pathway**

Input: Number of activities/projects implemented by GOTS to guarantee the quality assurance of the certified supply chains.

Output indicator: Number of activities/projects implemented by GOTS to improve the data collection or revision of standard criteria along the supply chain in the last year by region, topic and target group.

Outcome indicator: Number of audits or supply chains that have been improved in terms of efficiency of the revision of the standard criteria in the last by region, topic and target group.

Impact: e.g., Increased in the trust of GOTS certified supply chains over the time by region, topic, and target group

### **7.4 Individual Pathway**

Input: Number and type of changes in the standard by topic and target group.

Output: Number of certified entities that have implemented the social and environmental standards by region, topic and target group.

Outcomes: Number of certified entities that have implemented the social and environmental standards and has translated into more efficient and sustainable facilities and better living conditions of workers by region, topic and target group.

Impact: Number of carbon neutral products produced by certified facilities and/or reduction of GHG emissions and/or number of certified entities that can demonstrate improved living conditions of workers through the new standard developments.



## **8. Performance Monitoring**

GOTS has been implementing performance monitoring since 2019 with certified entities. The data is collected in an annual survey that covers the most relevant areas in which GOTS aims to have an impact.

## **9. Outcome and Impact Evaluations**

Currently there are no published output and impact evaluations of GOTS. In cooperation with a university, we are currently developing a research agenda that will be our departure point for tracking the progress towards intended outcomes and desired impacts.

## **10. Quality assurance of evaluations**

The quality assurance of evaluations will be based on the methodologies developed by recognized organizations such as the OECD, ILO, EU, etc.

## **11. Learning and improving**

The Monitoring and Evaluation system of the GOTS is continuously improving and the following measures are being implemented:

- Improving and investment in data management solutions that enable more and better information.
- Embedding the results of the M&E system in a continuous improvement system through the provision of feedback to the standard development process.

## TOPICS OF GOTS's THEORY OF CHANGE

**Organic textiles will become a significant part of everyday life, enhancing people's lives and the environment.**

### Impacts

Increase the share of organic textile in the market.

Reduce environmental impact.

Improved living conditions of workers and farmers

Carbon neutral products

Traceability and Transparency

Gold Standard in the textile sector

### Outcomes

More volumes produced.

Investment on more efficient facilities

Implementation of LW and LI

Improved Audits

Improved traceability

Fraud prevented.

### Output

Increase sourcing commitments.

Training of farmers & CE

Better prices for CE

Training CB

Improve data collection/ IT solutions.

Innovative and reliable standards

### Input

Market activities of regional representatives

Collaboration with other stakeholders

Quality assurance activities

Standard development and implementation