



## SUSTAINABLE TEXTILES – CONCLUDING PART

REF: TT/ AUG 2022/ WK 5

### Biodiversity in fashion industry

The fashion industry relies on biodiversity, through the production and processing of materials used to make clothes, as well as the materials used for packaging. The industry has been active in the fight against climate change and biodiversity loss. Biodiversity loss and climate change are interdependent.

Biodiversity loss affects oceans, freshwater, soil, and forests.

Each ecosystem provides benefits to our planet, such as water purification, nutrient recycling, maintaining healthy soils, reducing pollution, absorbing carbon, regulation of floods and diseases etc. When biodiversity is lost, the ecosystem is also lost. Biodiversity is fundamental to human life on Earth and its loss impacts the health and wellbeing of people.

Most of the negative impact comes from three stages in the textile value chain: raw-material production, processing and disposal at the end of the apparel’s life.

**Production** - Accessing the raw materials of fashion can contribute to biodiversity loss. Like growing of cotton requires huge amounts of water and can lead to soil degradation and habitat loss. Synthetic fibers like polyester are manufactured from fossil fuel and contain micro plastics that eventually wind up in the ocean and other ecosystems.

**Processing** - Textile dyeing and other treatments require large amounts of water, which can put a strain on freshwater sources. These processes can also pollute waterways with chemical runoff and non-biodegradable waste.

**Disposal** - Disposal of apparel can also contribute to biodiversity loss, as textile waste ends up in landfills, where it may contribute to habitat loss. Synthetic or treated textiles can also release pollutants into the surrounding landscape.

BIODIVERSITY LOSS
Biodiversity loss is associated with ecological changes in ecosystems, landscapes, and the global biosphere.
Natural ecological disturbances, such as wildfire, floods, and volcanic eruptions, change ecosystems drastically.
Human ecological disturbances like forest clearing, wetland filling, and road/building construction produces a substantial change in the ecological system.



## Summary

Sustainable textile is for the betterment of society, environment and economy. Following ethical sourcing practices in the apparel industry, the industry also focusses on human rights issues, and environmental aspects along with the quality of its products.

Consumers too have become more aware of their environmental impact and try to lead a more sustainable and environmentally conscious lifestyle. Consumers help to reduce their carbon footprint by supporting sustainable farmers and ethical fashion brands, buying organic and sustainable products. They are concerned about worker's rights and safety, living wages, health and social and environmental impacts when buying products. Sustainability is the need of the hour and industries across the world are embedding this concept in their strategic plans. The textile industry is introducing changes in its processes and gradually implementing them.

Leading global fashion brands are committing to the inclusion of sustainability in all their processes. The more evolved and new-age customers prefer brands that practices responsible sourcing and sustainable production. This has brought about a huge shift in purchase trends. Moreover, various textile trading countries have implemented regulations to follow green sourcing. Increasing awareness among consumers drives the need to have a more transparent supply. It is slowly becoming necessary for companies to communicate the details of their suppliers from the point of origin to the point of purchase.

## References:

1. <https://www.sgtgroup.net/>
2. <https://www.the-sustainable-fashion-collective.com/>
3. <https://www.triplepundit.com/>
4. <https://www.fespa.com/>

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UNSCRAMBLE THE JUMBLE WORDS
<b>UHNAM</b>
<b>TERTENTEBM</b>
<b>VOLVEED</b>
<b>ASEPURHC</b>

Last week`s Answers: 1) FAIRTRADE 2) COMMUNITIES 3) CONSERVATION 4) CLIMATE

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