

YESS Pilot Project 2022 Sponsorship Options

December 06, 2021

[YESS: Yarn Ethically & Sustainably Sourced](#) enables yarn spinners, textile mills, brands, auditors, and others to identify and address forced labor in cotton production. Participation as a 2022 Sponsor supports YESS design and implementation throughout the home goods and apparel industry. All sponsors have early access to YESS materials and trainings. Ambassador and Pioneer Sponsors are invited to nominate spinners or mills to be the first assessed facilities after the pilot is complete. **Details below.**

2022 Sponsorship Levels

- ❖ \$10,000 – Ambassador
- ❖ \$25,000 – Champion
- ❖ \$50,000 – Pioneer

We invite you to sponsor YESS in 2022 as we complete the YESS Pilot, carry out the Implementation Working Group recommendations, and transition YESS to an industry-supported program.

Thank you in advance for your continued partnership.

In Q4 2021 – throughout 2022,

The YESS Pilot Project will:

- **Evaluate** the feasibility of the YESS due diligence standards for spinners and textile mills
- **Determine** whether cotton yarn spinners and textile mills are capable of passing an assessment and conforming to the standards
- **Develop** resources to support spinner and textile mill capacity and understanding
- **Train** qualified third-party auditors to conduct YESS assessments

At the same time, the **Implementation Working Group (IWG)** will collect input and recommendations from industry stakeholders to:

- **Design** a scaleable, industry-wide program supported by the global textile industry
- **Establish** an Action Plan to launch YESS as a sustainable, efficient initiative
- **Coordinate and Build** partnerships with related initiatives and determine how to leverage existing infrastructure

The **2021 YESS Goals & Accomplishments [document](#)** offers an overview of the Pilot Project, IWG scope, accomplishments to date, and plans for the remainder of 2021 and early 2022. A summary of 2021 accomplishments is included as [Attachment A](#).

2022 YESS Sponsorships

	Ambassador	Champion	Pioneer
Deliverables / Benefits	\$10,000	\$25,000	\$50,000
YESS Portal access for sourcing staff	X	X	X
Public consultation	X	X	X
Working Group Management	X	X	X
YESS Action Plan	X	X	X
Initiative Collaboration	X	X	X
Training auditors and technical advisors	X	X	X
Tools and Resources for staff and 10 facilities		X	X
Quarterly Q&A sessions with YESS' due diligence expert		X	X
Nomination of 2 facilities for second cohort of post-pilot assessments ¹		X	
Nomination of 2 facilities for first cohort of post-pilot assessments			X
Technical advice for 2 facilities			X
Due diligence training of sourcing staff			X
20% discount on first year YESS membership dues (post pilot sponsorship)			X

¹ If the first cohort of 10 nominated facilities fills up, they will be included in the second cohort.

Benefit Details

A. Ambassador

\$10,000

- YESS Portal access for sourcing staff (webinar trainings and quizzes)
- YESS Textile Mill Standard public consultation and finalization
- Management of the YESS Implementation Working Group (IWG)
- Creation and implementation of the YESS Action Plan
 - Establish forced labor risk determination, methodology, and qualifications for low-risk cotton
 - Develop processes to train and scale up approved auditors and conformant facilities
 - Determine how to effectively manage auditors and facility assessments
 - Decide the needed governance and structure to support the YESS system
 - Leverage existing technology and infrastructure for efficiency
 - Build the YESS Initiative for global application
- Collaboration and coordination with other leading cotton/textile initiatives and efforts
 - BCI, SAC, SLCP, OAR, and others
- Train additional auditors and technical advisors

B. Champion

\$25,000

Ambassador (A) Benefits plus:

- Sourcing staff plus 10 nominated facilities receive access to all trainings and resources (checklists, templates, sample procedures, etc.)
- Access to quarterly Q&A sessions with a YESS due diligence expert
- Nomination of two facilities (two stand-alone or one vertical) for the second cohort of facilities to be assessed by independent auditors²

C. Pioneer

\$50,000

Ambassador (A) and Champion (B) Benefits plus:

- Nomination of two facilities (two stand-alone or one vertical) for the first cohort of facilities to be assessed by independent auditors
- Technical advice for the two above-referenced facilities (two stand-alone or one vertical)
- Due diligence training of sourcing staff³
- 20% discount for Year 1 of YESS membership⁴

² Cost of an independent YESS Assessment (first or second cohort) is not included.

³ Remote or in-person training is dependent on COVID restrictions and interest.

⁴ Annual YESS membership dues are to be determined by the Implementation Working Group.

Attachment A: YESS Update

[YESS: Yarn Ethically & Sustainably Sourced](#) (YESS Initiative or YESS) will enable yarn spinners, textile mills, brands, and others to identify and address forced labor in their cotton supply chains.

YESS is pursuing two parallel workstreams:

1. YESS Pilot Project
2. YESS Implementation Working Group

Pilot Project

Goals

- **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

Stakeholder participation

- 5 global brands
- 9 pilot facilities in 4 countries (2 are vertical – spinner & textile mill)
- Cross-section of different sourcing models is well represented
- 20 trained auditors from 2 audit firms in 6 countries

2021 Accomplishments

- 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: assessment preparation checklists and templates
 - 15 each for spinners & textile mills
- 20 auditors have access to trainings, assessment procedure, tools, and resources
- Remote assessments and advisory services are underway

Implementation Working Group

Goals

- **Design** and implement a system to support the YESS approach
- **Establish** an Action Plan to launch YESS

Participants

- 32 participants confirmed from 27 different organizations
- 70 - 80 advisors and service providers offering input

Sub-Groups

1. Forced Labor / Low-risk Determination / Farm-level Initiatives
2. Auditor Management
3. Facility Capacity Building and Conformance
4. Scalability / Governance / Collaboration / Financial Sustainability
5. Technology and Infrastructure

[Learn more about YESS and receive access to YESS trainings, resources and more here.](#)