



SUSTAINABLE TEXTILES – PART XVI

REF: TT/ AUG 2022/ WK 3

Animal welfare in the fashion industry (Continued)

Silk - Silk is made up of the threads that form the cocoon of the mulberry silkworm. The threads are extracted by boiling the cocoon with the pupae still inside. Conventional silk is not made ethically as it requires boiling live silkworms while still in their cocoons. Ethical silk production method has been introduced, where silk is made from a silkworm’s cocoon after it has undergone metamorphosis and left the cocoon as a moth. As the cocoon ruptures, the long, singular silk strand is broken up into smaller strands or the top of the cocoon is gently cut open to allow the developing moth to escape and to finish its natural lifecycle outside of the cocoon. It is quite a peaceful, non-violent way of harvesting silk. These silk fibers are almost like the regular silk having the same qualities. However, its luster is little less but, more soft compared to the regular silk. As more people are becoming aware of saving the environment and animals, the market for these silk will grow.

Silk alternatives such as citrus fiber like orange fiber, recycled satin, and bamboo are some of the available options, which imitate the look and feel of silk minus the cruelty.

ORANGE FIBER
Orange fibers are citrus fiber consists of insoluble or soluble fibrous components of citrus fruits like orange.
Orange fabrics are formed from a silk-like cellulose yarn that can blend with other materials. These fibers are soft and silky hand-feel, lightweight, and opaque or shiny.
Orange fiber is internationally recognized as a best practice for the sustainable fashion industry.

Down - Down comes from the fluffiest layer of feathers on duck and geese and is the most effective natural insulator in the textiles industry. Unlike most feathers that are long and stiff, down feathers are rounder, fuzzier, and form clumps that can be used to fill pillows, sleeping bags, and puffer jackets. Down feather is being introduced in the fashion industry for its low carbon footprint and its ability to insulate against freezing temperatures. However, to gather down, feathers are collected from ducks, geese, and swans either while the birds are still alive or after they have been killed. Because farmers have to meet large demands, and because feathers grow back like fur or hair, most down is obtained by live-plucking. Live-plucking is a very painful process that sometimes causes the birds to accidentally break their limbs.



Ethical alternatives of down are to avoid live-plucked down, instead choosing to use only recycled or traceable down from birds that have not been live-plucked.

A plant-based alternative to wool – A plant based alternative to wool fabric has been designed to help reduce the apparel industry’s huge carbon footprint. The fibers have the properties of traditional wool, but the fabric is made entirely from plant sources. The fiber is sustainable from production to disposal and does not shrink with every wash and is generally more durable than non-vegan fabrics. This fabric stands out because it is zero-waste and vegan. Leftover materials from its production are transformed into a compound that is both a bio–nutrient and insect repellent, which eliminates waste.

From desert plant as well, the vegan wool is partly sourced. The plant is grown without water, fertilizers or pesticides. It grows wildly in deserts and other arid climates. Every process involved in the extraction of this fiber is sustainable including dyeing, where plant-based natural colors are used.

Vegan fashion - Vegan fashion means clothing, shoes, bags and other accessories that were made without using and harming animals. Fashion items that do not contain any animal materials and for which no animal by-products were used during the entire production process. There are wide ranges of reasons for opting vegan fashion such as promoting animal welfare and protecting animal rights - Fashion comes at a cost of valuable animal lives. Animals are confined to small spaces, improper living conditions, used for testing, tortured and killed in slaughterhouses for fur and leather.

References:

1. <https://link.springer.com/>
2. <https://goodonyou.eco/>
3. <https://www.the-sustainable-fashion-collective.com/>
4. <https://www.triplepundit.com/>
5. <https://www.fespa.com/>

.....To be continued.....

UNSCRAMBLE THE JUMBLE WORDS
NGUCKLPI
OEGNRA
MINELITESA
RAHINGM

Last week`s Answers: 1) SHEARLING 2) TRAPPING 3) PETROLEUM 4) ANIMALS

Wishing you a great week ahead!

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