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Editorial

Textile Times: A Tapestry of Innovation and Sustainability

In the October 2024 edition of TVC, we delve into a diverse array of topics that reflect the dynamic landscape of the textile industry, particularly focusing on Uzbekistan's transformative journey towards innovation and sustainability. This issue encapsulates insights from key industry leaders and highlights significant events that shape the future of textiles.

Cem Altan's insights from the ITMF Annual Conference set the tone, emphasising the need for collaboration to tackle global challenges. We delve into Uzbekistan's textile renaissance, highlighting its strategic initiatives aimed at tripling exports by 2026 through sustainable practices. Interviews with industry leaders, including Mirmukhsin Sultanov of the UzTextile Association and Dr. K.V. Srinivasan, President of ITMF, reveals their visions for growth and sustainability.

The issue also features Robin Fernandes discussing advancements in capital goods and an exploration of KAPOK FIBRES as an eco-friendly alternative in textile production. A comprehensive guide on sustainable practices for MSMEs provides actionable strategies for carbon footprint measurement and mitigation.

Dr. Suman Pant's impact on textile innovation and education is celebrated, alongside highlights from ITTA's 14th Annual General Meeting and MATEXIL's 70th AGM, which focused on resilience amidst global challenges. The Textile Sourcing Meet '24 emphasises buyer-seller collaboration, while an interaction meet between SLC Agricola, Brazil, and ICAR-CIRCOT Mumbai showcases international partnerships.

We also celebrate advancements in textile machinery at the TMMA Annual General Meeting and provide a behind-the-scenes look at women's wear production. The Global Sourcing Expo in Australia is highlighted for its role in connecting international buyers with suppliers, while Gartex Texprocess India 2024 showcases innovations in networking.

This issue encapsulates a hopeful future for the textile industry through innovation and sustainability.

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Forging the Future

Insights from the ITMF and IAF Convention in Samarkand, Uzbekistan

The ITMF Annual Conference and IAF World Fashion Convention, a joint event of two major textile associations, was held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, from September 8 to 10, 2024. This event was the first collaboration between the International Textile Manufacturers Federation (ITMF) and the International Apparel Federation (IAF). It was hosted by Uztextileprom and the Chamber of Commerce & Industry of Uzbekistan.

[Fig.: People in the photo (from left to right): 1. Chairman of Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Uzbekistan Davron Vakhabov, 2. Governer of Samarkand Region Erkinjon Turdimov 3. Cem Altan, IAF President, 4. Deputy Prime Minister Jamshid Khodjaev, 5. K.V. Srinivasan, ITMF President, 6. Chairman UZTS, Mirmuhsin Sultanov.]

Significance of Uzbekistan as Host

Uzbekistan was selected as the venue due to its rapidly growing role in the global textile and apparel industries. The country has a longstanding tradition in cotton production, and recent reforms have led to strong export growth in textiles and garments. By 2023, Uzbekistan's textile exports reached approximately $3.5 billion, with ambitions to increase this figure to $6.5 billion by 2026. The lifting of the Cotton Campaign boycott in 2022 has further solidified Uzbekistan's position in the global market.

Conference Highlights

The conference attracted over **500 delegates** from more than **30 countries**, including key industry leaders from Europe and Asia. Participants engaged in discussions on pressing issues such as:

- Value creation in the supply chain
- Impact of artificial intelligence
- Production digitization
- International regulations
- Sustainable development
- Recycling and supply chain optimization

A total of **25 business events** were held during this period, including closed meetings that focused on specific challenges and opportunities within the industry.

Keynote Addresses

Cem Altan, head of the IAF, emphasized the critical role of the apparel and textile sector in driving positive change. He urged industry leaders to prioritize decarbonization and transparency. **ITMF President Dr K.V. Srinivasan** noted that despite facing high input costs and low demand, innovative solutions were showcased through the ITMF Awards 2024, which recognized achievements in

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categories such as **Sustainability & Innovation** and **International Cooperation**.

Uzbekistan's Textile Reforms

A dedicated session at the conference focused on Uzbekistan's textile industry prospects. Systematic reforms have included:

- Ending state monopolies on cotton farming
- Establishing cotton clusters
- Banning forced and child labour

These changes have positioned Uzbekistan as a member of international organisations like Better Cotton Initiative and Better Work, confirming compliance with global production standards.

Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev addressed attendees, expressing readiness to support international brands entering Uzbekistan and promoting favourable conditions for hosting future international events in cities rich in tourism potential.

Future Outlook

The event concluded with optimism about Uzbekistan's evolving role in the global textile supply chain. **Acting Chairman of Uztextileprom, Mirmukhsin Sultanov**, noted that Uzbekistan has made remarkable progress over the past two years, significantly expanding its network of international partners. The country aims to achieve an ambitious export target of $10 billion by 2030 through continued investment and modernization efforts.

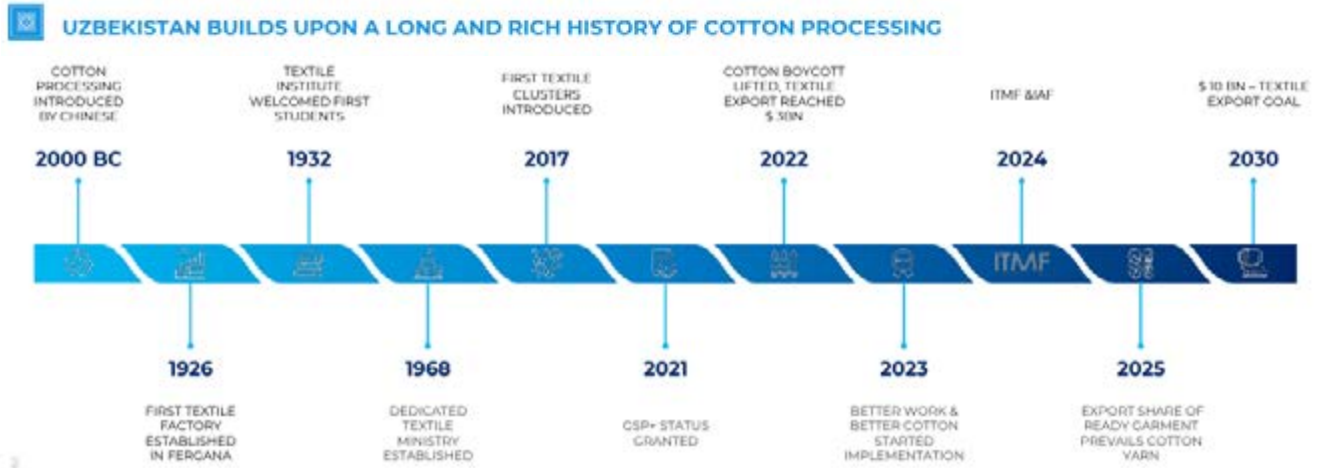
Overall, the joint ITMF Annual Conference and IAF World Fashion Convention not only highlighted Uzbekistan's achievements but also fostered collaboration among industry leaders to address future challenges in sustainability, compliance, digitalization, and innovation within the textile sector.

Uzbekistan's Textile Industry

A Promising Future Powered by Innovation and Sustainability

Uzbekistan's textile industry is on a significant growth trajectory, as illustrated by various graphs that depict its historical milestones, current production metrics, and future goals.

Historical Milestones



The timeline graph highlights key developments in Uzbekistan's textile sector, beginning with the introduction of cotton processing around 2000 BC. Notable milestones include the establishment of the first textile factory in 1926 and the creation of dedicated textile ministries in 1968.

The introduction of textile clusters in 2017 marked a strategic shift towards modernising production processes. By 2022, the lifting of the cotton boycott allowed exports to reach $3 billion, with a bold goal set for $10 billion by 2030.

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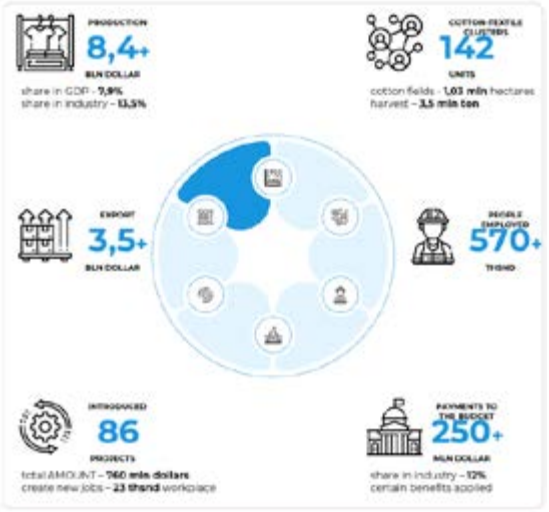
Current Industry Overview



A detailed overview of the textile industry in 2023 reveals impressive statistics:

- **Production Value**: The industry generated over $8.4 billion, contributing 7.9% to the GDP and 13.5% to industrial output.
- **Employment:** Approximately 570,000 people are employed across 142 cotton-textile clusters covering over 1 million hectares.
- **Export Growth:** Exports accounted for more than $3.5 billion, with a diverse range of products including blended yarns, dyed fabrics, and home textiles.

Production Metrics

Graphs illustrating production metrics from 2017 to 2023 show substantial increases across various categories:

- **Cotton Fiber Processing:** Increased from 40% to 100%, reaching over 1 million tons.
- **Yarn Production:** Grew from 412 thousand tons to nearly 1 million tons.
- **Garment Production:** Expanded dramatically from 960 million pieces in 2017 to approximately 3 billion pieces in 2023.

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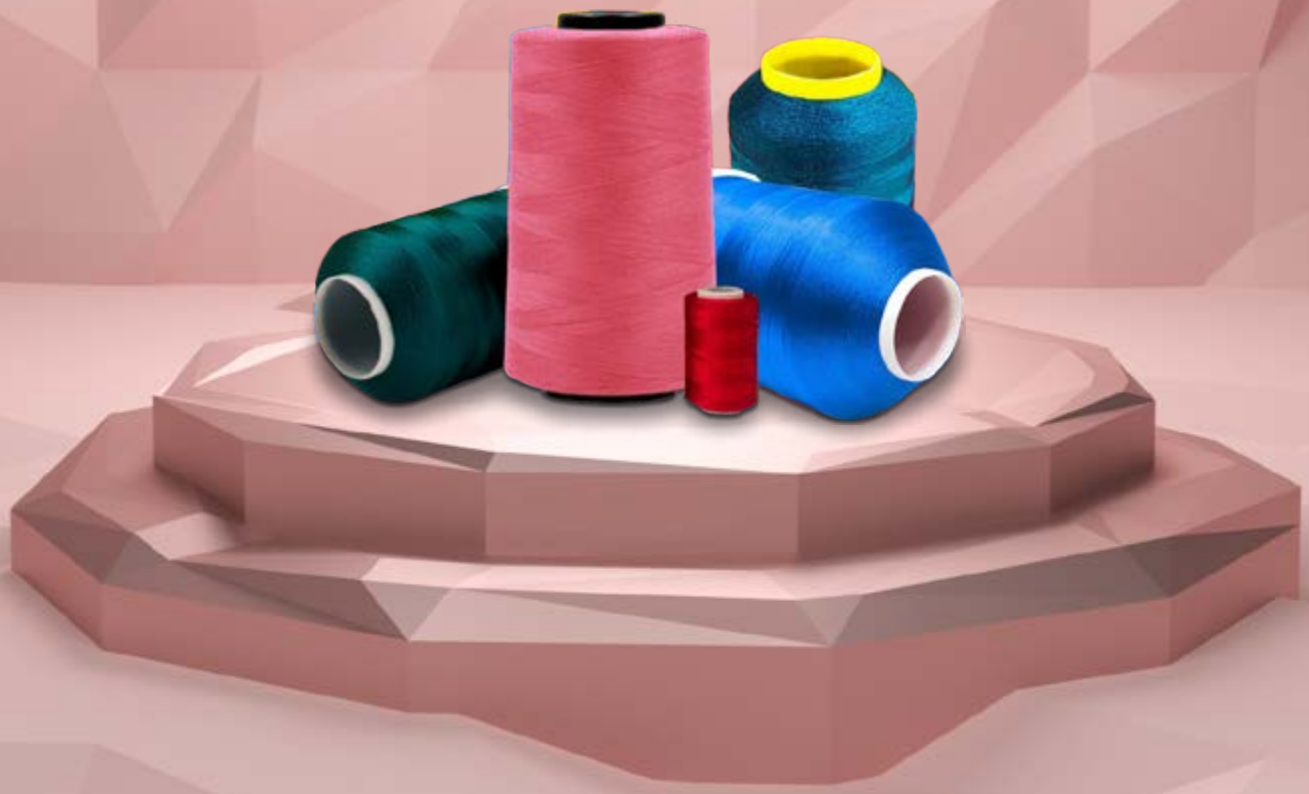

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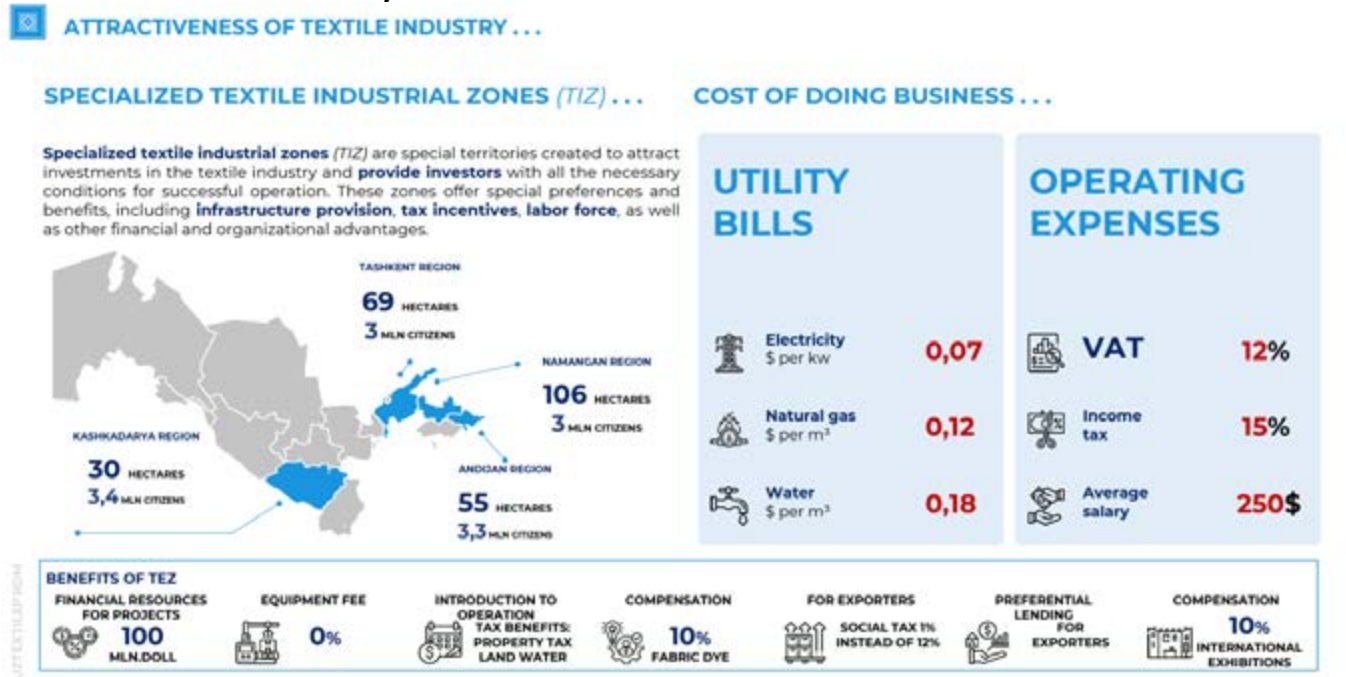
The export distribution graph indicates that Uzbekistan exports textiles to over 80 countries, with significant markets in the CIS (52%), South and East Asia (23%), and Europe (21%). This broad reach underscores the competitive delivery terms offered by Uzbekistan's textile manufacturers.

Investment and Sustainability



The graphs also emphasise the establishment of specialised textile industrial zones (TIZ), which provide tax benefits and financial resources to attract investment. These zones are crucial for enhancing operational efficiency and sustainability within the industry. Furthermore, there is a strong commitment to sustainable practices, with many producers now certified for organic production.

In summary, Uzbekistan's textile industry is not only expanding rapidly but also adapting to modern challenges through innovation and sustainability initiatives. The data presented highlights a robust framework for future growth, aiming for significant export increases and enhanced global competitiveness.

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Uzbekistan's Textile Renaissance

A New Era of Growth and Sustainability

Uzbekistan's textile industry is undergoing a remarkable transformation, positioning itself as a rising global powerhouse. With a rich history dating back to 2000 BC, the country has made significant strides in modernising its cotton processing and textile manufacturing capabilities.

A Decade of Rapid Growth

Over the past decade, Uzbekistan has witnessed an exponential increase in textile production. Key highlights include:

- 17 X increase in apparel production
- 8 X increase in textile production
- 100% cotton fibre processing in 2023, up from 40% in 2017
- Booming textile exports, reaching over $3.5 billion in 2023, with a goal of $10 billion by 2030

Driving Factors for Growth

Several factors have contributed to Uzbekistan's textile industry growth:

- Elimination of forced labour and minimum wage increases
- Enforcement of environmental, social and governance (ESG) standards
- Attractive incentive packages for investors
- Implementation of a unique textile cluster system
- Advantageous geographic location bridging Asia and Europe

Challenges and the Way Forward

While Uzbekistan's textile industry has made significant strides, it still faces some challenges:

- Narrow product portfolio and regional focus
- Social and environmental compliance issues
- Lack of international reputation and limited buyer knowledge
- Shortage of skilled labour and dependence on foreign management
- Access to finance and logistics constraints

To address these challenges and position itself as a global textile leader, Uzbekistan is focusing on four key areas:

1. Short lead times and rapid supply to the EU market
2. Responsible production through enhanced sustainability and transparency
3. Product diversification across fibres and categories
4. Offering value-added services like product development and design

Sustainability and Quality: A Winning Combination

Uzbekistan's textile manufacturers are committed to producing high-quality, sustainable products. Many are accredited by leading international certification bodies and are working closely with organisations like Better Work and Better Cotton to ensure compliance with global standards.

As Uzbekistan continues to invest in its textile industry, the country is poised to become a major player in the global textile supply chain. With its unique combination of rapid growth, strategic location, and commitment to sustainability, Uzbekistan is set to emerge as a textile giant in the making.

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Bridging Traditions and Innovations

Highlights from the ITMF & IAF Conference 2024 in Samarkand

Dr. K.V. Srinivasan, President of the International Textile Manufacturers Federation (ITMF), addressed a distinguished audience at the ITMF & IAF Conference 2024 held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan from September 8-10, 2024. This conference marked a significant milestone as it was the first time in ITMF's 120-year history that an annual conference took place in Central Asia.

Dr. K.V. Srinivasan
ITMF President

In a recent conversation with Dr. Srinivasan, the significance of the recently concluded ITMF conference in Uzbekistan was discussed.

Significance of the Conference
Historic Venue

Samarkand, a city steeped in history as part of the ancient Silk Road, provided a unique backdrop for this event. The conference was hosted by Uztextileprom, the Uzbek Textile and Garment Industry Association, highlighting Uzbekistan's emergence as a key player in the global textile value chain.

Collaborative Efforts
This year's conference was particularly noteworthy as it represented a joint effort between ITMF and the International Apparel Federation (IAF), bringing together stakeholders from across the textile supply chain including fibre producers, garment manufacturers, and retailers. Dr. Srinivasan emphasised the importance of collaboration in addressing industry challenges and fostering innovation.

Objectives of the Conference
The primary aim of the ITMF conference was to unite textile professionals from around the world, fostering networking and collaboration. Dr. Srinivasan noted that hosting the conference in a textile-producing country allows participants to gain firsthand insights into local industry developments. Uzbekistan was chosen due to its renewed openness and commitment to international cooperation in the textile sector.

Expected Outcomes
Dr. Srinivasan emphasised that the conference's focus was on exchanging ideas rather than producing formal resolutions. Key topics included the impact of artificial intelligence on textiles and sustainable practices within the industry. The event also featured the ITMF Awards, recognizing innovative startups and collaborative efforts that exemplify progress within the textile field.

Current Challenges in the Textile Industry
Dr. Srinivasan outlined several pressing issues facing the textile and apparel industry:

- **Weak Demand:** The latest ITMF Global Textile Industry Survey indicated a persistent negative business climate across all regions due to weak demand from brands and retailers. Inventory levels surged during the pandemic but have now stabilised, limiting new orders.
- **Rising Costs:** The industry is grappling with increased costs across various fronts—energy, raw materials, labour, and logistics—putting pressure on profit margins.
- **Geopolitical Factors:** Ongoing conflicts, such as those in Ukraine and Gaza, along with central banks' monetary policies, add layers of uncertainty to market conditions.

Themes for Discussion

The conference theme, "Innovation, Collaboration & Regulation – Drivers of the Global Textile & Apparel Industry," guided discussions on how to navigate these challenges. Various sessions were dedicated to exploring innovative solutions and regulatory frameworks that could enhance industry resilience and sustainability.

Awards and Recognition

The event also celebrated innovation through the presentation of several awards:

- ITMF Start-up Award 2024
- ITMF Sustainability & Innovation Award 2024
- ITMF International Cooperation Award 2024

These awards highlighted successful projects that demonstrate how the industry is adapting to sustainability challenges and promoting international cooperation.

Uzbekistan's Transformation

Dr. Srinivasan noted Uzbekistan's remarkable transformation under President Shavkat Mirziyoyev's reform policies over the past eight years. The country has shifted from being a major cotton exporter to developing its own textile manufacturing capabilities, positioning itself as a competitive player in the global market.

In closing, Dr. Srinivasan expressed gratitude to local leaders and organisers for their efforts in making the conference a success. He encouraged attendees to engage deeply during discussions and explore Uzbekistan's vibrant textile industry while fostering valuable connections throughout the event.

This conference not only served as a platform for addressing current challenges but also highlighted the potential for growth and innovation within the global textile and apparel sector.

Advancing Uzbekistan's Textile Industry: An Interview with Mirmukhsin Sultanov

In a recent interview, TVC Media had the opportunity to converse with Mirmukhsin Sultanov, the Acting Chairman of the Uzbekistan Textile and Garment Industry Association. This association, which includes over 11,000 textile companies—comprising 6,000 firms in the industry and 2,000 major exporters—plays a vital role in fostering the growth of Uzbekistan's textile sector.

Mirmukhsin Sultanov
Acting Chairman Of UzTextile Association

Mr Sultanov is dedicated to advancing the country's textile industry on a global scale. With more than ten years of experience in the public sector, including roles in the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Investment, Sultanov possesses a deep understanding of Uzbekistan's economic framework. His leadership is crucial in aligning the textile industry with international markets through the "Made in Uzbekistan" initiative, which seeks to elevate the brand's presence worldwide.

What is the objective of the Uzbekistan Textile and Garment Industry Association, and how many members do you currently have?

The Uzbekistan Textile and Garment Industry Association is the only textile association in the

country that covers the entire textile industry. With over 11,000 textile companies, of which 6,000 are industry companies and 2,000 are major exporters, the association plays a significant role in the development of the textile sector in Uzbekistan.

How has the recent ITMF conference in Uzbekistan impacted the country's textile industry?

Hosting the ITMF conference in Uzbekistan was a significant acknowledgement of the progress made in the country's textile industry. It demonstrates Uzbekistan's commitment to sustainable development and readiness to expand globally. This event provided a perfect platform for getting connections, collaborations, and raising awareness about Uzbekistan's textile capabilities. The conference featured a message from the President of Uzbekistan, highlighting the industry's development, government support, and future targets. International partners, investors, and Uzbek textile companies also showcased their growth and potential.

What are the main drivers behind the rapid development of Uzbekistan's textile industry in the past 5-8 years?

The privatisation of the cotton sector has been a major catalyst for the growth of Uzbekistan's textile industry. With the government's support and finance, local and foreign investors have poured in over $4 billion in investments, attracted by the potential for value addition in the cotton sector.

What is the current size of Uzbekistan's textile industry, and what is the potential for growth?

This year, Uzbekistan's textile industry is expected to produce $10 billion worth of goods, with at least 40-50% being exported. According to a study conducted with Boston Consulting Group, the potential for growth is significant, with the possibility of increasing exports from the current $3 billion to $15 billion by 2030.

How does Uzbekistan plan to differentiate itself in the highly competitive Asian textile market?

Uzbekistan recognizes that collaboration is key to success in the Asian textile market. While there is competition, Uzbekistan has strengths in certain areas, such as the GSP+ regime with the European Union, which provides zero customs duty access. By collaborating with countries like Bangladesh and India, which have strengths in other markets, Uzbekistan can leverage its advantages and gain a larger share of the global textile market.

Conclusion

Uzbekistan's textile industry has undergone a remarkable transformation in recent years, driven by government support, foreign investment, and a strong focus on collaboration. With the potential for significant growth and a commitment to innovation, Uzbekistan is poised to become a major player in the global textile market. ■ ■

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Transforming the Textile Landscape

Insights from Cem Altan at the ITMF Annual Conference

Cem Altan, the President of the International Apparel Federation (IAF), delivered a significant address at the ITMF Annual Conference and IAF World Fashion Convention held from September 8-10, 2024, in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. His speech centred on the themes of innovation, cooperation, and regulation as critical drivers of the textile and apparel industry.

Cem Altan
President, IAF

Opening Remarks

In his opening remarks, Altan acknowledged the esteemed presence of various dignitaries, including Deputy Prime Minister Khodjaev and Governor Turdimov of Samarkand. He expressed his honour in addressing leaders from one of the world's largest industries, emphasising their collective responsibility to shape not only their businesses but also the welfare of millions employed within the sector and the health of the planet.

The Importance of Collaboration

Altan highlighted the unprecedented collaboration between the IAF and ITMF at this year's conference, marking a pivotal moment in their history. He praised Uzbekistan as an ideal host for this joint convention due to its unique blend of tradition and innovation within the textile apparel sector. He noted that Uzbekistan's rising global competitiveness underscores its expanding role in the global textile supply chain.

Addressing Industry Challenges

The IAF President stressed that apparel and textile manufacturers are crucial to driving meaningful change in the industry. He pointed out key initiatives such as decarbonisation, **reducing overproduction**, **enhancing transparency**, and **advancing digitisation**. These initiatives are essential for addressing pressing challenges within the sector, which are compounded by legislative pressures and fierce competition.

Altan remarked on a noticeable shift in client attitudes towards manufacturers, indicating a growing recognition of their essential role in moving beyond superficial sustainability efforts, often referred to as "greenwashing."

Overcoming Inefficiencies

Despite these promising developments, Altan acknowledged that many manufacturers still grapple with inefficiencies rooted in a cycle of low prices and high volumes. This model often leads to overproduction and diminished profit margins. He encouraged manufacturers to break free from this cycle by collaborating closely with fabric suppliers and clients to offer higher-quality products at better returns.

The Role of Digitalization

Digitalisation emerged as a vital pathway for enhancing supply chain flexibility and improving product quality while reducing costs. Altan urged manufacturers to take the initiative in this area, noting that successful digital transformation can foster deeper collaboration across the supply chain.

Attracting Investment

To drive necessary changes, Altan emphasised the need for increased investment from external sources. He called for a united front among apparel and textile manufacturers to secure funding for initiatives like decarbonisation, which require comprehensive plans developed collaboratively with all stakeholders.

Regulatory Landscape

As regulatory pressures increase globally, Altan underscored the importance of equitable cost-sharing among all supply chain partners. He

warned against poorly enforced regulations that could undermine sustainability efforts by rewarding non-compliance.

In closing, Altan expressed gratitude to the Boards of Directors of both ITMF and IAF for their vision of uniting industry leaders in Samarkand. He reiterated that while significant challenges lie ahead, there is a unique opportunity for collective action to create lasting positive change within the textile and apparel industries.

This conference has set a precedent for future collaborations aimed at fostering innovation, cooperation, and regulation—essential elements for a sustainable future in textiles and apparel. ■ ■

Birla Cellulose: Blending Tradition with Innovation in Jetpur's Saree Printing Hub

Jetpur, Gujarat, has long been celebrated as the mass printing capital for sarees, particularly known for its rich tradition of producing 100% cotton sarees. For decades, the town's economy has thrived on its deep-rooted printing practices, which have evolved significantly since the 1950s. This evolution has now taken a significant leap forward with the introduction of Birla Cellulose's Liva fabric, a move that perfectly marries traditional craftsmanship with modern textile innovation.

Birla Cellulose, a leading MMCF manufacturer, has always been at the forefront of sustainable and innovative fibre solutions. With the introduction of Liva fabric into Jetpur's established saree printing industry, Birla Cellulose is not just contributing to the local economy but is also redefining the future of saree production in the region. Liva, known for its fluidity, softness, and eco-friendly properties, brings a new dimension to the sarees produced in Jetpur, offering consumers a sustainable alternative to traditional cotton sarees.

The journey of integrating Liva into Jetpur's saree production process is a testament to Birla Cellulose's commitment to innovation. The saree team at Birla Cellulose meticulously developed a grey ExcelxCotton fabric tailored specifically for sarees. This fabric, sourced from Bhiwandi in Maharashtra, undergoes a series

Birla Cellulose
Fibres from nature

of advanced processing techniques, including desizing, scouring, and bleaching in Dombivli, Thane district, before being brought to Jetpur for printing.

In Jetpur, the fabric is subjected to both traditional and modern printing techniques, including cold and hot screen printing, automatic and semi-automatic flatbed printing, and silicate padding. These processes are carried out with precision, blending the town's age-old craftsmanship with Birla Cellulose's innovative approach to fabric production. The result is a high-quality, printed saree that retains the traditional appeal of Jetpur's designs while offering the enhanced performance and comfort of Liva fabric.

Birla Cellulose's involvement doesn't stop at production. The company is actively engaging with leading labels to raise awareness about Liva sarees, ensuring that the benefits of this fabric reach a broader audience. The introduction of Liva has already been well-received in the market, particularly in regions with hot and humid climates like West Bengal, Bihar, and Tamil Nadu, where the fabric's comfort and breathability make it an ideal choice for daily wear.

This strategic move by Birla Cellulose not only enhances Jetpur's saree production capabilities but also exemplifies how modern textile innovation can seamlessly blend with traditional craftsmanship. By introducing Liva fabric to Jetpur, Birla Cellulose is paving the way for a new era in saree production, where tradition meets technology to create products that are both timeless and contemporary.

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A Decade of Fostering Environmental Progress

IFAT, a global network for environmental technologies, organises trade fairs worldwide, including in Munich, China, India, South Africa, Brazil, and Turkey. It serves as a platform for decision-makers in the environmental technology sector to address specific challenges in various markets.

Robin Fernandes
Business Unit Head - Capital Goods: IFAT India

For the past decade, **IFAT India** has been a hub for professionals and experts in the water, sewage, waste, and recycling industries. The event facilitates knowledge exchange, networking, and partnerships among industry players, policymakers, and environmental experts.

The show also features a comprehensive conference program where industry experts discuss current environmental issues and trends.

TVC Media Team interviewed **Robin Fernandes, Business Unit Head - Capital Goods at IFAT India.** Fernandes, a seasoned professional with over 14 years of experience in business development and marketing, holds an MBA from Mumbai University. His expertise lies in communications, sales, marketing, business development, strategic alliances, and client management.

How has IFAT India positioned itself as the premier trade fair for environmental technologies in India over the past decade?

IFAT India has strategically positioned itself as the leading trade fair for environmental technologies by consistently aligning with the evolving needs of the Indian market. Over the past decade, we've recognised that India's environmental challenges are both vast and unique, requiring a platform that brings together global expertise and local insights. By curating an event that addresses specific issues such as water scarcity, waste management, and pollution control, we've created a focused environment where solutions are not just discussed but actively developed and implemented. Our commitment to quality, innovation, and relevance has established IFAT India as the go-to event for stakeholders across the environmental technology sector.

What are the key factors that have contributed to IFAT India's success in fostering business partnerships and idea exchange within India's environmental technology sector?

IFAT India's success in fostering business partnerships and facilitating idea exchange stems from our deep understanding of the market's dynamics and our ability to bring together the right mix of participants. We emphasise creating a collaborative atmosphere where government bodies, private enterprises, and thought leaders can interact openly and constructively. This has been achieved through initiatives such as targeted matchmaking sessions, specialised workshops, conferences and panel discussions that are designed to spark meaningful dialogue. Additionally, our global reach, bolstered by the IFAT brand, attracts international participants who bring fresh perspectives and innovative solutions, further enriching the ecosystem.

In what ways has IFAT Munich's global success influenced the growth and development of IFAT India as a platform for environmental innovation?

The global success of IFAT Munich has been instrumental in shaping the growth trajectory of IFAT India. As a part of the larger IFAT family, we have been able to leverage the extensive

network, brand credibility, and vast resources that Munich offers. This affiliation has allowed us to introduce cutting-edge technologies and global best practices to the Indian market, while also creating a platform for Indian innovations to gain international recognition. The cross-pollination of ideas and technologies between IFAT Munich and IFAT India has fostered a robust platform where environmental innovation thrives, tailored specifically to address the challenges and opportunities unique to India.

How does IFAT India differentiate itself from other trade fairs in India with its focus on water, sewage, solid waste, and recycling solutions?

IFAT India sets itself apart from other trade fairs by offering a highly specialised focus on critical environmental sectors such as water, sewage, solid waste, and recycling. Unlike broader industrial fairs, our event is dedicated to environmental technologies, making it a crucial hub for professionals who are specifically looking for solutions in these areas. We provide a platform where the entire value chain is represented—from policymakers and technology providers to end users and sustainability experts. This focused approach not only enhances the quality of interactions but also ensures that the solutions presented are directly applicable to the challenges faced by India today.

What are the main highlights of IFAT India 2024 that make it a must-visit event for industry professionals, startups, and environmental enthusiasts?

At IFAT India 2024, several special zones have been introduced to enhance the event's focus on innovation and sustainability. A central highlight is the Startup Innovation Zone, which brings together emerging companies that are driving cutting-edge technologies. This zone creates an ecosystem of innovation by providing startups with a platform to showcase their solutions directly to industry leaders and investors, encouraging disruptive technologies and new ideas. Additionally, the Bio Nexus Zone is another key addition, emphasising biotechnology's role in addressing environmental challenges. This zone presents bio-based innovations in areas such as waste management and water treatment, highlighting their impact on sustainable development. Additionally, the ULB Pavilion has been introduced to foster dialogue and collaboration between Urban Local Bodies, focusing on sustainable infrastructure projects and the exchange of best practices.

How does IFAT India support the growth of young professionals and startups in the environmental sector through its various programs and initiatives?

Supporting the next generation of environmental leaders is a core focus of IFAT India. We have developed several initiatives aimed at empowering young professionals and startups, including mentorship programs, specialised workshops, and networking events tailored to their needs. The Startup Innovation Zone, in particular, offers a platform for emerging companies to showcase their solutions to a global audience, receive feedback from industry veterans, and connect with potential investors. Another exciting initiative is the Young Professionals Program, designed to engage emerging talent in the industry, offering them opportunities to connect with industry leaders and gain insights that will shape their careers.

What role does the Buyer-Seller Forum play in facilitating meaningful business relationships and collaborations at IFAT India?

The Buyer-Seller Forum at IFAT India is a cornerstone of our event, designed to create direct business opportunities for exhibitors and visitors alike. This forum facilitates pre-scheduled meetings between buyers and sellers, ensuring that the interactions are targeted and productive. By providing a structured environment for business negotiations, the forum helps participants maximise their time at the event and forge meaningful collaborations that extend beyond the trade fair. It's a powerful tool for driving business growth and innovation in the environmental sector, connecting solution providers with those who need their products and services the most. This year, more than

2200 Buyer-Seller meetings will take place.

Can you elaborate on the exhibition sectors featured at IFAT India 2024 and their relevance in addressing India's environmental challenges?

The exhibition sectors at IFAT India 2024 are carefully curated to address the most pressing environmental challenges facing India today. These sectors include water management, sewage treatment, solid waste management, and recycling technologies. Each sector is not just a display of products but a comprehensive showcase of solutions that are critical to India's sustainable development. For instance, the water management sector will feature innovations in smart water systems and desalination, which are crucial for addressing India's water scarcity issues. The solid waste management sector will

focus on waste-to-energy technologies, which are essential for urban sustainability. By bringing together these diverse yet interconnected sectors, IFAT India provides a holistic view of the environmental solutions landscape, offering attendees actionable insights and opportunities to implement these technologies within their own operations.

How does IFAT India contribute to the advancement of environmental technologies and sustainable practices in India through its conferences, seminars, and networking events?

At IFAT India 2024, the conference segment has evolved significantly to enhance knowledge-sharing and foster innovation in environmental technology. A key highlight is the inclusion of industry-driven discussions on critical issues like wastewater systems, sustainable water supply, and holistic waste management. These

IFAT India

IFAT 2024
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discussions are tailored to address region-specific environmental challenges, making them highly relevant to India's current landscape.

This year, the Speaker's Corner will serve as a hub for thought-provoking presentations, bringing together experts to discuss cutting-edge topics like recycling, solid waste management, and advancements in sewage treatment. Another exciting initiative is the Young Professionals Program, designed to engage emerging talent in the industry, offering them opportunities to connect with industry leaders and gain insights that will shape their careers.

Overall, the expanded conference offerings and new initiatives at IFAT India 2024 reflect a broader commitment to advancing sustainable practices through collaboration, education, and cutting-edge solutions.

What opportunities do attendees have to engage with cutting-edge solutions and innovative products across the diverse range of product categories showcased at IFAT India?

Attendees at IFAT India 2024 will have a unique opportunity to engage with 5000+ cutting-edge solutions and innovative products across a broad spectrum of categories. The event is designed to be interactive, with live demonstrations, hands-on workshops, and product presentations that allow participants to experience the latest technologies firsthand. Additionally, can engage directly with developers and innovators, gaining deeper insights into how these products can be implemented in real-world scenarios. Whether it's through expert-led sessions, direct interactions with exhibitors, or participation in our specialised forums, attendees will find numerous avenues to explore the forefront of environmental technology and bring those innovations back to their own projects and initiatives.

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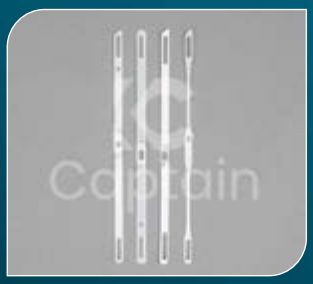
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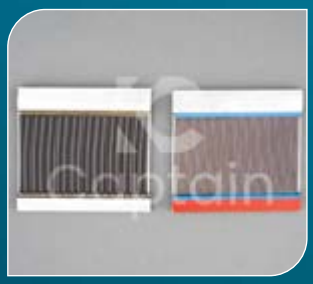
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Kapok Fibres

by NCFA Team

Fig.1: Kapok Tree bearing the Kapok fibre bowl/Pod.

1. Botanical Information

- A natural, plant cellulosic fibre, obtained from the seed of the kapok plant.
- The scientific name of kapok is *Ceiba Pentandra*.
- Also known as silk cotton or java cotton.
- It has a smooth, unicellular, cylindrically shaped, twistless fibre.
- Mostly found in Africa and Central America, it was transported to Asia where it was cultivated to get kapok fibres.
- Kapok is a fibrous material classified along with cotton, as plant hairs or seed fibres, unicellular fibres that develop on the inside of fruit bags.
- Kapok trees can reach up to 30m in cultivation.
- Kapok is a fast-growing tree and becomes productive within 4-5 years.
- It is grown in many tropical countries for its silky fibres, also known as floss.
- The floss is soft, elastic, water-repellent and buoyant.
- They are used to fill pillows, cushions, mattresses, sleeping bags, and life jackets during the early to mid-20th century.
- Family Name: *Malvaceae.* Common Name: Kapok Tree, Sik Cotton Tree, White Silk Cotton Tree, Kabu-Kabu. Name**:** Kapok, Kekabu.

2. Agronomic Conditions and Production of Kapok Fibre

- The kapok tree is native to Asia, Africa, and South America, and is cultivated for its use in fibre, oil, and timber industries.
- Every Tree gives 15 to 18 kg of fibres and about 30 kg of seeds.
- Under favourable conditions, a tree can produce 330-400 fruits per year thus gaining 15-18 kg fibres per year.
- The fibre yield is about 450 kg/ha.
- Regions with tropical or subtropical climates are the preferred places to grow the kapok tree. The ideal environmental conditions for the cultivation of Kapok trees is 60-80% relative humidity (RH) is ideal for kapok tree health and comfort.
- These trees particularly grow at an altitude which is less than 1000 feet from the sea level.
- The kapok tree requires porous volcanic soil, which has good drainage.
- The fruits of the kapok tree are harvested during the months of June and at the beginning of July.
- These are the tallest types of tropical tree, which can grow up to 230 feet (70m).
- Due to its fast growth, it is used for reforestation.
- The fruits of the tree which carry the kapok fibres are ellipsoid-shaped or capsule/pod.
- This raw material present inside the pod is light, fluffy, lustrous, and light yellow to light brown in colour.

3. Varieties of Kapok Trees

There are four commercially important varieties of Kapok trees viz*; Var. caribaea*, *Var. guineensis, Var. pentandra and Var. indica (DC)* Bakh producing fibres of high quality. Kapok tree *Var. pentandra* is a natural hybrid between *Var. caribaea* and *Var. guineensis*.

4. Harvesting and Spinning of Kapok fibres

4.1 Traditional Technique

The bamboo pole is used to harvest the Kapok pods. The separating process was initially executed by drying the pod for approximately 3 to 4 hours and then followed by extracting the fibre from the pod. Next, remove the seeds from the fibre using hands before storing the separated fibre in the container. The duration of extracting fibre is about 5 to 10 minutes for one pod involving 2 to 3 labourers depending on the size of the pod. The environmental condition of the working area is vital which must be free from strong air movement as the fibre may easily be flown away. A mask should be worn for health safety precautions. No other methods used to separate the seeds owing to the high cost to afford. The traditional method has been practised by the local people for a small quantity of production under the cottage industry.

There are three types of Traditional methods for separating seeds from kapok pods which are by bare hands, wooden bamboo stick, and drill on the following considerations.

a. Harvesting of the Kapok pod is considered a labour-intensive and strenuous process.

i. Collect the extracted kapok fibre from the seedpod in a larger container or strainer.

ii. Isolate the kapok fibres using a bamboo stick or wood that has been twisted to separate the seeds.

b. In the second type, a drill is used to twist the stick to separate the fibres and seeds followed by shaking of the container, so that the kapok seeds fall on the floor.

c. Picking up the seeds by hand directly from the kapok obtained from the seed pod is the third type.

The duration of harvesting is about 5 to 10 minutes for one pod involving 2 to 3 labourers, depending on the size of the pod. To maintain time management, labour-intensive work, longer processing time, and low output, machines have been developed for separating the fibres.

4.2 Morden Method

Modern methods of extraction of Kapok are to reduce the labour cost and time. The following set-up is employed in the modern extraction technique. In addition, due to health issues related to traditional methods, innovation to develop modern method which is based on mechanical machines which extract the kapok fibres from the seed pods.

i. Operating system -Motorized
ii. Power source – Electric supply
iii. Separating Mechanism – mechanical
iv. Material used– Metal sheet.
v. Dimension – 1000mm(h) ×500mm(w) ×800mm(l).
vi. Weight – 100kg.
vii. Safety feature -Fully sealed.

As a result, a total of eight different classifications of function were established which include Electric motor, separating mechanism design and position, structure material, frame design, casing style, jointing type and storing compartment design.

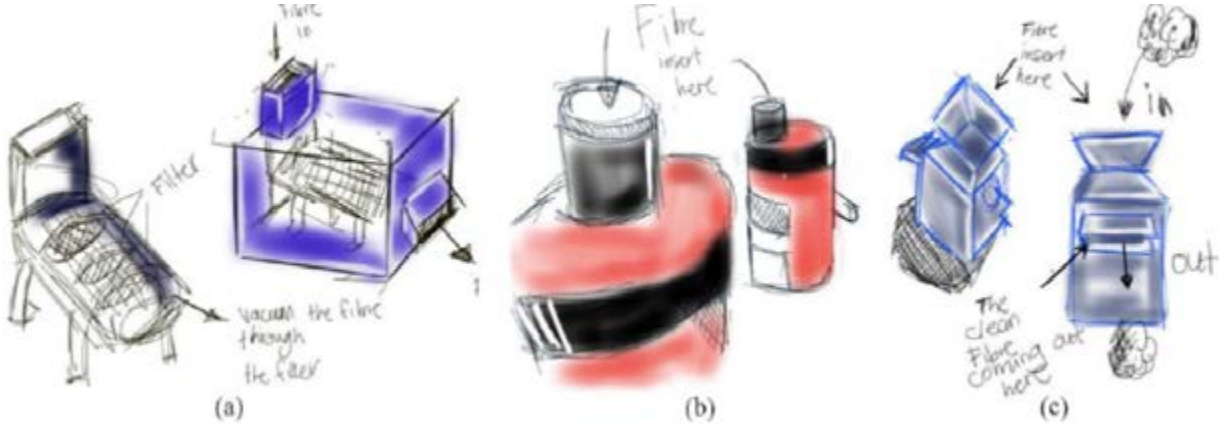

Fig. 2 -Three different design concepts of Kapok fibre seeds separator, (a) concept A, (b) concept B, and (c) concept C.

Concept A

It is built by steel sheets and square-shape bars as its main material and having a general dimension of 600mm (w) x 400mm (h) x 400 mm (l). Vacuum suction pressure is used to separate the seeds from the fibre in which the seeds will be falling down through a series of filters placed parallelly in the chamber. The operation is completely automatic with overall estimated weight of the device is 7 kg.

Concept B

It focuses on the use of plastic and steel bars for the body and frame, respectively. The device is 1000 mm in height, 500 mm in width, 500 mm in length, and 3 kg in weight. It has semi-automatic operation with a support of battery. A rotating vertical barrel completed with filters is suggested for the separation purpose.

Concept C

It is represented by a vertical chamber that is made of aluminium with an approximate weight of 5 kg. The dimension of the device is 800 (h) x 400 (w) x 500 mm (l), and it is semi-automatic. The seeds are separated from the fibre by a rotating motion of a rod shaft that is attached to the blades. Through screening and scoring evaluations, concept C recorded the highest score, and it is selected for further modifications.

Some significant revisions were imposed on concept C to improve its features. The enhanced concept was further transformed into a three-dimensional (3-D) model using a computer-aided design (CAD) software, Solid Works. As a result, the final design comprises the following eight major parts material specifications.

- frame structure, motor, seeds chamber, front cover, back cover, chamber door, filters, and separating blades.
- Aluminium has been chosen as the main material that constitutes chamber and body casing (front and back covers), whilst other parts such as frame structure, blades, and filters are made of mild steel.
- The Kapok fibres are loaded into the machine through a protruded vertical open channel. The motor-operated blades will rotate and separate the fibre from the seeds. Then, the extracted seeds are filtered and directed into a chamber at the bottom side and the fibres are ready to be collected. The machine is 780, 420, and 335 mm in the length, width, and height, respectively.

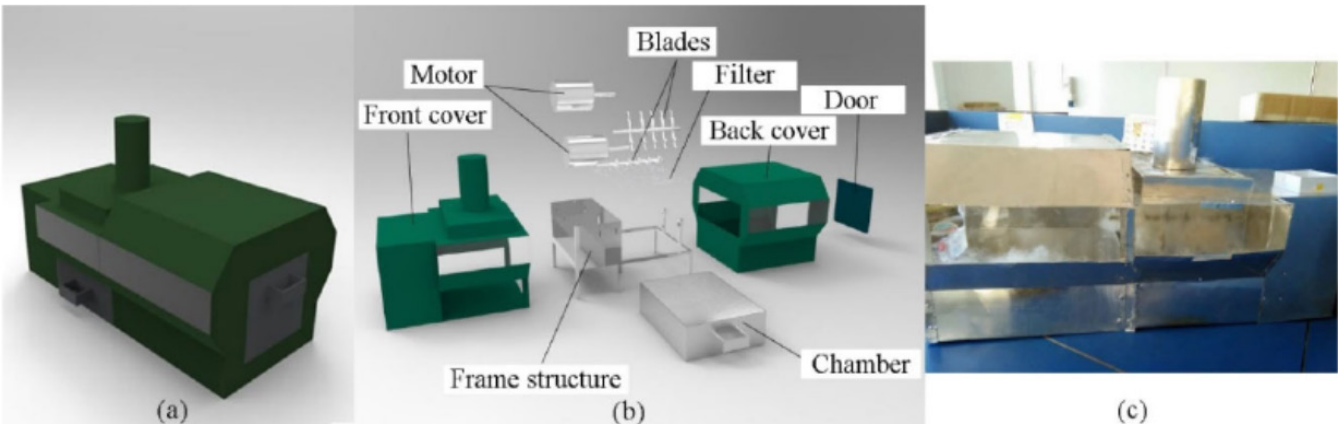

Fig. 3 -(a) Three-dimensional model of Kapok fibre seeds separator. (b) Exploded view of the 3-D model. (c) The prototype of product without finishing look (.https://www.researchgate.net/publication/342850134_Mechanical_Design_and_Evaluation_of_Kapok_Fibre_Seeds_Separator)

4.3 Names of Kapok fibre according to some of regional Languages in India

In different Regions, kapok is also called “cotton silk”, “samauma”, “java cotton” or “java kapok.”

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Indian Languages	Names
Hindi	(semal ki Rui) सेमल की रुई
Tamil	(ilavam panju) இலவம் பஞ்சு
Telugu	Moggu మొగ్గ
Kannada	Mogga ಮೊಗ್ಗ
Malayalam	Silmappuula ശിമ്പുള
Marathi	Moggu मोग्गू
Bengali	Gadi গাদি

5. Extraction of Kapok Fibres

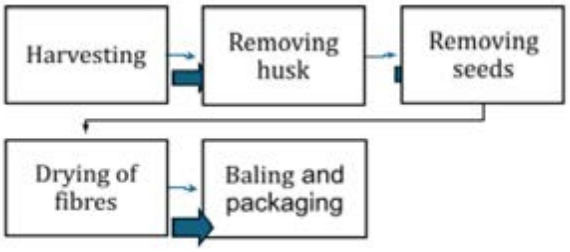

Fig.4: Flow chart of the extraction process of kapok fibre

- Harvesting is done when the fruit is ripened. The pods are gathered when they fall on the ground, or they can be cut/collected mechanically/manually from the tree. Seed Pods are harvested by hand and closed seed pods are beaten with bamboo sticks to break hard husk and to reach fibres. When ripened, seed pods burst, and the compressed fibres spread widely.
- Removing husks: Ripened fruits are dried under the sunlight for removing husks. Fibres and seeds can be removed from the ponds by hand.
- Removing seeds: The seed and fibre are stored in the basket or simple, sieve-like. devices similar to drums to separate the fibre from the seed, pod debris, dry leaves, etc. So that the seeds fall to the bottom of the container where they are easily separated.
- Drying of fibre**:** Kapok fibre is dried under the sun for three to five hours.
- Bale making and packing**:** kapok fibres are then packed in the form of bales.

6. Kapok fibre Spinning Processes

- Due to the shortness and low density, it can withstand only low tensile and torsional forces, kapok is rarely spun.
- Due to the smooth surface and a high content of waxes, kapok fibres have low cohesivity. For that reason, kapok is always spun in blends with other fibres, mostly cotton and used for filling in mattresses, pillows, upholstery, safety vests, and stuffed toys such as teddy bears, and for insulation purposes in general.
- The fibre blending has been proved difficult, and thus far, no blend ratios above 50% have been reported on an industrial process scale. Kapok fibre base having an average length of at least 10 mm.
- Open-end spinning or ring spinning are the two methods used for spinning the yarns.

6.1 Ring Spinning Method

The steps described outline a detailed process for processing a mixture of Kapok fibres and other fibres to produce yarn.

a. Mixed Punch

- Prepare a uniform mixture of Kapok and other fibres for further processing.
- Use a combined punching machine after opening and removing impurities .
- Mix the fibres and create a roll with specific weight and length.
- To illustrate, the technical parameters are as follows:

Technical Parameters

- Roll Weight: 11.6 kg.
- Weight per Metre: 427 g
- Roll Length: 24 metres.

b. The first soot

By using the action of several pairs of needle-like teeth, carefully comb the mixed rolls of kapok and other fibres to remove impurities, flock linters, and become fully Shino Mix in.

Technical Parameters

- Predetermined Amount: 20 g / 5 metres
- Total Draft: 106.7 times

- Cylinder Speed: 300 rpm.
- Cylinder and Cover Gauge: 0.25 mm, 0.22 mm, 0.22 mm, 0.22 mm, 0.25 mm.
- Doffer Rotation Speed: 12-13 rpm

- The effect is advantageous in strengthening the separation and converting the fibre smoothly.

- After the first soot, a device for guiding the sliver is installed, which is . advantageous for collecting cotton fluff and becoming a scabbard.

c. Shinomaki
- It is a process to prepare for the second soot.
- Technical Parameter
- Predetermined Small Roll Amount: 50 g / 5 metres.

d. Second Soot
- Further clean and mix the fibres and also removing any remaining impurities.
- Similar to the first soot but applied again for thorough cleaning.

Technical Parameters
- Predetermined Amount: 20 g / 5 metres
- Total Draft: 106.7 times
- Cylinder Speed: 300 rpm.
- Cylinder and Cover Gauge: 0.25 mm, 0.22 mm, 0.22 mm, 0.22 mm, 0.25 mm.
- Doffer Rotation Speed: 12-13 rpm

e. First Nerinoshino
- Improve fibre uniformity, mix fibres thoroughly, and enhance elongation parallelism.
- Adjust gauge, increase pressure, and reduce speed.

Technical Parameters:
- Front Roller Speed: 700 rpm

f. Second Nerinoshino
- Further improve fibre uniformity and parallelism, similar to the first Nerinoshino step.

Technical Parameters:
- Front Roller Speed: 700 rpm

g. Rough Spinning
- Increase fibre separation and elongation, reduce sliver amount, and prepare for fine spinning.

Technical Parameters:
- Specified Amount: 5 g / 10 metres
- Total Draft Multiple: 7.2 times
- Rear Draft Multiple: 1.2 times
- Front Roller Speed: 105 rpm
- Roller Gauge: 13 × 19 × 24.5 mm
- Twist Coefficient: 112

h. Fine Spinning
- After stretching a thick sliver by fine spinning, twist it and wind it into a shape. The principle of technology shortens the gauge and has a strong twist.

Technical Parameters:
- Roller Gauge: 13 × 30 mm
- Twist Factor: 340
- Rear Draft Multiple: 1.15
- Technique: Uses a double short apron drafting system and nose bar support to enhance yarn surface quality.

i. Winding Yarn
- Remove defects and wind the yarn into a cylinder.
- Yarn Count Range: 9.7 Tex to 58.3 Tex (equivalent to 60 S to 10 S)

This sequence of steps ensures that the fibres are processed into high-quality yarn by meticulously cleaning, mixing, spinning, and winding them. The parameters provided guide each stage to achieve the desired fibre characteristics and yarn quality. This study was done by (Ensheng Li, Longquan Xia (2006)).

6.2 Advanced Spinning Techniques

According to the paper published by J. Yan, G. Xu and F. Wang (2011) the new technique of yarn manufacture is discussed. The study selected 18 blended yarns with kapok fibre and other fibres which were manufactured by different spinning technologies, to explore the most efficient spinning yarn technology of kapok fibre. Four properties of these blended yarns were tested including the fineness, unevenness, breaking tenacity, yarn

defects and hairiness. According to the standards USTER STATISTICS-2007, GB-T/398-2008 and FZ12001- 1992, the analytical results of four properties have shown that the quality of kapok blended yarn get a better level with the improved spinning technology namely the compact and IV spinning technology. Based on the studies, it is demonstrated that the optimal way to spin kapok blended yarn with high quality, which supplies a support of widening the application of kapok fibres in various product development.

7. Features of Kapok Fibre

- The kapok fibres are 10 to 35mm (3/8 to 1 3/8 in) in length.
- They are fibres with high lignification and are only spinnable when blended with other fibres. Usually, cotton fibre is used for blending.
- These fibres are water- repellent (hydrophobic) and have good thermal insulation properties.
- It is an organic & biodegradable seed fibres and is naturally buoyant.
- Kapok fibres are thus about 5 times lighter than cotton, 4.5 times lighter than polyester, this is due to low in density, and are among the finest naturally occurring microfibres.
- It consists of waxy on the fibre surface and dries quickly if the get wet.
- These fibres are antibacterial, nontoxic, antiallergic, odourless, and rot resistant.
- Kapok yarn was used for fleeces and ribbons to which it imparted a typical lustre.
- Kapok fibre shows a homogeneous circular cross section with wide air-filled lumen having wall thickness of about 1-2 µm.
- Its cell wall is thin and covered with a thick layer of wax.
- The cross section of fibres is oval to round.

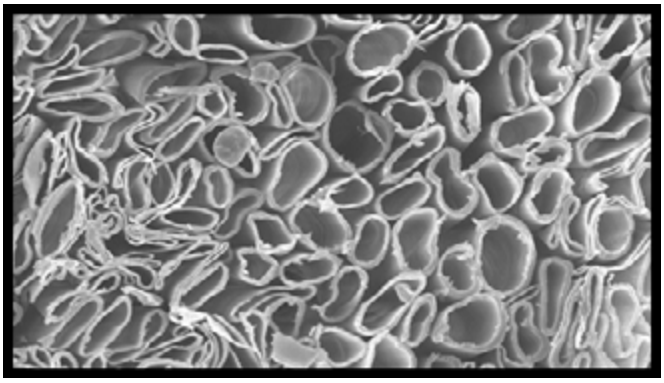

Fig. 5: Microscopic structure of kapok fibre, Microphotograph taken with a Scanning Electron Microscope – Transverse cross-sectional view of kapok fibres.

8.Chemical Composition of kapok fibre

The chemical composition of the kapok fibres is as follows:

Cellulose	Hemi-cellulose	Pectin	Lignin	Ash	wax
38 .09 %	23%	23%	13%	1.05 %	2.34%

9. Physical characteristics of kapok fibre

Physical properties of the kapok fibres are as under:

Fibre	Fineness (Denier)	Tenacity (g/den)	Relative weight	Elongation at break (%)	Fibre colour range
Kapok	2 0.4-0.7	1.4-1.74	-	2-4	Ivory white to camel brown

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10. USES

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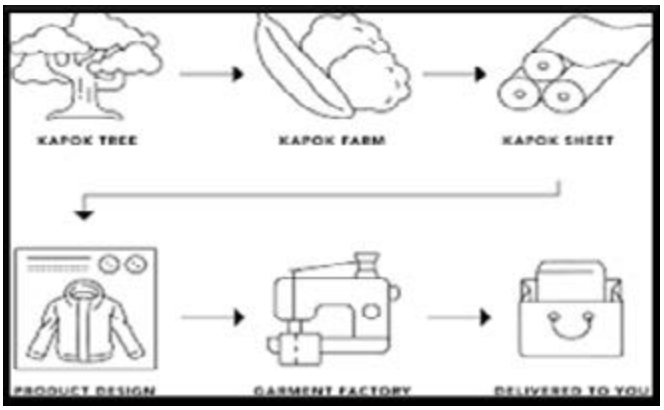

Fig.6 Value Chain of Kapok Fibre

i. This fibre is difficult to spin into thread, so it has been commonly used for filling mattresses, pillows, stuffed toys, life jackets because of its low density. However, modern spinning technology is employed to spin good quality yarn of virgin or blended yarn. Yarn thus produced finds application in different applications.
ii. Manufacture of Life saving equipment
iii. Construction of thermally insulated and soundproof covers and walls, technical textile (PPEs)
iv. It is used as a substitute for surgical cotton.
v. Boat and yacht furnishing.
vi. Insulation materials in refrigeration systems.
vii. The potential use of kapok fibre as a pulp source for paper making is explored , Sodium hydroxide treatment (10% optimum concentration) of the fibre reduced the amount of lignin and increased the yield of the pulp to enhance its suitability in paper manufacture.
viii. Kapok pulp can be used as additive to commercial softwood pulp for the manufacture of commercial packaging paper due to its light weightiness, high strength, and excellent water-resistant characteristics.
ix. Kapok fibre is used as bio-reinforcement material to virgin bitumen.
x. Due to its structure, kapok fibre (hollow inside and wax coated outside), has ideal properties to be used as a filter to separate oil from water.
xi. During recent years, kapok, as a recyclable and biodegradable fibre, has become interesting again in Oil filters as new potentials of it use.
xii. Kapok seeds are also used in animal feed, the crushed seeds are used both as animal feed and for oil production.
xiii. It is used for production of hygroscopic gauze, insulating materials and in
xiv. Upholstery or like floating material in life jackets.
xv. Removal of various oil derived castes out of water sources.

Fig.7: Use of Kapok fibres as filler

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Towards a Circular Economy

Indian Society of Cotton Improvement (ISCI), Mumbai is organizing an International Conference on "Sustainable Cotton Production and Processing: Towards a Circular Economy" at CIDCO Convention Centre, Vashi, Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra, from December 04-05, 2024. This event is being organized in association with ICAR-Central Institute for Research on Cotton Technology (CIRCOT), Mumbai, and ICAR-Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR), Nagpur in commemoration of the Centenary Celebration of the ICAR-CIRCOT and the Golden Jubilee of ISCI.

The conference aims to deliberate on the aspect of Circular Economy as a sustainable alternative in the domain of the Cotton Value Chain, covering the realm of production, processing and value addition. The major thematic area is "Strategies for Achieving Circularity in Cotton Value Chain" with a focus on Resource Conservation technologies in cotton production and protection, Speciality

/Identity cotton processing and utilization, circularity in cotton textile production and value addition to cotton by-produce.

The conference will provide interaction among the researchers in cotton production, and processing, and involve policymakers at the national and international levels, thereby opening up new opportunities and avenues that will provide a fillip to the research in the domain of circularity of cotton.

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Sustainable Textile Practices: A Comprehensive Guide for Carbon Footprint Measurement and Mitigation for MSMEs

by Dr. K. S. Muralidhara

Jt. Director, Textiles Committee, Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India

Abstract : *The textile industry is known for its significant environmental impact, particularly in terms of carbon emissions. This project aims to evaluate the carbon footprint of the Garment manufacturing industry by identifying energy-intensive stages, and emission sources, collecting relevant data, calculating emissions, and assessing their impact on climate change. Further, the project will explore various mitigation strategies that can be implemented to reduce the carbon footprint in the Garment industry. Additionally, the project will delve into the concept of carbon offset programs and their relevance in the Garment industry. Carbon offset programs can play a crucial role in achieving carbon neutrality by supporting projects that reduce or remove greenhouse gas emissions elsewhere. Finally, the traceability of net Carbon emission for a particular product will be worked which will too for marketing.*

1. Introduction

1.1 The consensus arrived in the 1988 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) unanimously agreed that the global temperature is increasing and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) signed by 196 countries expressed concern about increasing greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. The Second Report of IPCC came out in 1995 and the Conference of Parties (COP) was set up among developed and developing nations for the stabilisation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

1.2 The CO_2 emission per capita from India is assessed to be much below the global average and it is also anticipated that at no stage the emission would reach those of developed nations. Although it is essential for developed nations to make accelerated efforts in cutting down their emission, the effort taken by India in reducing CO_2 emissions is also appreciable. The National Action Plan to address the issues of climate change was launched by the Government of India in 2008. It encompasses a very broad and extensive range of measures and has identified eight priority areas to address the issues relating to Food, Security, Water, Eco-system, and energy security among others.

1.3 Although global warming is caused by many trace gases, CO2 is the leader in global warming contributing about 70% followed by CFC, 14% by N_2O and 8% by Methane. However, world attention has been greatly directed mainly to CO_2 considering its contribution toward global warming. The burning of fossil fuels for electricity generation is recorded to be the main source of CO_2 emission. The United States of America leads the developed countries by emitting 4931 million tons of CO_2 accounting for around 21.8% which is a much bigger amount compared to India's emission of 703 million tons accounting for 3.1 % of global emissions.

1.4 According to the Global Carbon Budget Report published during the COP 27 climate conference in the list of top 20 global emitters in 2021, India's per capita emission of 1.9 tons in 2021 is very small and stood right at the bottom even behind Indonesia (2.3), Brazil (2.3), Mexico (3.2), and Vietnam (3.3). Saudi Arabia (18.7), the US (14.9), Australia (15.1), Canada (14.3), Russia (12.1), and South Korea (11.9) are the countries with the highest per capita emissions. According to this report, India is recording the highest growth rate in CO_2 among the world's major industrial countries, even as its per capita carbon emission remains significantly lower than many developed and developing nations, According to the report's estimates, in 2022, China and the European Union (EU) are projected to reduce their emissions by 0.9 % and 0.8%, respectively, while India's emissions is estimated to be increased by 6 % and the US's by 1.5 %. The combined emissions of all other countries are expected to increase by 1.7%. The report highlights that India and China have experienced the most significant emission growth in the past decade. Over the last 10 years, China's emission rate increased by 1.5% per year dominating the global trend and India's emissions rate increased by 3.8% per year during the same period.

1.5 According to energy experts, India's higher carbon emission is linked to India's GDP growth rate which is higher at present. India is growing at 7%-8% annually and is likely to grow by 6%-7% in the next few years. The rapid industrialization and urbanisation is driving India's economic growth. These factors are putting more pressure on energy demand. Given India's growing population and rapid urbanisation, sustainable energy solutions are crucial to meet rising energy demands while minimising carbon emissions. "India, while not compromising energy security and other social objectives, should increasingly look at harnessing local renewable energy resources.

1.6 India, in its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) to cut emissions and adapt to climate impacts, has pledged to "reduce the emissions intensity of its GDP by 45 per cent by 2030, from 2005 level, and achieve about 50 per cent cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030."

2. Garment Industry and the Carbon Emission

2.1 The carbon footprint of the textiles is estimated based on the "embodied energy' in the garment, comprising all the energy used at each step of the process needed to create that piece. Carbon footprints are dynamic and depend on various factors, such as production location, energy source, and transportation distance. Therefore, the carbon footprint of a specific product can vary significantly. The provided figures are general estimates to give you a sense of relative impact, not precise calculations for your individual circumstances.

2.2 The production and manufacturing of natural and synthetic textiles continue to be the most ecologically damaging aspects of the industry. The sector is essentially fashion-driven, as most global fibre production is destined for clothing (60%). Over 60% of textiles are used in the clothing industry and

large proportions of clothing manufacturing take place in China and India –the countries which rely on coal-fueled power plants With 1.7 billion tons of CO_2 equivalent emitted annually, accounting for 10% of global greenhouse gas emissions, the textile industry is a major contributor to global warming. Additionally, only 2.4% of the world's cropland has cotton planted in it, yet it accounts for 24% of global sales of insecticide.

2.3 The global textile industry faces a growing environmental challenge. With a per capita consumption of textiles at around 20 kg per year, increasing daily, and a world population nearing 7 billion, the energy demand and subsequent carbon footprint are significant. India, with its large population (18% of the global total), has a particularly substantial contribution to this issue. As the Indian textile industry is projected to expand from $70 billion to $220 billion by 2020, the environmental impact is expected to rise proportionally.

2.4 Certain studies estimate a single cotton T-shirt emits 3.1 kg CO2e. This impact mostly comes from the fibre production step (38%), yarn production step (21%), fabric production step (4%), dyeing & finishing step (33%), and fabric assembly step (4%). Moreover, cotton is a water-thirsty crop and its production has greater impacts on land and water. In general, the thermal energy required per metre of cloth is 4,500-5,500 Kcal and the electrical energy required per metre of cloth is 0.45-0.55 kwh. Silk being the natural fibre accounts for a carbon footprint of 36.0 kg CO_2e per 1 kg of fibre followed by wool (9.7 kg CO_2e), nylon (2.7 kg CO_2e) cotton (1.2 kg CO_2e), polyester (1.1 kg CO_2e) viscose (0.9 kg CO_2e) and flax (0.4 kg CO_2e). In the Cumulative Energy requirement also the production of 1 kg of silk needs 239.7 MJ-eq energy followed by Nylon (36.7 MJ-eq), polyester (24.5 MJ-eq) , wool (17.5 MJ-eq) viscose (12.0 MJ-eq), cotton (9.1 MJ-eq) and flax needs (3.2 MJ-eq).

3. Methodology to be adopted for Calculation:

3.1 Data Collection: Collect data on energy consumption, raw material usage, waste generation, and transportation emissions at the following stages in garment manufacturing factories.

i. Raw Materials (Type of fabric, natural fibre, etc)

ii. Infrastructure used facilities for power generation, if any, waste disposal facility, Use of Air conditioners/cooler, type of lights in production premises, ventilation, etc

iii. Machineries like type, age, efficiency, duration of operation, etc

iv. Process methodology, efficiency, duration, etc

v. Waste management

vi. Wastewater treatment and reuse of recycled water, etc

2.2 Carbon Footprint Calculation: Use established emission factors and conversion formulas to calculate the carbon footprint of the participating garment companies.

2.3 Mitigation Strategy Analysis: Analyse the effectiveness and feasibility of various mitigation strategies, such as energy efficiency improvements, renewable energy adoption, sustainable materials usage, waste management practices, and supply chain optimization

2.4 Carbon Offset Program Assessment: Research and assess different carbon offset programs to identify trustworthy and impactful projects that the textile industry can invest in to offset their remaining carbon emissions. The different strategy involves

i. Identify potential carbon offset projects within the textile industry, such as renewable energy installations, afforestation initiatives, or energy efficiency programs.

ii. Establish partnerships with carbon offset project developers and experts to explore collaboration opportunities.

iii. Evaluate the feasibility and impact of each identified carbon offset project, considering additionality, longevity, and credibility.

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iv. iv. Facilitate the participation of textile industry stakeholders in carbon offset projects to compensate for unavoidable emissions.

v. v. Provide guidance and support in implementing carbon offset projects, including monitoring, reporting, and verification processes.

4. Capacity Building and Knowledge Sharing

i. Organise training programs and workshops to educate MSMEs, policymakers, and industry leaders about sustainable practices and carbon footprint reduction.

ii. Develop educational materials, guidelines, and best practice manuals for easy adoption and implementation of sustainable practices.

iii. Establish a knowledge-sharing platform to facilitate ongoing communication, collaboration, and exchange of experiences and insights.

iv. Engage with policymakers to raise awareness and advocate for supportive policies and regulations that promote sustainability in the textile industry.

5. Possible Benefits to the MSME Industries

i. **Energy savings & Efficiency:** Implement energy-efficient practices and technologies to reduce energy consumption during manufacturing processes. This includes using energy-efficient machinery, optimising heating and cooling systems, and improving insulation. Transition to renewable energy sources like solar, wind, or biomass to power manufacturing units. This reduces reliance on fossil fuels and lowers the carbon intensity of operations

ii. **Sustainable Materials:** Optional use of sustainable and eco-friendly textile materials in the garment production process. This may involve using fabrics of natural fibres, recycled materials, eco-friendly & biodegradable dyes, etc.

iii. **Supply Chain Optimization:** Encourage suppliers and logistics partners to adopt greener practices and reduce emissions in the supply chain. Collaborate with them to minimise transportation distances and adopt low-emission transportation methods. Sourcing of raw materials from a nearby distance.

iv. **Carbon Offsetting:** Invest in carbon offset programs to compensate for the emissions that cannot be completely eliminated. Carbon offsetting involves plantation projects that reduce or capture greenhouse gases elsewhere, such as afforestation, reforestation, or renewable energy projects

v. **Carbon Neutrality:** Offset programs enable garment companies to achieve carbon neutrality by balancing their carbon emissions with equivalent emissions reductions or removals elsewhere

vi. **Positive Brand Image:** Reduced carbon emission or carbon neutrality Participating in carbon offset programs demonstrates a commitment to sustainability and environmental responsibility, enhancing the company's brand image and reputation

vii. **Compliance and Regulations:** In some regions, industries may be subject to carbon reduction targets or regulations. Engaging in offset programs can help textile companies meet these requirements

viii. **Long-Term Impact:** Carbon offset projects, such as reforestation or renewable energy initiatives, have long-term benefits beyond mere emission reductions, contributing to ecological restoration and sustainable development.

6. Expected benefits to MSMEs

Highlighting major emission sources will not only help the industry reduce operational costs but also significantly lower carbon footprints. This will enable industries, especially MSMEs, to integrate seamlessly into the supply chains of export-oriented businesses and major domestic leaders. By adopting practical and effective mitigation strategies, textile companies can reduce their carbon footprint and move towards achieving sustainability.

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Embracing Sustainability

The Art of Collaboration and Sustainability at TSM24

By Dashmeet Singh

This year's Textile Sourcing Meet (TSM24) marked a pivotal moment for the textile industry, showcasing a vibrant collaboration between the artistic community and sustainability advocates. The Art walk event at TSM24, held in conjunction with The Art Floor and an NGO Naya Sawera, aimed to raise awareness about climate change and promote eco-friendly practices through innovative upcycling initiatives.

One standout participant was the international contemporary artist #Dash-meetakadash. Known for transforming waste fabric and yarns into stunning art pieces and utilitarian jewellery, Dashmeet's work highlights the potential of textile waste as a medium for creativity. At the event, Dashmeet unveiled a collection of masterpieces crafted from RECLAIMED upcycled materials, impressing attendees and promoting a message of sustainability.

The Art Floor, dedicated to fostering collaborations between artists and the textile industry, played a crucial role in this initiative. Their Association with NGOs like Naya Sawera, based in Jaipur, further emphasised the importance of upcycling. This NGO specialises in transforming factory waste into beautiful ikat bags, demonstrating that discarded materials can be reimagined into valuable products.

The event gained significant attention when Minister of State Shri Vishnoi acknowledged Dashmeet's efforts, even acquiring a piece for his personal collection. His presence underscored the importance of such initiatives, as he lauded the potential for collaboration between the textile sector and the arts to champion sustainability.

The Art Walk initiative curated by The Art Floor and Sowtex together at TSM24 served as a platform for industry professionals to engage with these artistic

endeavours. It encouraged textile manufacturers to display the innovative artworks produced, thereby reinforcing their commitment to environmental stewardship. By showcasing these pieces in their experience centres, companies can send a strong message about their dedication to sustainable practices.

As the textile industry faces increasing scrutiny over its environmental impact, collaborations like these offer a promising path forward. By embracing artistry and innovation, stakeholders can contribute to a more sustainable future while fostering creativity and cultural expression.

In conclusion, TSM24 demonstrated that the fusion of art and sustainability is not only beneficial but essential. The call to action is clear: let us come together to rethink waste, embrace creativity, and forge a sustainable path for the textile industry. By collaborating with artists like Dashmeet, we can create a more sustainable world—one thread at a time. ■ ■

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Threads of Legacy

Dr. Suman Pant's Enduring Impact on Textile Innovation and Education

Dr. Suman Pant

Dr Suman Pant stands as a highly respected and distinguished authority in the realm of Clothing and Textiles, offering over 37 years of unparalleled expertise and experience. As a professor and dean in the Faculty of Home Science at Banasthali Vidyapith, she has made significant contributions to both academic and research fields. She completed her M.Sc. in Clothing and Textiles from the prestigious G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar, where she laid a strong foundation in the field.

Furthering her passion for textile innovation, she earned her PhD from Banasthali Vidyapith in 2003. Her doctoral research, focusing on the "Finishing of Wool and Wool Blend Fabrics with Reference to Improvements in its Properties Relevant to Making Garments," particularly skirts showcased her dedication to advancing textile science and improving garment quality through innovative fabric treatments.

Dr. Pant's distinguished work is celebrated for its profound depth and practical applicability, significantly impacting the fields of textiles, garment construction, and fabric technology. Her influence extends well beyond her own research; she has served as a dedicated mentor to numerous M.Sc. students and PhD scholars, guiding them through a wide range of research topics. Under her expert mentorship, students have delved into critical areas such as sustainable practices and advanced fabric treatments, enriching the field with innovative insights. Dr. Pant's extensive contributions are further highlighted by her prolific presentations at both national and international conferences, reflecting her commitment to advancing and disseminating knowledge within the textile industry.

Dr. Pant's influence is evident not only in her research but also in the successful careers of the many scholars she has mentored. Her ability to inspire students, coupled with her profound knowledge of textiles, ensures that the future of this field continues to flourish under her stewardship.

Dr. Suman Pant's exceptional work spans sustainable textiles, green synthesis, and nanotechnology. She has pioneered antimicrobial textiles using copper and silver nanoparticles from natural sources and advanced eco-friendly dye reduction techniques. Her research also delves into fabric properties, natural dyeing, consumer behaviour, and the preservation of traditional textiles like *Mendh* printing and Tibetan Khamba costumes, highlighting her significant contributions.

Educationist Update

Despite her extensive experience and deep research on complex topics, she possesses a rare gift of making even the most challenging concepts feel simple and approachable for her students. Her ability to break down complicated ideas into clear, relatable lessons stems not only from her expertise but from her genuineness. She blends theory with practical applications in such a seamless way that learning becomes a journey of discovery, rather than a task. Her passion for teaching shines through in every class, as she strives to make even the most intricate subjects accessible, leaving a lasting impact on her students' minds and hearts.

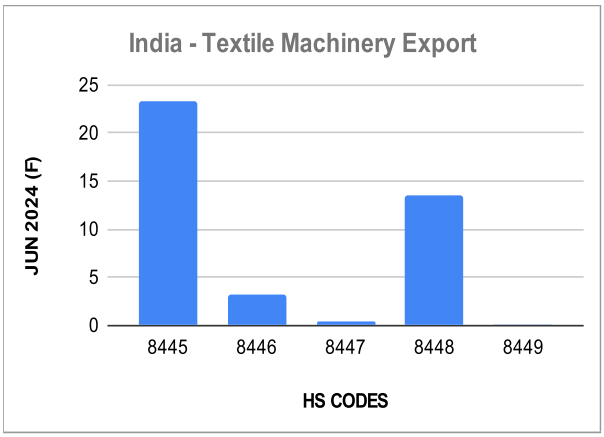
Dr. Suman Pant's remarkable career in Clothing and Textiles is a testament to her dedication, expertise, and enduring passion for the field. Her extensive research, spanning from sustainable textiles to advanced fabric treatments, has not only advanced the science but also enriched the lives of her students and colleagues. Through her innovative work and heartfelt mentorship, she has nurtured the next generation of scholars, making complex concepts both accessible and inspiring.

Dr. Pant's unwavering commitment to her craft and her genuine ability to connect with and guide her students highlight a legacy of profound impact and genuine care. As she continues to shape the future of textile science, her influence will undoubtedly resonate through the achievements of those she has mentored and the advancements she has fostered, ensuring that her contributions to the field will be felt for years to come.

Market Report

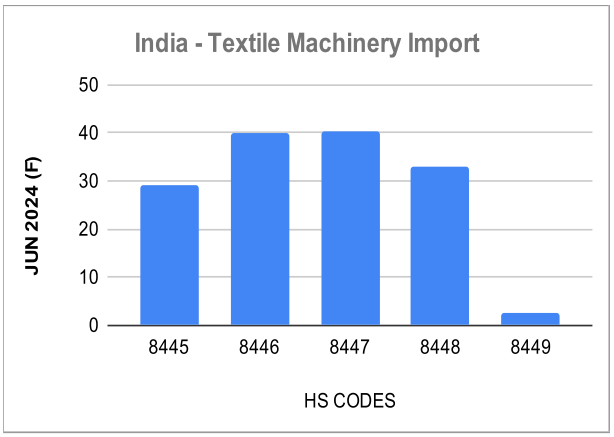
India - Textile Machinery Export

India - Textile Machinery Export		
HS Codes	**Machinery**	**Jun 2024 (F)**
8445	Machines for processing textile fibres	23.34
8446	Weaving machines (looms)	3.2
8447	Machines for knitting, lace, embroidery, tufting, etc	0.33
8448	Auxiliary machinery and parts for textile machinery	13.47
8449	Machinery for making felt, nonwovens, including hats	0.12
Total		**40.46**
Source: Ministry of Commerce and Industry		



India - Textile Machinery Import

India - Textile Machinery Import		
HS Codes	**Machinery**	**Jun 2024 (F)**
8445	Machines for processing textile fibres	29.18
8446	Weaving machines (looms)	40.06
8447	Machines for knitting, lace, embroidery, tufting, etc	40.39
8448	Auxiliary machinery and parts for textile machinery	33.1
8449	Machinery for making felt, nonwovens, including hats	2.63
Total		**145.36**
Source: Ministry of Commerce and Industry		



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Empowering the Future

Highlights from ITTA's 14th Annual General Meeting

The Indian Technical Textile Association (ITTA) held its 14th Annual General Meeting (AGM) on September 13, 2024, at the Orchid Hotel in Mumbai. This significant event brought together ITTA members, special invitees, and representatives from the press to discuss the current state and future of the technical textile industry in India. The meeting was chaired by Shri Avinash Misar, with notable attendees including Shri Rajeev Saxena, Joint Secretary (Textiles) from the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, and Shri Virendra Singh (I.A.S.), Secretary (Textiles), Government of Maharashtra.

Welcome Address

Dr. Anup Rakshit, Executive Director of ITTA, commenced the meeting by welcoming all attendees and highlighting the importance of collaboration between the government and industry stakeholders in advancing the technical textiles sector. The presence of key government officials underscored the significance of this gathering.

Keynote Speeches

Shri Rajeev Saxena's Address

Shri Rajeev Saxena delivered a keynote address emphasising ITTA's critical role in promoting innovation and sustainability within the technical textile sector. He acknowledged ITTA's contributions to major government initiatives and committees aimed at enhancing the industry's growth. Notably, he mentioned that two-thirds of investments under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme are allocated to technical textiles, with ₹40 crores specifically dedicated to this sector from a total allocation of ₹60 crores.

Saxena highlighted several government initiatives:

- **Innovation Focus:** The government will cover 90% of R&D costs for companies engaging in market-oriented research and development initiatives while allowing them to retain Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) for three to four years.
- **Quality Control Orders (QCOs):** Upcoming QCOs for an additional 11 key technical textile products aim to prevent the influx of low-cost foreign products, thereby strengthening domestic supply chains.
- **Diversification Encouragement:** He urged conventional textile manufacturers to diversify into technical textiles, suggesting that ITTA guide these companies in maximising their existing capacities.

Shri Virendra Singh's Presentation

Shri Virendra Singh presented Maharashtra's State Textile Policy, which emphasises the development of six Technical Textile Parks across various revenue divisions. Key features of this policy include:

- **Infrastructure Support:** Significant backing for establishing parks with provisions for capital subsidies and support for sustainable practices such as solar energy and effluent treatment.
- **Collaboration with ITTA:** Singh announced plans to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Government of Maharashtra's Textiles Department and ITTA to facilitate the effective implementation of state policies.

Chairman's Address

In his address, Chairman Shri Avinash Misar expressed gratitude for the Ministry of Textiles' support while addressing critical issues facing the industry. He emphasised the need for:

- **Raw Material Availability:** A call for increased domestic production of essential raw materials like speciality fibres and polymers.
- **Balanced QCO Implementation:** While supporting QCOs, he cautioned against imposing them on upstream sectors that lack domestic production capabilities.

New Initiatives by ITTA

Dr. Anup Rakshit announced new initiatives aimed at expanding membership categories to include **Associate and Student Membership**. This move is designed to support individual entrepreneurs and startups entering the technical textile field.

Additionally, ITTA plans to collaborate with academic institutions to organise **'Education and Training Programs on Technical Textiles'**. This initiative aligns with the National Technical Textile Mission's goal to enhance training within both academic and industrial sectors.

Awards and Recognitions

A highlight of the AGM was the presentation of several prestigious awards:

- **Lifetime Achievement Award:** Shri Pramod Khosla received this honour for his significant contributions to the technical textile industry. He was inducted into the 'ITTA Hall of Fame' alongside other notable figures such as Shri Yogesh Kusumgar and Shri Mohan Kavrie.
- **Innovation Awards:** Five companies were recognized for their outstanding contributions:
- **Garware Technical Fibres Ltd**. for developing sustainable ropes from recycled materials.
- **SRF Ltd.** for food-grade tank liners designed for rural water storage.
- **High Performance Textiles Pvt. Ltd.** for innovative flame-retardant fabric.
- **Fibriltex Pvt. Ltd.** for biodegradable sanitary pads.
- **Indo German Yarn & Fibres LLP** for their sustainable personal protection fabric.

Strategic Partnerships

ITTA announced a new collaboration with TVC Media & Promotion Pvt. Ltd. to launch a magazine titled "**Technical Textiles Value Chain Magazine**." This publication aims to enhance communication within the technical textiles sector.

The 14th AGM of ITTA successfully highlighted both current challenges and future opportunities within India's technical textile industry. The discussions underscored a collective commitment among stakeholders to foster innovation, sustainability, and growth in this vital sector. As ITTA continues its mission, it aims to strengthen its role as a key player in promoting India's position as a global leader in technical textiles. ■ ■

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70th AGM of MATEXIL

Charting a Path Forward Amidst Global Challenges

The 70th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of MATEXIL, held on September 20, 2024, marked a significant milestone for the organisation and the textile industry in India. The Chairman's address highlighted both the challenges faced over the past year and the resilience demonstrated by the industry. This report summarises the key points from the speech, focusing on economic performance, challenges, initiatives, and future outlook.

Welcome and Overview

The Chairman commenced the meeting by expressing gratitude to attendees and acknowledging the unique challenges of the past year. He emphasised that despite these difficulties, the textile industry has shown remarkable strength and adaptability. The meeting served as a platform to reflect on achievements and discuss future opportunities.

Economic Landscape

- **Resilience Amidst Global Turmoil:** India has emerged as a beacon of opportunity in a tumultuous global landscape characterised by geopolitical tensions, particularly due to conflicts in Ukraine and Israel. The government's proactive measures to enhance the ease of doing business have been pivotal in achieving an impressive GDP growth rate of over 8% during the fiscal year under review. Initiatives such as Atmanirbhar Bharat and various schemes under the National Technical Textiles Mission are expected to further bolster manufacturing and entrepreneurship within the textile sector.

- **Global Economic Challenges:** The global economy has faced significant disruptions, notably from conflicts affecting supply chains and rising inflation in major markets like the United States and Europe. These factors have led to decreased consumer confidence and a decline in demand for textiles. The Chairman noted that energy prices remain volatile, further complicating production costs.

Challenges for Exporters

- **Red Sea Crisis:** The ongoing Red Sea crisis has posed substantial challenges for exporters, with attacks on cargo ships leading to longer transit times and increased freight rates. The Chairman urged government support for exporters affected by these disruptions and advocated for the

establishment of a Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for container manufacturing in India.

- **ESG Regulations:** With increasing emphasis on sustainability, exporters must adapt to stringent environmental, social, and governance (ESG) regulations set by key markets. The Council plans to conduct training programs to help members comply with these standards.

Council Developments

- **Name Change:** In recognition of its expanded mandate, the Council has rebranded from SRTEPC (Synthetic and Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council) to MATEXIL (Manmade and Technical Textiles Export Promotion Council). This change reflects a broader commitment to promoting various textile products, including technical textiles.

- **Export Trends:** Despite facing challenges, exports of man-made fibre textiles reached $5.74 billion in 2023-24, showing a slight decline from the previous year. In contrast, exports of technical textiles grew by 3.2%, driven by demand in sectors such as healthcare and infrastructure.

- **Future Outlook:** The Chairman expressed optimism for 2024-25, anticipating a recovery in the global economy and the stabilisation of inflation rates. The government has set ambitious export targets of $11 billion for man-made fibre textiles and $10 billion for technical textiles by 2030. Achieving these goals will require strategic investments in technology and sustainability.

Council Activities

- **Exhibitions and Representations:** The Council actively participated in various international exhibitions to promote exports. Additionally, it has engaged with government bodies on critical issues affecting members, including exemptions from Quality Control Orders (QCOs) for certain imports.

- **Key Issues Addressed:** Several pressing issues were raised during the meeting:

- **GST on Waste Bottles:** A proposal was made to reduce GST on waste bottles from 18% to 5%.

- **Extension of RoDTEP Scheme:** The Council is advocating for an extension of this scheme beyond its current expiration date.

- **Interest Equalization Scheme:** Requests have been made to extend this scheme until March 2025.

In closing, the Chairman thanked members for their unwavering support and commitment during challenging times. He acknowledged the efforts of the Executive Director and staff in achieving council goals. Looking ahead, MATEXIL is committed to fostering innovation and sustainability within the textile sector while supporting its members through ongoing challenges.

This AGM not only served as a reflection on past achievements but also set a hopeful tone for future endeavours within India's textile industry.

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Textile Sourcing Meet '24

Crafting the Future of the Textile Industry through Buyer-Seller Collaboration

The Textile Sourcing Meet '24, held on September 16-17, 2024, at the Rajasthan International Centre in Jaipur, marked its 10th edition with a significant emphasis on fostering connections between buyers and sellers in the textile industry. The event, themed "Crafting the Future of the Textile Industry through Buyer & Seller Meet," successfully facilitated business deals amounting to approximately Rs 300 crore.

Key Highlights

- **Business Networking:** A standout feature was the one-on-one meetings between exhibitors and buyers, which fostered direct interactions and strengthened business relationships. This format is expected to pave the way for future collaborations and opportunities within the industry.
- **Sustainability Focus:** Sonil Jain, CEO of Sotex, emphasised the importance of sustainable production practices in the textile industry. He noted that introducing sustainable raw materials is essential for Jaipur's garment industry to remain competitive in the global market.
- **Quality Production:** Lalit Arora, Vice President of the Garment Exporters Association of Rajasthan (GEAR), highlighted that the event showcased some of the best raw material suppliers in India. This exposure is anticipated to enhance quality production among local manufacturers and exporters.

Day 1 Highlights

The first day of the meeting received overwhelming praise from both exhibitors and visitors. The variety of fabric and textile products on display, coupled with competitive pricing, provided buyers with lucrative deals and opportunities to expand their networks. The structured setup of the event allowed for seamless interaction between buyers and sellers, fostering long-term relationships within the textile ecosystem.

Inauguration

The event was inaugurated by K.K. Vishnoi, Minister of State for Industries, alongside Pawan Arora, CEO and Managing Editor of First India News. They participated in the ceremonial ribbon-cutting and traditional lamp lighting, setting a positive tone for the proceedings.

Focus on Sowtex Network

A key player in this year's meet was Sowtex Network, a leading B2B textile sourcing platform founded by CEO Sonil Jain. Under Jain's leadership, Sowtex has been revolutionising the way textile sourcing is conducted by leveraging technology to create a more transparent and efficient ecosystem. Jain emphasised the need for sustainable production practices in the industry, highlighting that introducing sustainable raw materials is essential for Jaipur's garment sector to remain competitive globally.

Day 2 Highlights

The second day concluded on a high note, with the 121 Sourcing Conclave being a major highlight. This conclave brought together industry leaders and buyers from around the globe, facilitating meaningful connections and lucrative business opportunities.

Buyer-Exhibitor Engagement

The brisk activity was observed at exhibitor stalls as buyers eagerly explored the diverse range of textile products on display. The event provided a unique platform for knowledge sharing and relationship building among stakeholders.

Felicitation Ceremony

The meet concluded with a felicitation ceremony recognizing participants, sponsors, and supporters for their contributions to the textile industry. Organisers expressed gratitude to all stakeholders for making the event a resounding success.

Industry Insights

Throughout the two-day exhibition, various issues pertinent to the garment industry were discussed, including innovations in textiles and accessories. Vimal Shah, Director of Goodwill Impex, remarked on how new fabrics and technologies could significantly benefit businesses by providing a competitive edge through recycled products.

Lalit Arora, Vice President of the Garment Exporters Association of Rajasthan (GEAR), highlighted that showcasing some of the best raw material suppliers in India would enhance quality production among local manufacturers and exporters. He also called for government support in establishing a textile park and providing subsidies to further expand Jaipur's export capabilities.

Conclusion

The Textile Sourcing Meet '24 not only served as a platform for business transactions but also as a catalyst for discussions on sustainability and innovation within the textile sector. With Rajasthan's vibrant textile culture at the forefront, this meet stands as a testament to the state's growing influence on both national and international textile markets.

As stakeholders from across India gathered under one roof to explore new opportunities, the event underscored Jaipur's pivotal role in shaping the future of India's textile industry. With continued support from both government and industry leaders, there lies significant potential for growth and advancement in this vital sector.

As Sowtex Network continues to grow under Sonil Jain's leadership, it is poised to lead the way in transforming textile sourcing practices while promoting sustainability within the industry. ■ ■

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Interaction Meet of Senior Management team from SLC Agricola, Brazil with ICAR-CIRCOT Mumbai

The senior management team comprising of Mr Aurelio Pavinato, CEO, Mr. Guilherme Heiden, Analyst, and Mr Roberto Acauan, Chief Sales Officer of SLC, Agricola Brazil visited ICAR-CIRCOT on September 16, 2024. The meeting was coordinated by their Indian representative Mr Sagar Kaushik, COO, UPL, Ltd. Stakeholders and industrialists such as Shri P. K. Agarwal, Former CMD, CCI, Dr G. S. Nadiger, Research Advisor (SASMIRA) & Former Director of Laboratories (Textile Committee), Shri P. D. Mepani, from CAI, Shri Rishit Dholakia from Wakefield Inspection Service, Shri Nitesh Jangir, from Arvind Ltd., Bhopal and Shri Aniruddha Jain from M/s. Bajaj Steel Industries Ltd were also present. The CIRCOT team was led by the Director, Dr. S. K. Shukla and comprised of Heads of Division, Principal Scientists, Senior Scientists and Technical Officers.

Shri Luv Bajaj, MD, M/s Bajaj Steel Industries Ltd., Dr. M. K. Sharma, CEO & Whole-time Director, M/s Bajaj Steel Industries Ltd., Nagpur and Shri Vineet Kumar Mohota, Director (Finance), Gimatex Industries Pvt. Ltd., Hinganghat, Nagpur attended the meeting online.

Dr. Shukla presented about the recent activities at ICAR-CIRCOT and also briefed about cotton production, productivity, consumption and the export-import scenario of cotton from India. Mr Pavinato elaborated about the good quality of cotton produced by Brazil with a minimum cost of production and the competitive rate of cotton from Brazil compared to cotton from the USA and Australia. He expressed an interest in exporting more Brazilian cotton to India in future.

The delegates from Brazil were interested to know about the cost of cotton production in India and the scenario about the import of Brazilian cotton by India vis-à-vis the American and Australian cotton which India is currently importing more. They gave an assurance that the technology in cotton production in Brazil to address the short fibre content and other issues will be addressed to suit the Indian requirement. The team visited the Nanocellulose pilot plant and discussed about its special characteristics and various applications.

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TMMA Annual General Meeting 2024

A Celebration of Excellence in the Textile Machinery Industry

The Textile Machinery Manufacturers' Association (TMMA) held its 64th Annual General Meeting (AGM) on September 19, 2024 at the ITME Center in Mumbai. The AGM was combined with the Export Excellence and R&D Awards for the year 2023-24. The event was graced by the presence of Mr Rakesh Mehra, Chairman of the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI) and Managing Director of Banswara Syntex, who served as the Chief Guest. The Association also honoured Mr S.P. Verma, the retired Additional Textile Commissioner, for his valuable contributions to the industry.

Chairman's Speech: Setting the Tone for Innovation

Mr. M. Sankar, the Chairman of TMMA, delivered a comprehensive speech highlighting the key developments in the Indian economy, the textile ecosystem, and the challenges faced by the Textile Engineering Industry (TEI). He emphasized the importance of the symbiotic relationship between the user industry and the TEI and the need for robust policies and government support to ensure the growth and innovation of the industry. He also stressed the importance of Research and Development (R&D) in staying competitive globally and urged the government to implement policies that encourage indigenous innovation and technology development in the TEI.

Chief Guest's Address: Unlocking Opportunities for Growth

Mr. Rakesh Mehra, the Chairman of CITI, delivered an insightful speech congratulating TMMA on its 64th AGM. He highlighted the immense opportunities for the Indian textile industry, with the government's initiatives such as the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme and the PM MITRA Scheme. He also emphasized the need for Indian textile machinery manufacturers to rise to the challenge of meeting the growing demand with cutting-edge technology and to address the gaps in indigenous technology compared to global standards. Mr Mehra urged the domestic machinery manufacturers to engage in close collaboration with the industry to bridge these technology gaps and meet emerging compliance requirements.

Awards Galore: Recognizing Excellence in Export and R&D

The highlight of the event was the presentation of the Export Excellence and R&D Awards for the year 2023-24. The awards were presented in various categories, recognizing the outstanding achievements of the industry players in promoting exports and benchmarking developments in textile engineering.

Export Awards

The Export Awards were presented in the following categories:

1. **Apex Export Award:** Rieter India Pvt. Ltd., Pune

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2. Segment Export Awards:

- **Textile Machinery Sector:** Saurer Textile Solutions Pvt. Ltd., Vadodara and Lakshmi Machines Works Ltd., Coimbatore
- **Parts and Accessories Sector:** Lakshmi Card Clothing Mfg. Co. Pvt. Ltd., Coimbatore
- **Textile Testing, Monitoring & Controlling Instruments:** Premier Evolvics Pvt. Ltd., Coimbatore

3. Special Export Awards:

- **Spinning Machinery Sector:** Kirloskar Toyota Textile Machinery Private Limited, Bangalore
- **Synthetic Machinery Sector:** Sieger Spintech Equipments Pvt. Ltd., Coimbatore
- **Weaving & Weaving Preparatory:** Bhagat Textile Engineers, Surat
- **Processing Machinery Sector:** Colorjet India Ltd., Noida
- **Parts and Accessories Sector:** Luwa India Pvt Ltd, Bangalore
- **Small Scale Sector: Machinery**: Yamuna Machine Works Ltd., Mumbai
- **Small Scale Sector: Parts & Accessories**: Inspiron Engineering Private Limited, Ahmedabad and The Indian Card Clothing Company Limited, Pune

R&D Awards

The R&D Awards were presented to the following companies for their outstanding developments:

1. Lakshmi Machines Works Ltd., Coimbatore for their development of "RING FRAME AUTO PIECER (RAP)"
2. Lakshmi Machine Works Ltd., Coimbatore for their development of "DRAW FRAME LDF3 2S"
3. The Indian Card Clothing Co. Ltd., Pune for their development of "METALLIC WIRE WITH VARIABLE TIP DESIGN"

Additionally, Certificates of Appreciation were awarded to:

1. Stovec Industries Limited, Ahmedabad for their development of "Eucalyptus"
2. Sieger Spintech Equipments Private Limited, Coimbatore for their development of "Integrated C2C (Cone to Container)"
3. Colorjet India Limited, Noida for their development of "Earth 32 Series"

The AGM and awards ceremony was a testament to the resilience and innovation of the Indian textile machinery industry. The event provided a platform for industry leaders to come together, share insights, and recognize the achievements of their peers, paving the way for a brighter future for the industry. ■ ■

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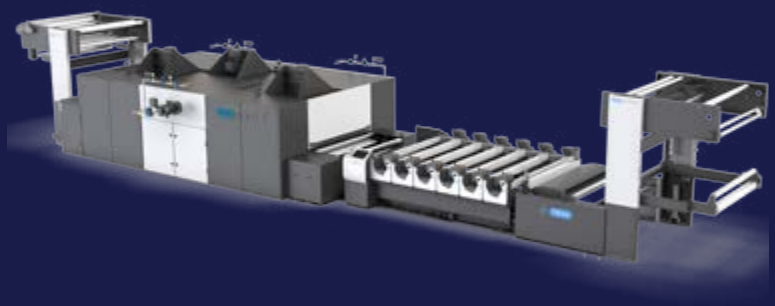

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Suit Yourself

A Behind-the-Scenes Look at the Making of Women's Wear

by Tanvi Munjal

The evolution of women's wear, particularly in the domain of trousers, suits, and jackets, has been a powerful force in the textile industry. These garments, once considered masculine symbols of authority, have been reclaimed by women to express their individuality, confidence, and professional prowess. The demand for stylish, comfortable, and versatile women's suits and jackets has driven innovation in fabric technology, tailoring techniques, and design aesthetics.

From tailored power suits to casual blazers and wide-leg trousers, these garments have become essential staples in modern wardrobes, contributing significantly to the growth and diversification of the textile industry.

Origin and History

The origins of women's tailored clothing can be traced back to the 17th century with the emergence of riding habits - fitted jackets paired with long skirts, often worn with masculine hats. Even in this conservative design, the idea of women dressing in anything other than traditionally feminine attire shocked society at the time.

Over the next few centuries, the style and cut of women's suits evolved, with the rise of the women's rights movement in the mid-19th century leading to more radical developments like the bloomer suit - long trousers concealed under a skirt[1]. The 20th century saw the most defining changes, with each decade bringing new influences from world events and social movements.

Today, the women's suits and ensembles market is a multi-billion dollar industry, driven by factors like evolving fashion trends, the increasing presence of women in professional settings, and the growing emphasis on personal branding and style in the workplace.

Manufacturing Process Overview

The manufacturing process for women's tailored clothing involves several key steps:

1. **Fabric Production:** Fabrics like wool, cotton, linen and synthetic blends are produced on textile machines like spinning frames, weaving looms and knitting machines.
2. **Pattern Making:** Patterns are created based on the garment design, either manually or using CAD software.
3. **Cutting:** Fabric is cut into pattern pieces using automated cutters or manual methods.
4. **Sewing:** Pattern pieces are sewn together using industrial sewing machines to form the garment. Specialised machines are used for tasks like attaching linings, applying interfacing, and hemming.
5. **Pressing:** Garments are pressed and shaped using steam irons and speciality

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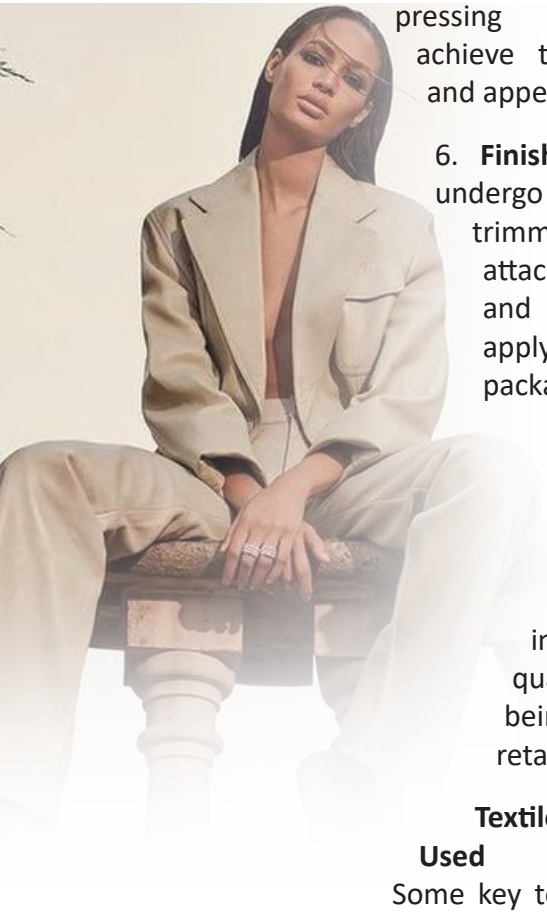

pressing machines to achieve the desired fit and appearance.

6. **Finishing:** Garments undergo processes like trimming threads, attaching buttons and zippers, and applying labels and packaging.

7. **Quality Control:** Finished products are inspected for quality before being shipped to retailers.

Textile Machines Used

Some key textile machines used in women's tailored clothing manufacturing include:

- **Spinning Frames:** Used to produce yarn from wool, cotton and other fibres. Brands like *Rieter* and *Trützschler* are known for their spinning machinery.
- **Weaving Machines:** Manufacture woven fabrics like suiting and coating. Brands like *Picanol* and *Staubli* are notable manufacturers.
- **Knitting Machines:** Produce knitted fabrics for linings and stretch components. *Mayer & Cie* and *Karl Mayer* are prominent manufacturers in this category.
- **Cutting Machines:** Cut fabric into pattern pieces. Automated cutters like those from *Gerber Technology* and *Lectra* are commonly used.
- **Sewing Machines:** Industrial machines used for assembling garments, including specialised machines for attaching linings, applying interfacing and hemming. *Juki* and *Brother* are renowned sewing machine brands.
- **Pressing Machines:** Used for pressing and shaping garments to achieve the desired fit and appearance. *Veit* and *Hoffman* are leading manufacturers of pressing equipment.

SWOT Analysis of the Women's Tailored Clothing Industry

Strengths

- Growing demand
- Diverse product range
- Innovative fabrics

Weaknesses

- Reliance on imports
- Environmental concerns
- High costs

Opportunities

- Emerging markets
- E-commerce
- Sustainability

Threats

- Economic downturns
- Fast fashion
- Changing workplace dress codes

Popular Brands Manufacturing Women's Tailored Clothing

The market for women's tailored clothing, including suits, jackets, and trousers, is diverse and includes both international and Indian brands. Below is a comprehensive list of some of the popular brands that manufacture these types of clothing.

International Brands	Indian Brands
Chanel	Fabindia
Giorgio Armani	BIBA
Theory	Allen Solly
J.Crew	W for Woman
M.M. LaFleur	Van Heusen

Reference:

[1] King & Allen. "A History of Women's Tailoring: Part One." Published March 1, 2019. https://kingandallen.co.uk/journal/article/a-history-of-womens-tailoring-part-one.

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Connecting Global Markets

The Significance of the Global Sourcing Expo in Australia

The Global Sourcing Expo, organised by the International Expo Group, is a premier sourcing event in Australia, held annually in Sydney and Melbourne. This expo connects international exhibitors with a diverse range of buyers, including manufacturers, department stores, wholesalers, and agents from Australia, New Zealand, and the Asia Pacific region. Launched over a decade ago, the expo has become a crucial hub for apparel and textile sourcing in Australia.

Event Highlights

- **Upcoming Dates:** The next Melbourne edition is scheduled for **November 19-21, 2024**, at the **Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre**.
- **Exhibitor Participation:** The event will feature over **900 exhibitors** from various countries including India, Bangladesh, Vietnam, and China, showcasing products across categories such as apparel, accessories, footwear, and homeware.
- **Co-located Events:** This year's expo will also host the **Footwear and Accessories Show** and the **China Clothing Textiles Accessories Expo**, providing attendees with a comprehensive sourcing experience.

Strategic Growth and Market Trends

Julie Holt, Global Exhibitions Director of the International Expo Group, emphasises that the expo's growth is attributed to strategic partnerships with industry stakeholders and continuous audience engagement. Despite challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, attendance surged post-pandemic, with a notable **46% increase** in visitor numbers at the recent Sydney show. The organisation aims to launch a second annual edition in Sydney to further cater to market demands.

The expo is adapting to emerging trends such as sustainability and mindful consumption. It now focuses on responsible sourcing practices while offering distinct seminar programs tailored to various levels of sourcing expertise—from beginners to seasoned professionals.

Seminar Programs and Networking Opportunities

The Global Sourcing Expo provides a robust seminar

program designed to meet the diverse needs of its visitors:

- **Beginner Seminars:** Covering logistics and fundamentals of global sourcing.
- **Advanced Topics:** Discussions on global certification trends and the impact of AI on sourcing.
- **Business Matching Services:** Facilitating connections between attendees and suppliers based on specific product needs.

These initiatives aim to enhance networking opportunities among industry professionals and foster collaboration within the sourcing community.

Future Directions

Looking ahead, the expo plans to strengthen its relationships with key industry organisations both domestically and internationally. Julie Holt notes that sourcing encompasses more than just transactions; it involves research, logistics, finance, and design cooperation. By expanding its reach within the apparel and textile sectors, the Global Sourcing Expo seeks to become an essential resource for professionals navigating the complexities of global sourcing.

The Global Sourcing Expo stands out as a vital platform for connecting global manufacturers with Australian buyers. With its commitment to innovation and sustainability in sourcing practices, it continues to evolve as a critical event for industry professionals seeking to enhance their supply chain capabilities.

For more information about attending or exhibiting at the Global Sourcing Expo Melbourne 2024, please visit their official website, https://global-sourcingexpo.com.au/. ■ ■

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Gartex Texprocess India 2024

A Resounding Success in Textile Innovation and Networking

Gartex Texprocess India New Delhi recently wrapped up its 11th edition from August 1-3, 2024, showcasing a spectacular turnout of 11,916 visitors. This year's event attracted a diverse array of B2B professionals from 311 Indian cities and 29 countries, showcasing the event's global reach and importance in the textile industry. The exhibition provided a platform for various stakeholders, including apparel brands, export houses, garment manufacturers, boutique owners, and design studios, to connect and network effectively.

Event Highlights

The exhibition was held for the first time at the **state-of-the-art Yashobhoomi Expo Center** in New Delhi. The venue change was well-received, with exhibitors and visitors expressing satisfaction with the high footfall and quality of inquiries. Notably, the event featured an impressive showcase of textile technology and product solutions aimed at boosting India's textile manufacturing sector. Key highlights included:

- **Product Showcase:** The event displayed a wide range of garment and textile manufacturing machinery, denim apparel manufacturing processes, fabrics, trims, accessories, and advanced digital printing solutions.
- **Engagement and Enthusiasm:** Exhibitors reported crowded booths and aisles throughout the event days, indicating strong interest from attendees.

Exhibitor Feedback

The positive atmosphere was echoed by various exhibitors:

- **Mr Mukund Agarwal, Business Head of Baba Textile Machinery**, highlighted the opportunity to showcase their latest embroidery machine and expressed eagerness to participate in future editions.
- **Mr. Vanraj Vanawala, Owner of SP Laces**, shared his first-time experience at the expo, noting valuable connections with new buyers and designers.

- **Mr Rahul Mahajan, Head of Sales and Marketing for Datatex Asia Pacific**, reported improved footfall compared to previous editions and anticipated converting inquiries into business opportunities.
- **Mr Pratik Mehta, General Manager of True Colors Group**, praised the new venue and highlighted the event as an excellent platform for exhibiting products and enhancing market presence.
- **Mr Pankaj Singh, Vice President of Ginni International Ltd**., noted the significant footfall and expressed commitment to participating actively in future events.
- **Mr Chandrakant from Raymond UCO** emphasised the value of face-to-face interactions with customers and industry peers during the event.

Knowledge Sessions

The event also featured insightful sessions led by industry experts that sparked discussions on critical topics such as:

- **Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Automation:** These sessions explored how these technologies are transforming the Indian textile industry across various value chain segments.
- **Sustainability in Denim Production:** A panel discussion led by **Mr Aamir Akhtar**, **Group President and CEO of Jindal Worldwide Ltd**., focused on the evolving landscape of organised retail in denim and emphasised sustainable practices in production.

Future Prospects

Looking ahead, Gartex Texprocess India is set to return to Mumbai from **May 22-24, 2025**, at the Jio World Convention Centre. The upcoming edition promises to expand on its success with over **600 brands** expected to participate, further solidifying its reputation as a premier platform for textile innovation.

In conclusion, Gartex Texprocess India New Delhi not only showcased cutting-edge technologies but also fostered a vibrant environment for networking and knowledge exchange among industry professionals. The enthusiasm displayed by exhibitors and visitors alike bodes well for the future of India's textile manufacturing sector.

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