

# Influence of the Fast Spread of Bt Cotton on Organic Cotton Production

**Examples from India and Burkina Faso** 

Matthias Klaiss, Monika Messmer, Dionys Forster, Rajeev Verma, Rajeev Baruah, Vivek Rawal, Lokendra Singh Mandloi, Yogendra Shrivas

matthias.klaiss@fibl.org

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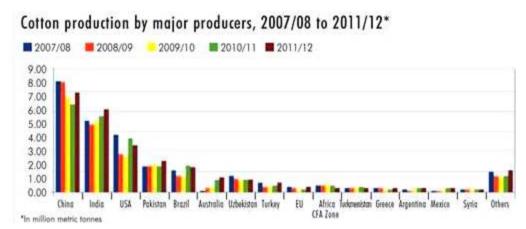




http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/7/7e/Gossypium\_barbadense\_ -\_K%C3%B6hler%E2%80%93s\_Medizinal-Pflanzen-068.jpg

#### Cotton

- Worldwide > 20 mio. cotton producers
- > 70 countries, 2.5 %
   of arable land,
   35.77 mio ha



http://project.mclglobal.net/?id=cottonguide2012

- Mostly small scale producers (< 2ha)</li>
- appr. 86 % of cotton is genetically modified
- top Bt cotton producers
   USA 93 %, China 68 %, Australia 95%, India 90 % of Cotton production was Bt Cotton in 2011

# **Organic Cotton**

In 2009-10 organic cotton growing took place in 23 countries. Countries have been categorised into six Regions as displayed in the map below.



Country	Metric Tonnes (percentage breakdown)	
1 India	195,412	(80.85%)
Syria —	20,000	(8.27%)
Turkey————	11,599	(4.80%)
China———	<b>4,300</b>	(1.78%)
⑤USA ────	2,808	(1.16%)
1 Tanzania	2,635	(1.09%)
<b>Uganda</b>	1,550	(0.64%)
Peru	831	(0.34%)
@ Egypt———	666	(0.28%)
@Mali-	<u>541</u>	(0.22%)
Pakistan	9 345	(0.14%)
Burkina Faso	298	(0.12%)
⊕ Israel	150	(0.06%)
Benin-	150	(0.06%)
1 Paraguay	109	(0.05%)
	100	(0.04%)
	83	(0.03%)
Tajikistan —	• 55	(0.02%)
Senegal     Senegal	• 27	(0.01%)
Micaragua ——	• 17	(0.007%)
South Africa	• 15	(0.006%)
@Brazil———	- 5	(0.002%)
Zambia	- 2	(0.001%)
TOTAL	241,697*	

Textile Exchange, 2011d

## **Organic Cotton - success story**

- 2005 only 0.1 % of global cotton production, 2010 it was already 1.1 %.
   Neither Recession nor unstable economies put damper on growth.
- Organic textiles industry grew +20% to estimated \$5.16 billion in 2010.

Textile Exchange 2011b

- In 2009, global recession, -7 % in global apparel and textiles market, + 35% organic products sales
- "Several brands and retailers more than doubled their usage of organic cotton alone and plan to do so in 2012 as well".

Textile Exchange 2011a



http://www.environmentalleader.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/06/OrganicCottonS ales.jpg 5

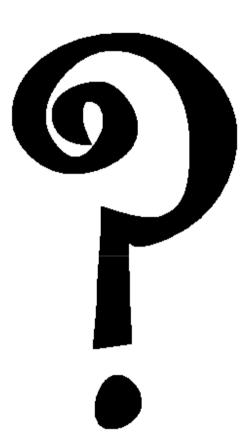
# **Organic Cotton – big business**

- Global organic cotton market + 20 % in 2011
- estimated \$6.2 bio. market in 2011 and \$7.4 bio. market in 2012."

Textile Exchange 2011a,

- The world market for organic cotton is projected to exceed \$19.8 billion by the year
   2015.
- "Paradigm shift in the textile sector"

John Mowbray, Ecotextile



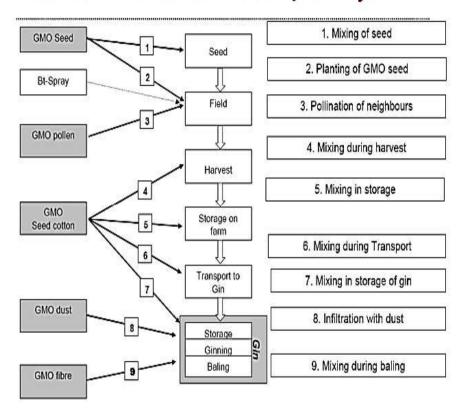
# **Organic Cotton – production decline**

- Organic cotton production -35 % 2011 to 2012
- Organic Cotton from
   1.1% to 0.7% of Total Cotton Production 2011
- Reports about GM contaminated organic cotton, fraud
- Non-GM seed availability increasingly difficult
- Large scale Bt Cotton adaption poses risk to organic cotton production
- Increasing competition for land (GM <> organic),
- Coexistence very difficult if not impossible

#### **Contamination**

- No GM organisms allowed in Organic
- Contamination
  - Genetic contamination 5-15%
  - Physical mixture 5-30%
- complex supply chains and small holdings, often poor,
   ⇒risks of cross contamination are likely to increase
- Buffer zones often not feasible (ubiquituous GMO, small scale structures)

### Potential GMO contamination pathways



www.organicandfair.org/oftcc/Publications/Tools-and-Guides/Guidance\_Document\_final\_version\_2010\_for\_circulation\_100621.pd

#### India

- Largest Cotton producer after China, 21% of world production
- 6 mio small scale farmers <15acres, cotton holdings 3-4 acres</li>
- 2010 cotton export accounts ~ 1/3 of foreign exchange earnings of India
- India was the only country to grow and market the 4 types of cotton species in the world.
  - G. hirsutum (AD)
  - G. barbadense (AD)
  - G. arboreum (A)
  - G. herbaceum (A)

Jammu & Kashmir

Himachal
Pradesh
Punjab

Rajashan

Utlar Pradesh

Bihar

Meghalaya

Manipur

Bengal

Tripura

Mizoram

Cotton-growing states

Figure 1. The cotton-growing areas of India.

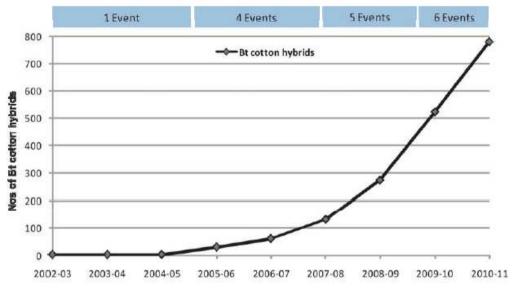
#### India – GM Cotton Introduction

- The production and supply of seeds is done by the public and private sector
- traditionally cultivation of adapted Desi varieties (1950 around 97%)
- 70ies, first hirsutum hybrids introduced
  - -> Desi varieties disappear, 2010 only 10 %, probably less
- 1995 GM seeds for research purpose, also illegal testings
- 2000 signing Carthagena Protocol on Biosafety
- 2002 Commercial release of 3 Bt hybrids
- 2003/4 Monsanto sublicensed Bollgard gene to other companies

#### India – GM Cotton Introduction

#### 2005 3<sup>rd</sup> Amendment to Patent Act

- patents for GM seeds→ Dominant private sector
- 2006
  - shift from case-by-case to event based approvals.
  - Gov't sets maximum retail price for GM cotton set by



•2002: 3 approved varieties

•2010: already 780 Bt Cotton hybrids from 34 seed companies

Textile Exchange, 2011c Yesudas and Sakkhari in SAGE/DDS, 2012 NEMES, 2010

## India – Fast spread of GM Cotton

 By 2011, 7 million farmers had adopted Bt on 26 mio acres (~10.52 mio ha), around 90% of total Indian cotton area

2010 Bt Cotton (Mha) Total Cotton Area (Mha) Madoption —— Adoption Trend Line 10.0 90 9.0 80 8.0 70 7.0 Adoption in % 6.0 5.0 40 4.0 30 3.0 20 2.0 10 2003 2004 2005 2007 2008 2009 2006 Source: Compiled by ISAAA, 2010

Figure 1. Adoption of Single and Multiple Gene Bt Cotton Hybrids from 2002 to

Choudhary,B & Gaur, K., 2010a.

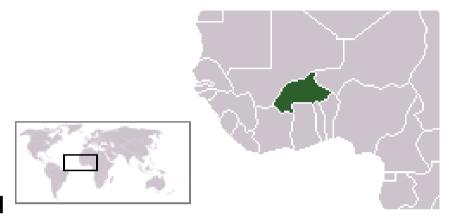
## India - Fast spread of GM Cotton

- GM promotion by Government,
- 2002-2012 : 90% Bt Cotton
- Privatization of seed sector, concentration
- R&D goes to Bt hybrid production, no interest in non-GM
- gradual replacement of open pollinating varieties to hybrids
- smaller local seed companies who could provide organic seed marginalized and disappeared
- non-GM seed production disappearing → prices rise
- Illegal spread of Bt Cotton, proliferation of seed market
- Many varietal genotypes are heavily contaminated
- Environment of seed insecurity
- TRACENET is a burden esp. for small scale organic producers

#### **Burkina Faso - Cotton**

- 35% of GDP from the cotton sector, 18% of the people live from cotton growing (1/6 of all farm households)
- In West Africa Burkina Faso, Nigeria,
   Mali and Ghana have functioning
   legislation allowing field trials with GM
- since 2006 opted for Bt Cotton
- SOFITEX being formerly gov'tal is gatekeeper and dominates the sector, only Bt seed provider
- Largest Bt-Cotton producer in Africa
- signed Carthagena protocoll, illegal liberation of Bt before
- strong role of NGOs to implement political framework for GMOs

www.cotton-made-in-africa.com Delpeuch, 2011, Textile Exchange 2011c Mbaye and Barry, 2011, p.69





## **Burkina Faso Bt Cotton adoption**

- 2000: joint collaboration between Burkina Faso's national cotton companies and Monsanto
- 2006 Gene transfer in the local varieties (back cross)
- 2007: field experiment with 20 farmers
   (20 ha under controlled conditions with farmers participation)
- 2008 : 8'500 ha (2%)
- 2009: 125`000 ha Bt Cotton (Monsanto's Bollgard II) in local varieties (29%)
- 2010: 260'000 ha (65%)
- 2011: 247'000 ha Bt Cotton (58% of total cotton area)

#### **Burkina Faso Bt Cotton**

- 60% profit to the seed farmers,
  28% to Monsanto and
  12% to research.
- Monsanto owns events, Burkina Faso varieties
- Opposition in different communities, price struggles, even riots
- 275% price increase for untreated non-GM Cotton
- Increasing onput prices
- GM free zones for seed production required
   → no policy to create alternative zones
- 100 m (?) distance to GM field challenging in smallholder context
- Farmers switching back to non GM?
   Published and disclaimed

VITALE 2010, www.thereporterethipia.com,14.9.2012 MBAYE and BARRY, 2011, p.70 Traidcraft, 2011

# Burkina Faso Implications for organic cotton

- Organic cotton was found to be polluted with Bt Cotton →no premium
- Criminalizing traditional seed exchange between farmers
- Before GM introduction conventional seed could be used
- Negative campaigns against organic projects from seed companies
- Outcrossing in wild or local species possible
- Additional cost for organics for testing, non-GM certification, setup and maintain traceability systems
- Number of organic farmers decreased rapidly
- Example organic cotton project:
   After steep increase, drop from 7'000 farmers to 2'400, production
   2'200 t in 2008 to 700 t of lint in 2010
- Organic seed production insufficient, inferior quality has to be used

Traidcraft, 201 www.grain.org

## **Summary**

- India: 90% GM Cotton in 10 years, BF fast spread as well
- Concentration in seed market, dominance of private sector
- Seed chain is GM seed chain
- Promotion of GM crops by governments, role of NGOs
- Coexistence with GM impossible
- Outcrossing
- Contamination of varieties with GM genes
- Many varieties already polluted
- Non-GM seed availability is crucial for farmers
- Non-GM seed scarcity → thread to production, to breeding
- Organic has burden taking care for traceability and non-GM purity, no "costs-by-cause principle"

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#### **Outlook: The Dharwad Declaration**

- National Workshop June 21<sup>st</sup> 2011
   «Disappearing non-GM cotton ways forward to maintain diversity, increase availability and ensure quality of non-GM cotton seed»
- Jointly organized by bioRe India Ltd., FiBL Switzerland, University of Agricultural Sciences Dharwad and others
- To combine forces for immediate action and support of:
  - Collaboration and Exchange
  - Desired Policy Changes
  - Evaluation and multiplication of existing cotton varieties under organic and low-input conditions
  - Establishing and optimizing the non-GM seed chain
  - Continuous improvement of non-GM Varieties



http://www.fibl.org/fileadmin/documents/en/ne ws/2011/ pr\_india110706\_DharwadDeclaration.pdf

#### **Outlook: The Dharwad Declaration cont'd**

To achieve these goals we join forces and partner in non-GM cotton seed issues to secure non-GM seed availability and genetic diversity over long-term.

Dharwad, 21 June 2011

Signed by: Dr. L. Savariraj, Sawed Trust; Dr. M. Abdaheer, Sawed Trust; A. Ambatipudi, Chetna Organic; D. P. Arya, Pratibha Syntex; Dr. A. Barik, DOCD Mumbai; R. Baruah, bioRe; V. Carriappa, Savayava Krishikar Sangha, HD Kote; M. Chinnaswami, Appachi Cotton; G. R. Dharmendar, Chetna Organic; Dr. D. Forster, FiBL; O. Gadade, Cotton Connect; P. V. Gaonkar, UAS Dharwad; A. Katyal, Sunstar Overseas Ltd; H. G. Kencharaddi, UAS Dharwad; M. Kunz, Remei AG; S. Makari, SOFA; Dr. M. Messmer, FiBL; P. Nagarajan, Textile Exchange; H. Patel, Agrocel; Dr. B. C. Patil, UAS Dharwad; Dr. S. S. Patil UAS Dharwad; K. Prasad, Sahaja Samrudha; G. Rajashekar, Centre of Sustainable Agriculture; M. Ramakrishnan, Arvind Limited; H. M. Ranganatha, UAS Dharwad; D. N. Reddy, Chetna Soceity; S. P. Reddy, UAS Dharwad; A. Roy, Ram Krishna Ashram Krishi Vigyan Kendra; K. Sainathan, Agrocel; M. S. Sunstar Overseas Ltd; R.T. Singh, Centre of Sustainable Agriculture; Dr. M. V. Venugopalan, CICR.

01.10.2012

## Outlook: FiBL- bioRe research partnership



#### The GREEN COTTON project

- Introduction of participatory breeding approaches, facilitating and training of farmers to get into breeding again
- Inquire suitability of different types of cotton cultivars for organic and low input farming conditions in Central India, on farm trials representing farmers' growing conditions
- Participatory cultivar testing
- Drought resistance
- G. hirsutum + G. arboreum
- Alternative seed chain development





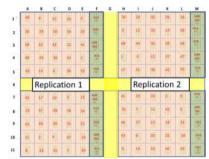


# **Outlook: The Green Cotton Project**













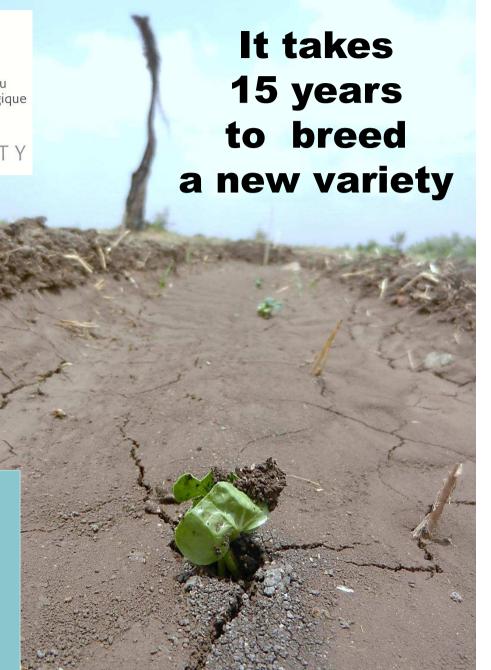




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Thank you for your attention



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