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Renewcell x Inovafil x Saurer – the story of a sustainable fibers' journey to ITMA

MUMBAI, JUNE 07—

At ITMA in Milano, on the Saurer booth in Hall 2 B 101, visitors can experience what happens when three innovative companies which are all focusing on increasing sustainability in the textile value chain, meet, and decide to showcase how a new innovative sustainable fiber is turned into yarn.

Renewcell's circulose fiber, prepared by Inovafil for Saurer, is being spun simultaneously in three different spinning applications: air, rotor and on selected days also on ring.

The ITMA2023 motto "Transforming the World of Textiles" is excellently chosen, as the upcoming European Union (EU) directives as part of the EU textile vision 2030 set a framework for driving positive change and creating a more sustainable and resilient textile sector within the European Union.

The textile industry will look for new sustainable solutions and new business models. New fibres, using textile waste as raw material, are being developed and brought into the markets. This is especially true for Scandinavia with its long history of paper production. This industry has fostered a deep understanding of pulp processing techniques, equipment, and technologies.

The extensive knowledge in pulp processing has given the region a head start and empty paper mills have offered space where discarded textiles are given a new life. One of the frontrunners in the new textile recycling development and the first for industrial scale up of production is Renewcell from Sweden.

Founded by innovators from Stockholm's KTH Royal Institute of Technology in 2012, the award-winning, Sweden-based sustaintech company's vision is to make fashion circular. Through its patented process, Renewcell is able to recycle cellulosic rich textile waste, such as worn-out cotton clothes and production scraps, transforming it into a pristine new material called CIRCULOSE which is then processed to fibres and spun into new yarn for textile production.

Inovafil in Portugal is one of these spinners in the early stages of commercialization. Inovafil Fiação, S.A. spinning mill was founded in 2011 in Portugal. The company's CEO Rui Martins is

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European textile and apparel industry increasingly exposed to global pressures

MUMBAI, JUNE 07—

The European Apparel and Textile Industry Association (EURAEX) has released its 2023 Spring Report, which analyses latest trade flows for textiles and clothing products.

In 2022, EU trade in textiles and clothing has exceeded, for the first time in history, the €200 billion mark. This record growth of total trade is mainly due to a sharp increase of clothing imports (+36,6% in value), especially from China and Bangladesh, which outweighs our positive export performance. As a result, the EU's trade deficit in textiles and clothing has increased to €70 billion, which is 48% higher than the year before.

Such a growing deficit is a cause for concern; the objective of the EU's Industrial Strategy to strengthen our resilience and "strategic autonomy" is not happening. Instead, our dependency has increased, and becomes critical in certain raw materials and fibres.

It also challenges the Commission's ambition is to promote – and prevail – high quality and sustainable textile products on the Single Market – regardless where they have been produced. With imports now reaching €140 billion, it will be a challenge to effectively control the quality and compliance over these imports. Market surveillance will need to be stepped up massively, without becoming a barrier to trade.

We also need to strengthen our efforts on the EU's export performance, so as to rebalance our trade relations with the rest of the world. EU companies are world leader in high end fashion products and in technical textiles. More needs to be done to support their activities in established markets but also emerging economies. For instance, the ongoing FTA negotiations with India should focus on improving market access and ensure "fair" competition with local companies.

The EURATEX Spring Report highlights significant differences between trade in value and in volume. EU's export of textile products has increased by 13% in value, but actually dropped by nearly 7% in volume. This obviously reflects the very high inflation figures from last year, caused initially by the rising energy prices and changing central bank policies. This in turn leads to uncertainty with the consumer, resulting in low demand and gloomy prospects for the entire value chain.

Director General Dirk Vantyghem commented on these latest

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Cotton MSP hiked for 2023-24

NEW DELHI, JUNE 07—

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by the Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi has approved the increase in the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for all mandated Kharif Crops, inclduing Cotton, for Marketing Season 2023-24.

The MSP for medum staple cotton has been fixed at Rs. 6620 per per quintal for Marketing Season 2023-24 as against MSP of Rs. 6080 for the corresponding period of last year.

The MSP for long staple cotton has been increased from Rs. 6380 to Rs. 7020 per qunital for Marketing Season 2023-24.

The MSP increase for medium staple cotton wokrs out to Rs. 540 while for long staple cotton it is to the tune of Rs. 640 per quintal respectively.

Expectations are good but momentum lost: ITMF

MUMBAI, JUNE 07—

The global business situation in the textile value chain deteriorated further in May 2023 and hit a new low at -36 percentage points (pp).

Across the board companies are currently struggling with a poor order intake on the one hand and rising production costs on the other, according to the results of the 20th ITMF Global Textile Industry Survey released today.

The survey informs that industry is faced with the ingredients of a "perfect storm". The majority of global textile value chain is expecting this current scenario to last until the end of 2023.

Since the beginning of the year business expectations have been back to positive territory. While in November 2022 they were still at -10 pp, they reached +22 pp in March. In May they fell slightly back to +18 pp.

At the same time, companies' expectation for the business climate in 6 months' time have been improving since November 2022.

It is unclear if this growing optimism about the mid-term future is due to a believe that the situation cannot get much worse or anticipation for a well-founded economic normalisation.

Order intake dropped further in May 2023 to a new low. Most regions and segments saw a fall in order intake, especially North & Central America and in the segment of fibers. "Weakening demand" remained the major concern for the global textile industry since July 2022.

"Inflation" remains the second major concern worldwide and gained importance. Worries about "Geopolitics" have increased and now feature among the main concerns.

The survey also shows that the level of order cancellations remains low, albeit slightly higher than four months ago. 51% of respondents to the 20th GTIS recorded no order cancelations during the last 4 months (down from 53% in March and 58% in January). South America is the region with the highest level of order cancelations, segment-wise fiber producers were impacted the most.

Inventory levels fell slightly in May compared to March. South America recorded the highest inventory level. As segments, home textile producers as well as dyers/finishers/printers reported the highest inventory levels.