To: Fairtrade Traders under the Fibre crop standard
Fairtrade cotton producers
Fairtrade members
cc: Standards Committee
Fairtrade International staff
FLOCERT staff

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Introducing the Fairtrade Textile Standard

Dear Partners,

Fairtrade International is pleased to announce the publication of the new Fairtrade Textile Standard. The Fairtrade Textile Standard is one component of the greater Fairtrade Textile Program to facilitate change in textile supply chains and related business practices. This comprehensive approach engages manufacturers and workers in the supply chain to bring about better wages and working conditions, and engages brands to commit to fair terms of trade.

During its meetings that took place in September and November 2015 and in February 2016 the Standards Committee unanimously approved the content and scope of the Fairtrade Textile Standard. For details on these decisions please refer to the minutes of the Standards Committee meetings available on our website under: http://www.fairtrade.net/standards/setting_the_standards.html.

The Fairtrade Textile Standard was developed in consultation with other existing social initiatives and standards, experts in economics, workers' rights, textile production and distribution, as well as representatives of the workers themselves. Synopses of the feedback from the public consultations are available here.

This standard applies to operators employing hired workers in the textile supply chain processing Fairtrade certified cotton and other sustainable fibres. This includes, but is not restricted to, ginners, spinning, weaving, knitting, and cut-make-trim stages of textile production. This standard is applicable in countries and regions where freedom of association is possible, as determined by the Textile Standard geographic scope policy.

This standard also applies to brand owners purchasing finished textiles. The brand owner must have a contract with the relevant National Fairtrade Organization or Fairtrade International which includes the brand's commitment to responsible purchasing practices such as feasible lead times and paying fair prices that allow suppliers to pay living wages

The standard will be **applicable as of 1 June 2016** and the certification body will start auditing against the new standard from this date.

The Fairtrade Textile Standard is available on the Fairtrade website in English, German and French under: http://www.fairtrade.net/standards/our-standards/textile-standard.html

For more information, please contact Elisabeth Bystrom (e.bystrom@fairtrade.net),

Best regards,

Andreas Kratz

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