



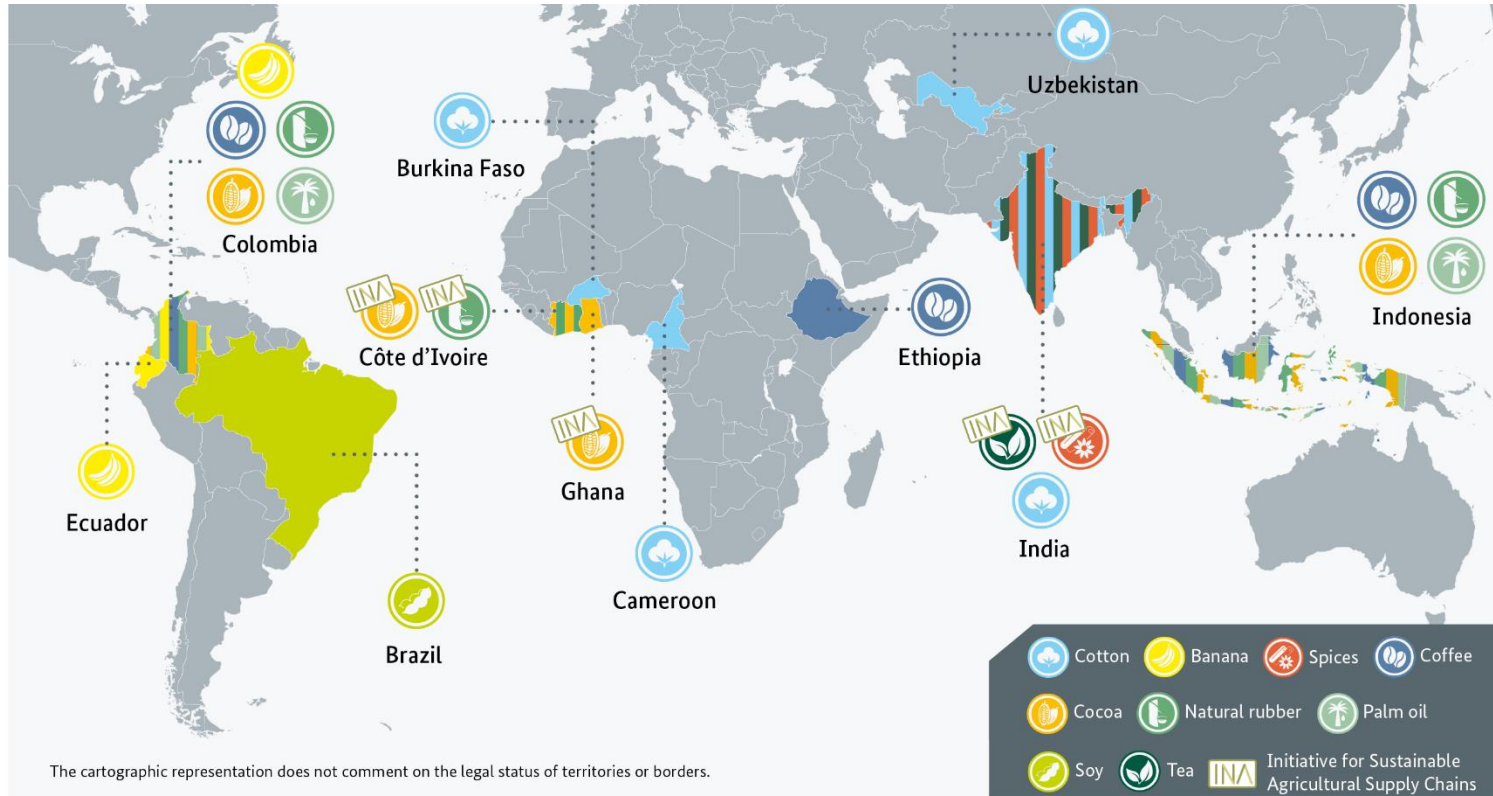
Sustainable Cotton and Textile Supply Chain Uzbekistan – Challenges and Opportunities

GIZ Project “Sustainability and Value Added in the Cotton Economy in Uzbekistan”

WTO Roundtable, 03.11.2021

Gina Burgard, Project Manager

GIZ Global Programme – 'Sustainability and Value Added in Agricultural Supply Chains'



GIZ Cotton Project in Uzbekistan – ‘Sustainability and Value Added in the Cotton Economy’



Objective:

Increasing sustainability in the cotton supply chain in Uzbekistan by:

- Promoting sustainable farming methods
- Strengthening sustainable capacities for local value addition
- Fostering global knowledge exchange

Commissioner:

German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Duration:

04/2019 - 03/2024

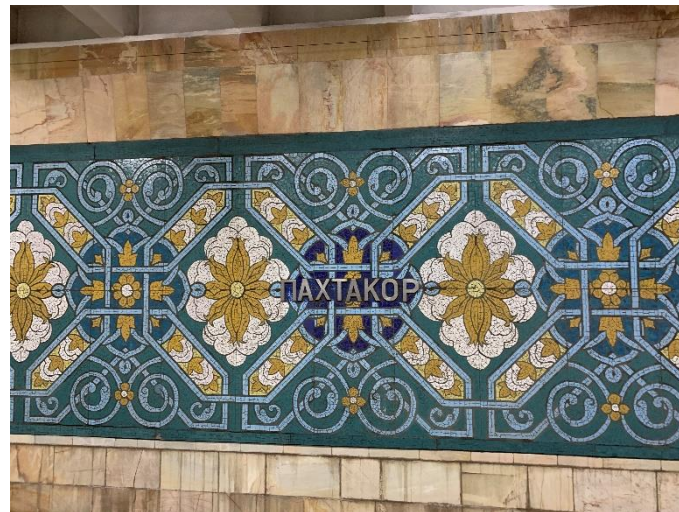
Important Partners:

Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Uzbekistan
Textile Association "UzTextileprom"

Perspectives: What defines the supply chain from Uzbekistan?



- Historical context
- Geographical environment
- Political context
- Social, economic and demographic context





Challenges: Sustainability in the Cotton Economy in Uzbekistan

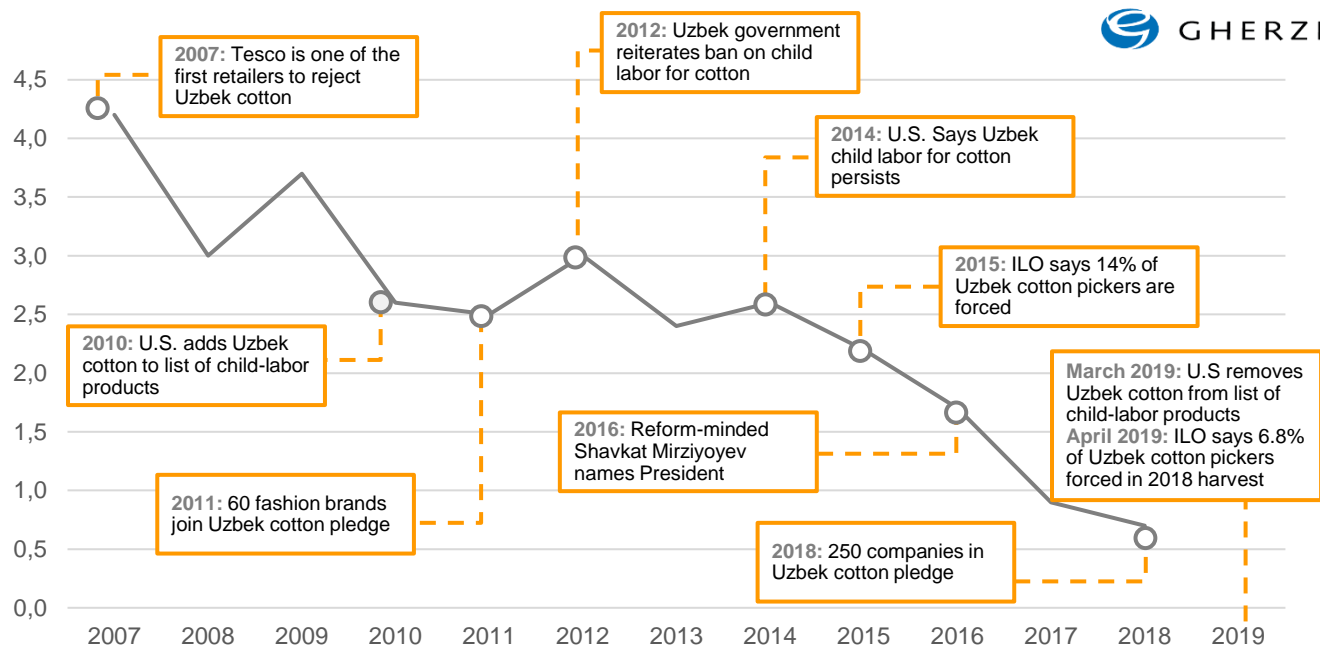


Child and Forced Labour



The cotton Pledge is more than 10 years old... with clear consequences and impact on Uzbekistan

Uzbek cotton exports (2007-2018) in million of 480-pound bales

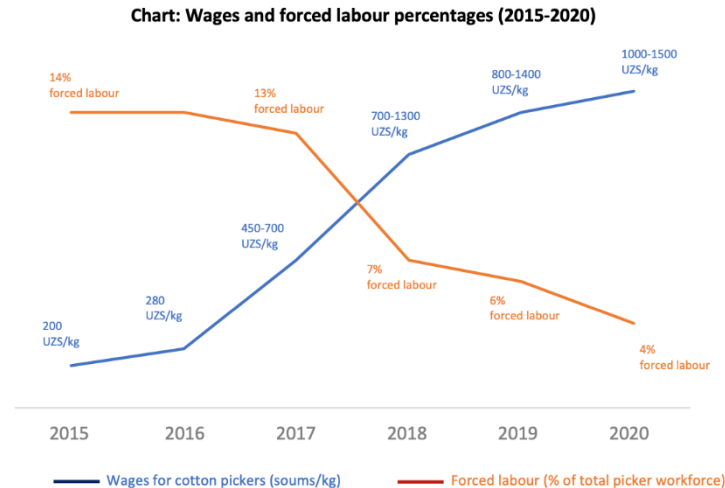


Source: U.S. Department of Labor, ILO, Responsible Sourcing Network (Data compiled Nov. 21, 2019)

Child and Forced Labour



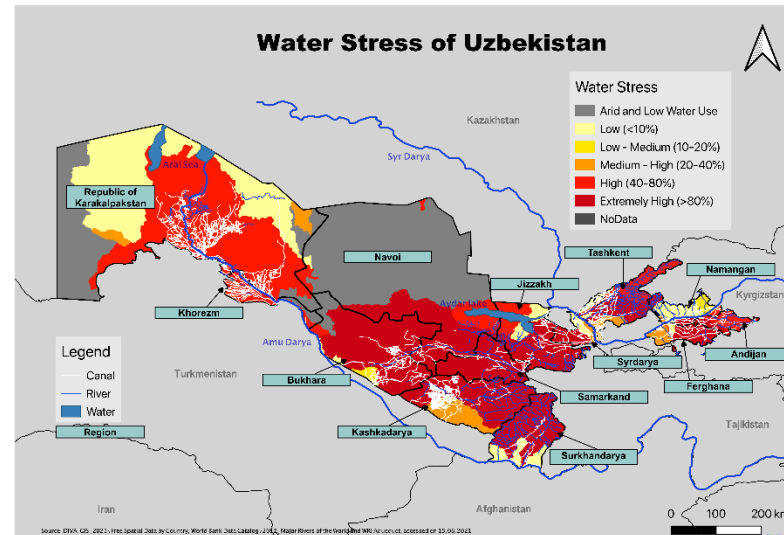
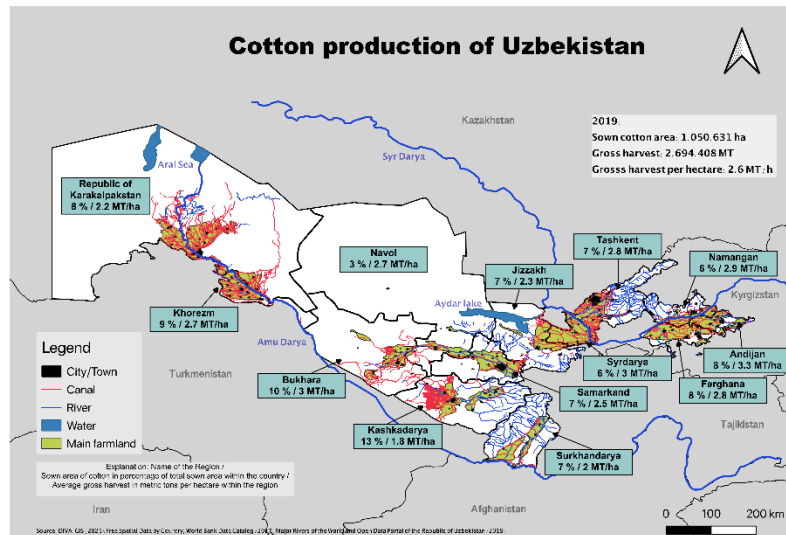
- For many years state-organised child and forced labour
- ILO: Systematic child labour is no longer used
- Systematic forced labour did not occur during the 2020 cotton harvest
- 60 percent of pickers said that the 2020 cotton harvest was their only source of cash income
- 64.6 percent of pickers were women and 35.4 percent were men



Source: ILO 2020



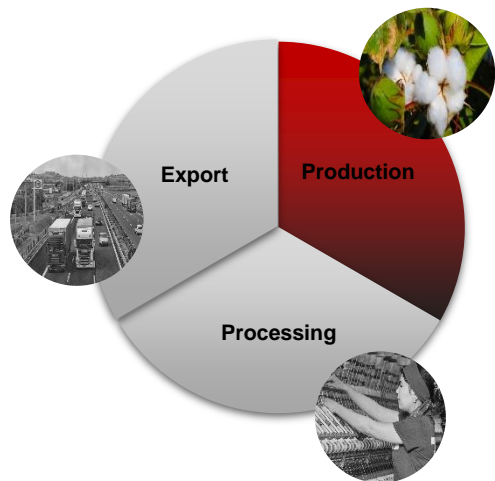
Water Scarcity



Project Areas – Increasing the economic, social and ecological sustainability



Sustainable Cotton Production – Promoting new farming systems

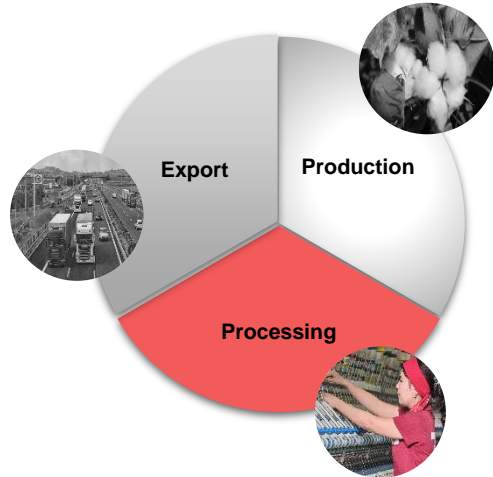


Promotion of and Trainings on sustainable cotton production

- Support of the ILO Third-Party Monitoring of the cotton harvest
- Technical trainings, e.g. efficient irrigation technologies, water management, use of beneficial insects and artificial intelligence to reduce pesticide use
- Trainings on organic cotton production
- Trainings on principles Better Cotton Standard System and close cooperation with the Better Cotton Initiative to facilitate a new Country Start-up Program in Uzbekistan



Sustainable Processing – Promoting decent Work in Textile Factories



Training managers and experts on CSR principles and international standards

- Occupational Health and Safety
- Workers Rights and Grievance Mechanisms
- Strengthening implementation of ILO

Promoting international sustainability certifications / standards like

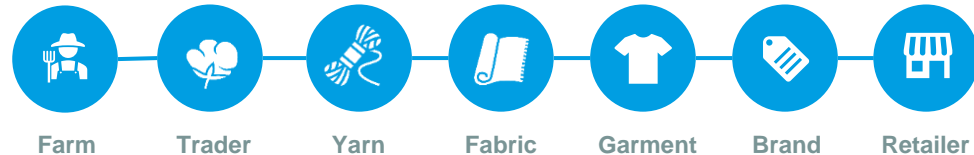


Export – Strengthening Supply and Demand for sustainable products

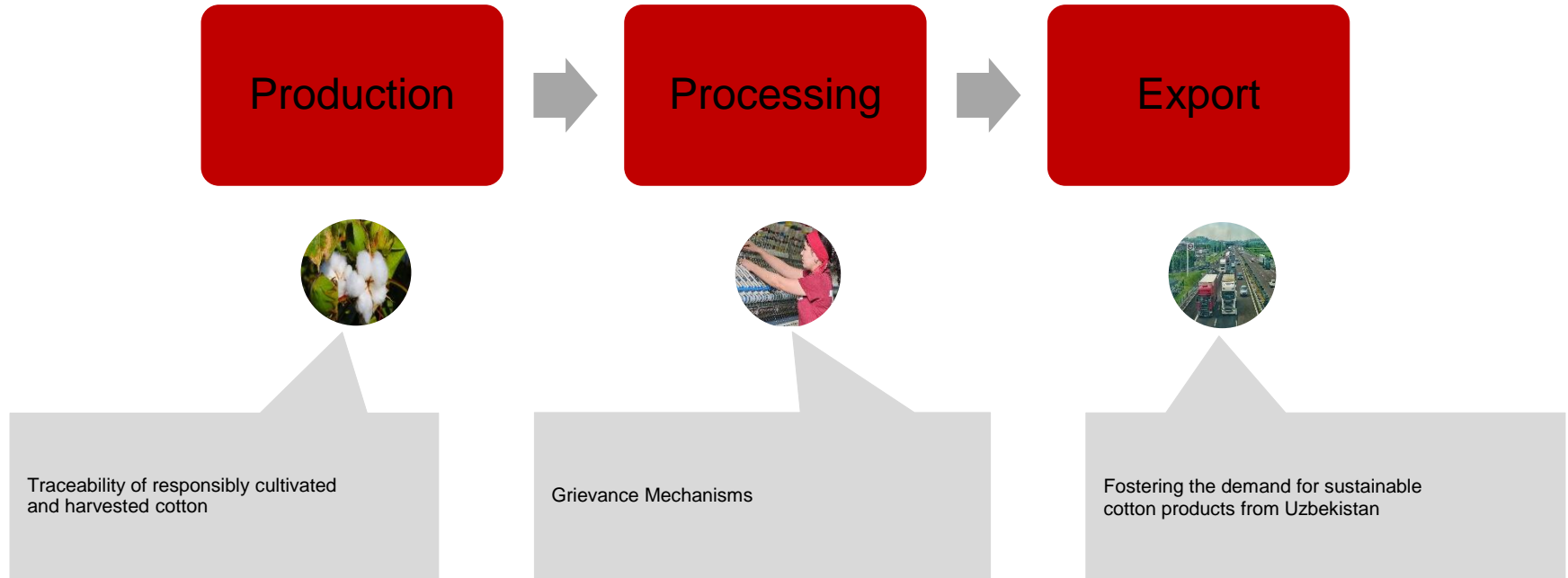


Export and integration into international markets

- Systematically assessing and analysing the supply chain to identify risks and bottle necks
- Support private sector with risk assessments, information on the ground
- Build networks between Uzbek political partners, German and International political partners as well as private sector companies
- Strengthen demand and supply for more sustainable cotton and textile products from Uzbekistan -> market can drive long-term sustainability



Next Steps – How to promote a sustainable supply chain?



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