

Country (Insert country of origin of your company / organization or its headquarters' location)

Turkey

Submitting Organization/Company

SÖKTAŞ TEKSTİL SANAYİ VE TİCARET AŞ.

If Organization or Company, please indicate the approximate number of employees

250 or more

Please indicate the number of employees

694

Title of the action

Advancing Sustainability; SÖKTAŞ's Commitment to Regenerative Cotton Agriculture , Sustainable Textile Production and Transparent Value Chains

Upload your logo or an image



Relevant Website

www.soktas.com.tr

Main Partners

Agrita Tarım Gıda Hayvancılık Sanayi ve Ticaret Aş., cotton value chain partners (farmers, farmer's cooperatives, ginnerers, spinners), retailers, NGO's, soil scientists,

Other Partners

Certification firms, academy

Type of initiative

Private

Description of action

SÖKTAŞ TEKSTİL, a leading producer of premium cotton shirting fabrics, is committed to minimizing its environmental footprint throughout the entire cotton production cycle. With a focus on sustainability, SÖKTAŞ implements best farming practices and operates in accordance with international standards to continually improve its environmental performance. Since 2019, SÖKTAŞ has been actively transitioning its cotton fields to regenerative agriculture through a collaborative, multi-stakeholder project, reducing emissions and enhancing traceability and transparency across the value chain. Partnering with UNECE, SÖKTAŞ has developed a blockchain pilot to trace products from farm to shelf, providing documentary evidence of sustainability credentials.

Type of action

Traceability & Transparency

Please select the specific area/s of the action

Norms and standards

Research and Development of Innovative Solutions

Awareness and Education

Collaborative Initiatives

Scope of the action, including a description of the value chain processes that are covered

Objective (max 200 words): Our objective at SÖKTAŞ is twofold: firstly, to fulfill our sustainability goals by adopting regenerative agriculture and sustainable textile production practices and implementing transparent & traceable sustainable supply chain. Secondly, we aim to lead the way in transitioning the region's cotton production to regenerative agriculture, reducing the environmental impact of cotton production and ensuring its long-term sustainability. We firmly believe that enhanced traceability and transparency are pivotal for achieving our objectives by identifying, addressing, and ultimately mitigating social and environmental risks along value chain. Moreover, through visible and transparent supply chain, we aim to facilitate collaborative mechanisms that result in a more equitable distribution of costs, risks, and benefits across the value chain.

Commitments (max 200 words): We commit; - To actively transition our cotton fields to regenerative agriculture that works in alignment with nature and focus on creating healthy, resilient interconnected ecosystems to restore and revitalize soil health, sequester carbon emissions and combat climate change. -To continuously reduce our emissions and improve our sustainability performance in our textile production by identifying and addressing social and environmental risks. -To enhancing traceability and transparency across our value chain. Additionally, - We will lead efforts to promote regenerative agriculture in our region, working with stakeholders to ensure its widespread adoption and to foster collaborative mechanisms that promote fair distribution of costs, risks, and benefits among all stakeholders. -We will share our learnings on the potential of regenerative agriculture at relevant platforms to inspire future actions for nature-positive solutions.

Value Chain Scope: Whole regenerative cotton value chain ; from farm to shelf

Timeframe and/or milestones for the action

SÖKTAŞ launched its inaugural regenerative cotton project in 2019, endorsed by Stella McCartney, and since then the project continues to expand year-on-year with the ongoing support of the LVMH group. In 2020, Söktaş began another Regenerative Cotton project with WWF Türkiye. Collaborated with UNECE in 2 blockchain use case pilots to trace our regenerative cotton from farm to shelf through documentary evidence and to prove sustainability credentials in 2022 & 2023. We hold Regenagri certificate since 2022. Actively working in Textile Exchange's Regenerative Outcome Frame Work Working Group that aims to help the fashion, textile and apparel industry align on outcomes for assessing the holistic benefits of regenerative agriculture since 2023.

Reference instruments and sources used

Regenerative farming outcomes monitored by soil scientists, WWF implementation team and Genesis Live soil health platform. Farm is both Regenagri and BCI certified. Apart from UNECE blockchain pilots,

whole regenerative cotton value chain from farm to woven fabric is certified with RegenagriCS that provides chain of custody since 2024 Q1. Söktaş has below system certificates & memberships as well; SteP by OEKO-TEX

HIGG ID : 45788 (FEM and FSLM – 2022 verified, 2023 self-assessment to be verified)

ZDHC Gateway (ID : A968G027)

ZDHC Supplier to Zero

ZDHC Incheck (verified)

SLCP (ID : FA626979)

ISO 14001: Environmental Management Systems

ISO 45001 Occupational Health And Safety Assessment Systems

ISO 50001:Energy Management System

ISO 9001 : Quality Management Systems

ISO 27001 : Information Security Management Systems:

Expected benefits and impact for the stakeholders involved

Enhanced visibility of compliance with sustainability requirements by industry actors/partners along the entire value chain

Enhanced traceability of the social/environmental/ethical attributes of product(s)/materials along the value chain; for example, for origin, quality, sustainability performance, and compliance with health and safety requirements for consumers and workers

A measurable impact on sustainability in value chains over time, eventually verified through life-cycle assessments and/or sustainability certifications

Enhanced environmental and socially responsible consumption and production, and circularity of the value chain, that may be relevant to and inspire other countries and industry actors/partners

Management of reputational risk for manufacturers, brands and retailers who are selling the products concerned

Improved working conditions for workers along the value chain and, particularly, those who work for “suppliers to suppliers” in parts of the value chain that today are often “hidden”

Stakeholders involved

Business and industry associations

Intergovernmental organizations

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs)

Scientific and technological community

Key performance indicators for the action

-Improvement on Soil Organic Carbon % and Total Nitrogen

-Increase in no of farmers on board

-Increase in the area of Regenerative agriculture (hectares)

-Increase in no of brands on board

- % of fully traced regenerative cotton till to farm on Söktaş's total raw material use
- No of initiatives testing advanced technologies enhancing traceability and transparency across value chain
- Reduction in Söktaş's corporate carbon footprint
- Reduction in Söktaş's water use
- No of conferences , seminars, projects participated to share and inspire

Good practices

<https://www.soktas.com.tr/regenerative-cotton/>

https://www.soktas.com.tr/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Soktas_Text.mp4

<https://www.stellamccartney.com/gb/en/soktas-regenerative-cotton.html>

How has this UNECE-UN/CEFACT Call to Action contributed to strategic engagement and/or public awareness in support of your commitment?

Textile and garment industry has highly fragmented, mostly opaque, complex global value chains with lack of transparency and/or lack of standardized infrastructure and language. Through testing and evaluating UNECE blockchain use case pilots, we've recognized a potential solution to address these complexities. We are encouraged by the prospect of leveraging advanced technologies to enhance transparency and traceability, fostering trust and due diligence through verified, trusted data while seamlessly connecting all actors involved in the value chain.

Link to relevant goal(s) and specific target(s) of the United Nations

