

YESS: Yarn Ethically & Sustainably Sourced

YESS is designed to drive forced labor out of cotton production by building capacity and managing a credible due diligence assessment of yarn spinners and textile mills.

THE OPPORTUNITY

Brands must begin to recognize and understand where risks of forced labor on cotton farms might exist within their value chains, and then address the risks, as they are increasingly regulated to do.

Brands, suppliers, and industry members support YESS because it helps the industry assess, prevent, and mitigate forced labor involved with cotton production through a thoughtful, collaborative, and risk-based approach.

THE CURRENT SITUATION

Many brands have been obligated to react to trade restrictions and disruptions to their value chains with limited understanding of where risks exist. Current efforts to trace the source of cotton inputs product-by-product is difficult, poses authenticity and credibility risks, and is costly to scale. In addition, it places a burden on mid-tier suppliers to meet selective sourcing constraints, technology requirements, and resource expectations. More importantly, tracing a product's cotton back to the farm alone does not prevent or mitigate risk, or address the root causes of forced labor involved in cotton production.



Reactionary



Limited traceability



No root-cause
understanding

WHERE YESS ADDS VALUE

YESS provides a framework, training, and technical assistance to help spinners and textile mills build a foundation from which all existing traceability systems can demonstrate credibility and connect brands with upstream solutions. The YESS approach:

1. Implement effective due diligence of suppliers and cotton inputs.
2. Identify, assess, and mitigate risk through an established process and actionable milestones.
3. Leverage farm-level efforts to identify and address forced labor.
4. Cease sourcing from regions with documented forced labor that is currently unmitigable.
5. Undergo a third-party assessment of efforts and impacts.

HOW YESS ADDS VALUE TO BRANDS AND THE COTTON INDUSTRY

Provides a scalable, industry-inclusive and effective global solution to address forced labor in cotton production.

Allows brands and suppliers to understand where risks of forced labor exist and manage those risks accordingly.

Improves accountability and the reputation of the cotton industry's efforts to address forced labor.

Provides assurance that spinners and textile mills have systems in place to implement due diligence and product-level traceability.

YESS'S 2022 – 2024 ACTION PLAN

- ◆ **2022**
 - Wrap up Pilot Project & finalize YESS Standards
 - Complete Implementation Working Group (IWG) recommendations
 - Finalize, distribute, and begin implementation of the YESS Action Plan
 - Determine auditor management process & service provider; approve auditors
 - Explore partnerships with leading initiatives
 - Establish a decision-making Implementation Committee
 - Raise funds to implement the Action Plan
- ◆ **2023**
 - Begin conducting third-party assessments
 - Conduct training and capacity building
 - Commence YESS membership with annual dues
 - Establish an elected Steering Committee
 - Formalize partnerships with leading initiatives
- ◆ **2024**
 - Ramp up third-party assessments
 - Expand training and capacity building (virtual and in-person)
 - Support risk-mitigation collaboration

SUPPORTING AND BENEFITING FROM YESS

[YESS Sponsorship](#) is open for 2022! Brands and other interested organizations can support the YESS initiative at one of three levels:

Ambassador	Champion	Pioneer
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$10,000 • Support to implement the YESS Action Plan • Access to quarterly YESS updates • YESS Training and Resource access for sourcing staff • Contribution to the YESS Textile Mill Standard public consultation • Overall support to manage the YESS Initiative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$25,000 • All Ambassador benefits, plus: • 10 nominated facilities receive access to YESS Trainings and Resources • Quarterly Q&A sessions with a YESS due diligence expert • Nomination of 2 facilities in the second cohort for YESS assessments* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$50,000 • All Ambassador and Champion benefits, plus: • Technical advice for nominated facilities • Due diligence training of sourcing staff • Nomination of 2 facilities in first cohort for YESS assessments* • 20% discount for Year 1 of YESS membership

To learn more about YESS, email info@sourcingnetwork.org, or visit sourcingnetwork.org/yess.

* The costs of the third-party YESS assessments are not included for nominated facilities.