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 Conformancy
- 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.