

# YESS: Yarn Ethically & Sustainably Sourced

Q3 Update Webinar

15 September 2021

<http://www.sourcingnetwork.org/yess>

# Today's Agenda

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1. Welcome to YESS
2. Pilot Project Update
3. Implementation Working Group Update
4. 2022 Sponsorship Options
5. Q & A

# Welcome



Yarn  
Ethically &  
Sustainably  
Sourced



Patricia Jurewicz  
Founder and CEO  
Responsible Sourcing  
Network

# YESS Mission

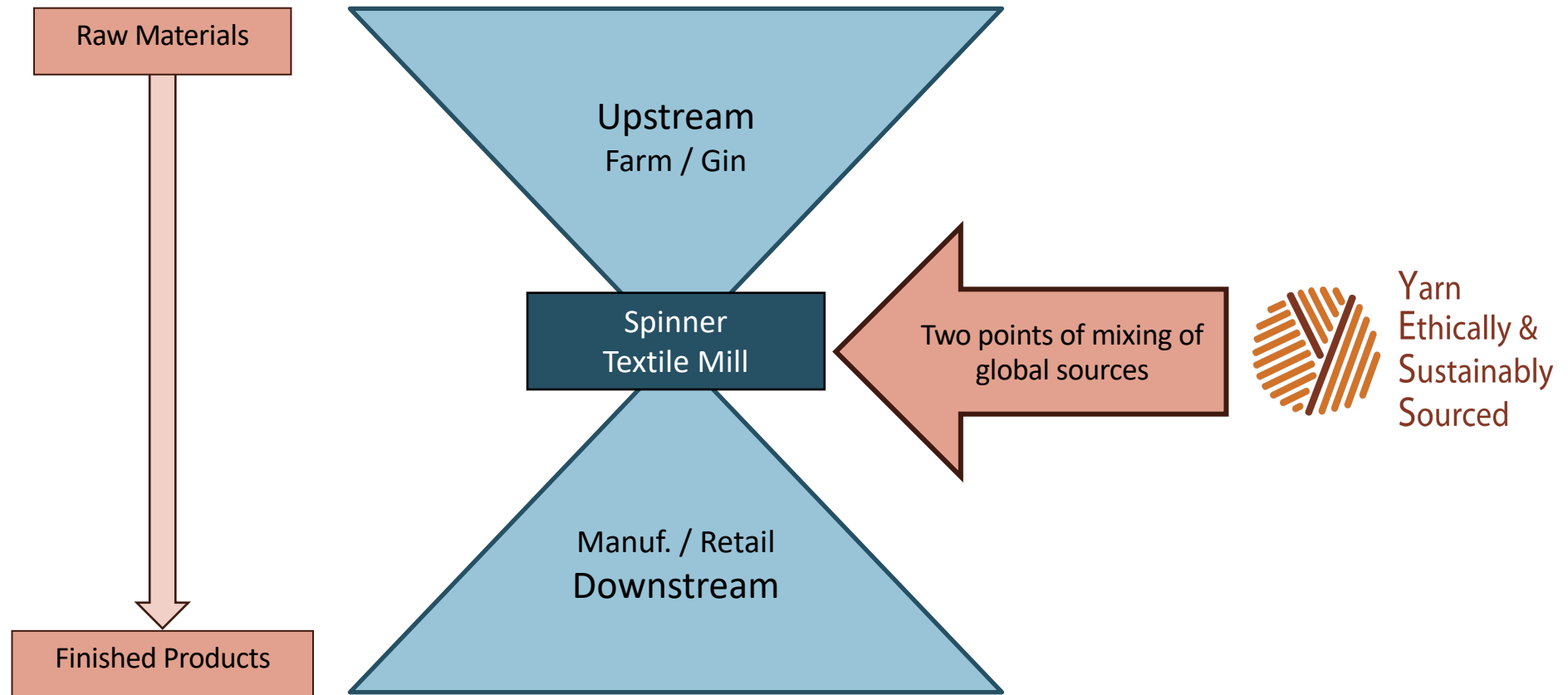
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To create an industry-wide due diligence program for yarn spinning mills and textile mills to identify and address cotton produced with forced labor in their supply chains.



# YESS Focuses on Supply Chain Control Points

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# YESS Pilot Project Update



Liz Muller  
Principal  
liz muller & partners  
Due Diligence Consultant

# YESS Pilot Goals

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## Evaluate

if the YESS due diligence standards are written appropriately



## Determine

if facilities are capable of conforming to the YESS standards



## Train

qualified auditors on the YESS standards



## Develop

resources to support spinner and textile mill capacity building

*Full conformance is not required during the YESS Pilot (e.g., public policy, report).*

# YESS Pilot Demographics

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5 global brands

9 pilot facilities (2 facilities are vertical – spinner & textile mill)

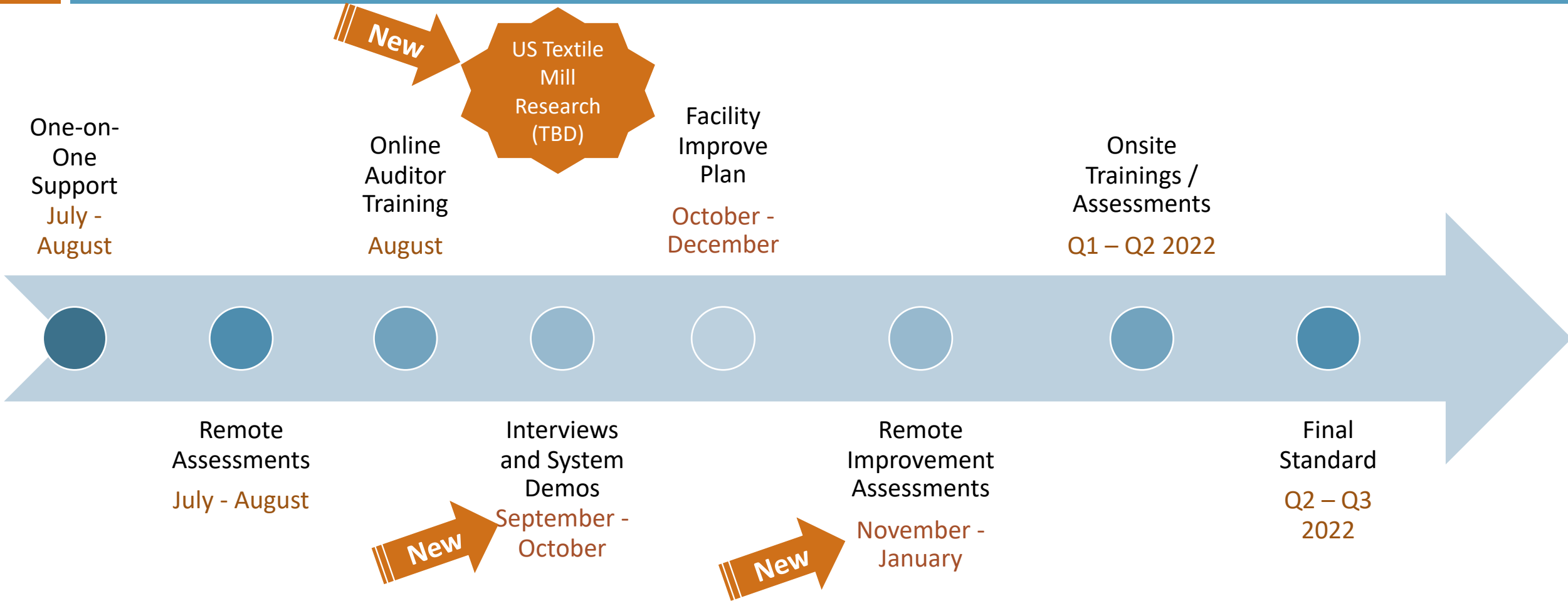
4 countries (2 produce cotton 2 import cotton)

Cross-section of different sourcing models

20 trained auditors from 2 audit firms in 6 countries



# Updated Project Plan due to COVID



# YESS Pilot Accomplishments

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100+ participants in 10 training webinars (5 for spinners & 5 for textile mills)



92 registrants for the YESS Portal (password protected) with access to trainings



30 YESS resources for facilities: assessment preparation checklists and templates

*15 each for spinners & textile mills*



20 auditors have access to trainings, assessment procedure, tools, and resources:

*Auditor onboarding documents  
Assessment procedure and tools  
10 Auditor resources*



Remote assessments and advisory services are underway

# YESS Pilot Learnings to Date

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Documents are maintained for every transaction

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Facilities need time to prepare a due diligence system (and personnel change!)

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Facilities can have 250 – 2,500 transactions – allow for representative sampling

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Not all facilities conduct supplier due diligence

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Textile mills buy cotton fabric from other mills, as do spinners (i.e., expect every scenario)

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Facilities consider “wastage” (a.k.a., comber noil) recycled cotton

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Supply ‘webs’ shift (e.g., Pakistan’s crop and gin capacity dropped 40-60% in 2021)

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India’s government buys and sells 30-40% through its Minimum Support Price program

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# Facility and Auditor Feedback

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- ❑ Appreciate thought that has gone into standard, trainings and resources
- ❑ Allows facilities to check their existing transparency / traceability efforts
- ❑ Good initiative, well-defined
- ❑ Education is good – it takes time to learn new initiatives
- ❑ Sustainable – largely because it allows for gradual change
- ❑ Trainings are helpful and well presented
- ❑ Transaction documents – receive them all (required for Letter of Credit)
- ❑ Brands are asking mills and (in turn) spinners to trace products' cotton – each with different excel spreadsheets

# YESS Pilot 2022 Goals

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12 in-person training sessions (6 for Pilot facilities, 6 for Pilot auditors)

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Nine in-person pilot assessments (3 spinners, 2 mills, 2 verticals)

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Final suites of spinner, textile mill and auditor tools and resources

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Public consultation and finalization of YESS Standard for Textile Mills

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Additional 2022 planned activities will be incorporated as funding allows and per direction of the Implementation Working Group (IWG)

# YESS Implementation Working Group



David Uricoli  
Principal  
Uricoli Consulting

# Implementation Working Group (IWG): Goals

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Design an industry-wide program to empower and ensure spinners and mills eliminate cotton produced with forced labor from their value chains.

Build support from stakeholders to achieve a harmonized approach to spinner engagement, assessment, and verification.

Create a due diligence system that is sustainable, scalable, and efficient.

# YESS IWG Sub-groups

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## Forced Labor Determination / Farm-level Initiatives

- Country Risk level determination and “high-risk” mitigation
- Development of methodology for risk determination cotton production rating

## Auditor Approval and Consistency

- Management and expansion of auditors
- Driving consistent and high-quality auditors and assessments

## Facility Continuous Improvement

- Training (remote and in-person), risk-readiness screen, on-boarding, tools and resources, technical advice, on-site assessments

## Governance / Scaling / Collaboration

- Leadership, coordination, efficiencies, transparency
- Revenue structure, foundational support, scaling

## Technology / Data / Infrastructure

- Data back-end, data access, e-learning, coordination with tech tools / production management



# IWG Sub-group Membership

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32 participants confirmed

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27 organizations represented; brands, associations, non-profit organizations and experts

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70-80 advisers and service providers offering input

# Timeline of the YESS Implementation Working Group (IWG)

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September  
15-22, 2021

- Project Plan Distribution
- IWG participants confirmed
- 1<sup>st</sup> IWG subgroup meetings planned

October 2021

- Sub-groups begin
- Program feedback
- First Survey starts
- 2<sup>nd</sup> IWG subgroup meetings planned
- Full IWG Meeting planned

November  
2021

- First Survey results
- 1st program recommendations
- Progress Report
- 3rd IWG subgroup meetings planned

December  
2021

- Work Product Review
- 2nd program recommendations
- 4<sup>th</sup> IWG subgroup meetings planned

January 2022

- 5<sup>th</sup> IWG subgroup meetings
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Full IWG Meeting planned
- Final Program recommendations

# YESS 2022 Sponsorship Options



Jamie Fortin  
Senior Program Associate  
Responsible Sourcing Network

# YESS 2022 Sponsorship Options

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## Basic – \$10,000

- YESS Portal access for sourcing staff (trainings and quizzes)
- YESS Textile Mill Standard public consultation
- Management of the YESS Implementation Working Group (IWG)
- Creation and implementation of YESS Action Plan

## Ambassador - \$25,000

- All Basic-Level benefits
- Sourcing staff + 10 facilities receive access to trainings and resources
- Access to quarterly Q&A sessions with YESS' due diligence expert
- Nomination of 2 facilities to be assessed by independent auditors

## Pioneer - \$50,000

- All Basic and Ambassador-Level benefits
- Limited technical advice for two nominated facilities
- 20% discount for Year 1 of YESS membership

# YESS 2022 Sponsorship Options

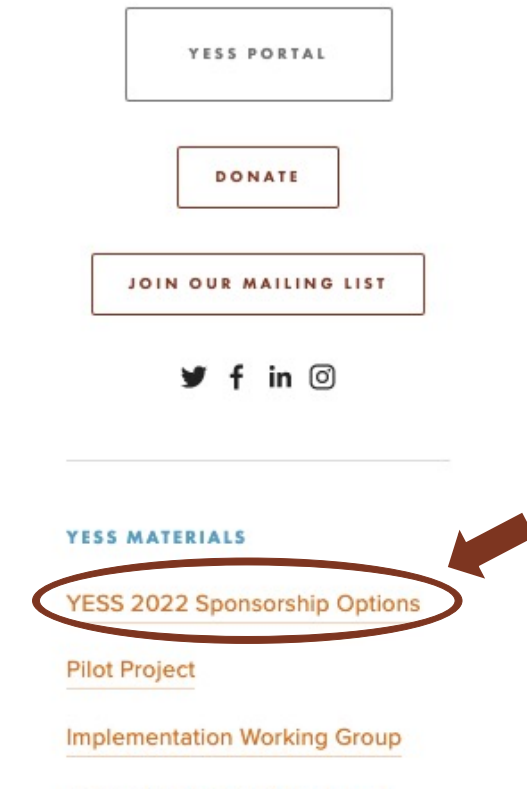
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See the [YESS Pilot Project](#) for information and updates on our pilot this year.

RSN has created the initiative YESS: Yarn Ethically & Sustainably Sourced to drive modern slavery out of cotton production by eliminating the market for cotton produced with forced labor, and increasing the use of ethical and sustainable cotton.

YESS utilizes the [OECD risk-based due diligence approach](#) to identify and eliminate modern slavery from cotton production and apparel supply chains. YESS is coordinating its activities with numerous sustainable cotton initiatives and other complementary programs to ensure harmonization of a due



Visit [sourcingnetwork.org/yess](https://sourcingnetwork.org/yess) to view a more detailed breakdown of YESS Sponsorship options for 2022

# YESS Initiative 2022 Goals

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IWG meetings and recommendations completed

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YESS Action Plan finalized and distributed

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Formalized partnerships established with leading initiatives (BCI, SAC, SLCP, OAR, etc.)

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Funds raised to implement the Action Plan and 3-yr financial plan determined

Visit [sourcingnetwork.org/yess](https://sourcingnetwork.org/yess) to view details of YESS Accomplishments, Goals, and Sponsorship Options

# Questions?

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