

YESS UPDATE

September 23, 2021

[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.](#)

If your brand would like to support YESS, please contact Jamie at Jamie@sourcingnetwork.org.