



As spring blooms, we are prompted to bring to the forefront the **ITMF Awards 2024**, whose deadline approaches swiftly on **May 10<sup>th</sup>**. This event has emerged as a cornerstone of ITMF's Annual Conference, earning increasing global recognition and offering winners enhanced visibility across the textile value chain. We encourage our readers to spare a moment and nominate pioneering companies for the three award categories: startups, innovation and sustainability, or international cooperation.



Olivier Zieschank  
director, ITMF

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## Executive summary

### Understanding and preserving fibre quality through the cotton production pipeline



Cotton, a globally traded commodity, faces intensified competition from synthetic fibres, necessitating improvements in its production pipeline. Quality yarn production at a reasonable cost hinges on a thorough grasp of fibre properties, made feasible by the precise measurement techniques for cotton fibre quality parameters, exemplified by high-volume automatic testing systems.

Properties such as colour, trash, extraneous matter, micronaire, length, length uniformity, and strength significantly impact the cotton-textile value chain in different ways. For example, fibre colour minimally affects yarn processing performance unless it is an indication of microbial decay that compromises fibre length and strength. Fibre colour is nonetheless crucial for textile mills as it directly affects dyeing and finishing results.

Learn more about the need to understand and preserve fibre quality in all of cotton properties through the production pipeline in this article by René van Sluijs. René has over 43 years of experience in fibre and textiles processing and extensive commercial knowledge of all facets of cotton production from field to fabric - specialising in yarn manufacturing and quality.

[> read more \(members only\)](#)

<sup>1</sup> "[This picture](#)" from an unknown author is licenced under [CC BY-NC-ND](#)

## ITMF NEWS

### ITMF's newest member

ITMF has welcome one new Member Association in the last few weeks. This illustrates how important our unique platform is for organisations in different regions and segments of the textile value chain.



The **TAJCOTTEX** is a newly established association for the cotton and textile industry in Tajikistan. Among others, the task of the association are the participation in the development and implementation of the programme for the development of the national cotton industry (as well as seed production), production, processing and sale of cotton and textile products and organisation of international cooperation in the field of cotton growing (as well as seed production), production, processing and sale of cotton and textile products, including holding and participation in seminars, symposiums, exhibitions, conferences and other events.

[> find out more about the organisation](#) and [> about Tajik cotton facts](#)

### ITMF Awards 2024: application deadline extended to May 10<sup>th</sup>



Like in previous years, ITMF will also present this year the **ITMF Awards 2024** in three categories. Companies and organizations have the opportunity to apply in the following ones:

- **ITMF Start-up Award**
- **ITMF Sustainability & Innovation Award**
- **ITMF Intl. Cooperation Award**

The winners in the different categories will have the opportunity to present their business ideas and projects at this year's **ITMF & IAF Conference 2024** which will be held from September 8-10, 2024, in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.

New deadline for applications:  
**May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

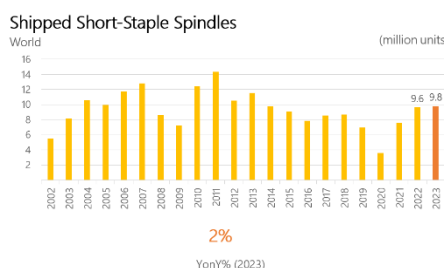
Find out more about the [ITMF Awards 2024](#)

Application for:  
[ITMF Sustainability & Innovation Award 2024](#)

Application for:  
[ITMF Intl. Cooperation Award 2024](#)

Application for:  
[ITMF Start up Award 2024](#)

### ITMF's Textile Machinery Workshop was held in Frankfurt alongside Techtexsil / Texprocess



The ITMF / VDMA Textile Machinery Workshop & Dinner 2024 convened on April 22<sup>nd</sup> in Frankfurt, Germany, gathering industry experts worldwide.

Mr. Janpeter Horn, Chairman VDMA Textile Machinery, and Mr. K. V. Srinivasan, ITMF president, welcomed around 90 delegates to this unique event. Mr. Harald Weber, managing director of VDMA, shared insights into the global economic situation, discussing regional variations in industrial production and business climate, along with projections for 2024 and 2025. Mr. Yingxin Xu, vice president of CNTAC, provided insights into China's textile and apparel industry, covering market performance, modernization efforts, and future outlook. Representatives from Bangladesh, Europe, India,

Indonesia, Korea, Vietnam, and Türkiye also shared market insights and challenges. Mr. Weber then introduced a session on textile machinery manufacturing including updates from Rieter, Oerlikon, Picanol, Brückner, and SPGPrints on the spinning, texturing, weaving, finishing, and printing segments. Discussions explored topics such as regulation, reuse/resale, recycling, as well as labour shortages in Europe.

Mr. Christian Schindler then presented the preliminary results of the 46th annual International Textile Machinery Shipment Statistics (ITMSS) compiled with more than 200 textile machinery manufacturers. Global shipments of new shot-staple and long-staple spindles saw a +2% and a +5% year-on-year increase, respectively. Deliveries of

open-end rotors and draw-texturing spindles declined by -17% and -28%, respectively. Shuttle-less looms experienced a significant uptick, rising by +52%. Large circular knitting machines saw a +17% growth while flat knitting machines surged by +61%. Overall, deliveries in the finishing segment saw a slight increase, averaging +1.5%. The session ended with a survey on the current state and outlook of the textile industry ([download here](#)).

The event encapsulated the complexity and diversity of the global textile machinery market, emphasizing both challenges and opportunities ahead.

The 46<sup>th</sup> annual International Textile Machinery Shipment Statistics will be published in May 2024.

## ITMF meets with TMAS at Tectextil



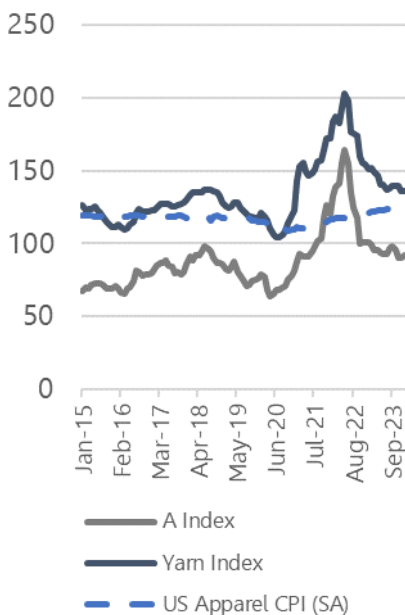
Therese Premler-Andersson, Executive Director, Christian Schindler, Director General, ITMF

At this year's Tectextil/Texprocess 2024 Mr. Christian Schindler, Director General of ITMF, had the opportunity to meet Ms. Therese Premler-Andersson, Executive Director of the Textile Machinery Association of Sweden (TMAS) that became the newest Associate Member of the Federation in April. They discussed the result of the ITMF & VDMA Textile Machinery Workshop 2024 which was held one day before the start of Tectextil/Texprocess and prepared a joint press release.

[> read more here](#)

## PARTNER NEWS

# Cotton Inc. presents the latest price movements in the cotton textile supply chain



Price Movements throughout the Cotton Textile Supply Chain (March 2024)

Source: Cotton Inc. | Illustration ITMF

[> download data set](#) | [> download charts](#)

Mr. Jon Devine, [Cotton Incorporated](#), studies price movements in the cotton supply chain every month. Here is his last analysis from retail to fiber:

**Retail (latest data point for March):** As measured by the CPI for garments, retail apparel prices increased month-over-month in March (+0.7%). Year-over-year, retail apparel prices were +0.2% higher. Relative to the 12-month average value before COVID (116.3 Mar 2019 to Feb 2020), the figure for March (122.3) is +4.9% higher.

**Cotton-Dominant Apparel Import Prices (latest data point for February):** The average price per square-meter equivalent of cotton-dominant apparel imports decreased in the latest seasonally adjusted data for February (from \$3.73/SME in January to \$3.64/SME). Compared to the 12-month average before COVID (Mar 2019 through Feb 2020 average was \$3.44/SME), the latest cost per cotton-dominant SME (\$3.64) is +5.8% higher.

**Yarn (latest data point for March):** Cotlook's yarn index increased +1.8% month-over-month in March. Year-over-year, the yarn index was -5.8% lower. Relative to the value before COVID (118.35 in Feb 2020), the latest monthly average for Cotlook's yarn index (140.65 in March 2024) is +18.8% higher.

**Fiber (latest data point for March):** The A Index increased marginally (+0.1%) month-over-month in March (from 99.61 in February to 99.7 cents/lb). Year-over-year, the A Index was essentially unchanged (95.39 cents/lb in March 2023). Relative to the value before COVID (76.6 cents/lb in Feb 2020), the latest monthly average for the A Index (99.74 cents/lb in March 2024) is +30.3% higher.

# SLCP holds free facility training events



Over the next two months, the Social & Labor Convergence Program (SLCP) will host FREE facility training webinars on the SLCP Process & System and Data Collection Tool in Chinese, Spanish, Vietnamese, and English. Trainings will feature the SLCP team, leading brands, system partners, and manufacturers who will present content tailored to each audience. In addition, they are hosting some special in-person trainings in Bangladesh for NEW facilities. To learn more about the webinars and in-person trainings and to download the invitations and registration links, please visit the [SLCP Helpdesk](#).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

2024

### [Tectextil](#)

April 23-26, 2024  
Frankfurt, Germany

### [Global Fashion Summit](#)

May 21-23, 2024  
Copenhagen, Denmark

### [8th International Exhibition - Textile and Fashion Industry](#)

May 28-30, 2024  
Tashkent, Uzbekistan

### [ITM 2024](#)

June 4-8, 2024  
Istanbul, Turkey

### [3rd International Conference on Advanced Textile Science and Technology](#)

July 5-8, 2024  
Shanghai, China

### [ITMF Annual Conference & IAF Fashion Convention 2024](#)

September 8-10, 2024  
Samarkand, Uzbekistan

### [Dornbirn GFC 2024](#)

September 11-13 2024  
Dornbirn, Germany

### [Market Week](#)

September 16-19 2024  
New-York, USA

### [Amsterdam Textile Show](#)

October 2-4, 2024  
Amsterdam, The Netherlands

### [ITMA Asia & CITME 2024](#)

October 14-18, 2024  
Shanghai, China

### [ICA-Liverpool 2024](#)

October 16-17, 2024  
Liverpool, UK

### [Sustainability Talks 2024](#)

December 3, 2024  
Istanbul, Turkey

### [Heimtextil Frankfurt](#)

January 14-17, 2025  
Frankfurt, Germany

### [Market Week](#)

March 15-18, 2025  
New-York, USA

### [International Expo of Textile Machines, Materials and Accessories My TexStyle](#)

May 7-9, 2025  
Kielce, Poland