

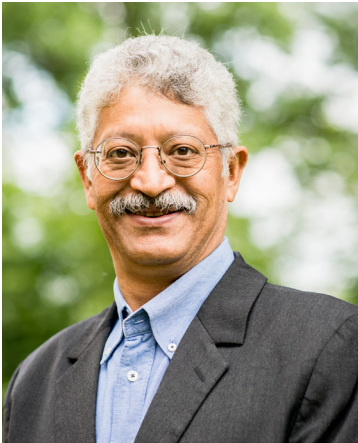
81ST PLENARY MEETING

MUMBAI, INDIA

2-5 December 2023



Cotton Value Chain: "Local Innovations for Global Prosperity"



Mr Rahul Bhajekar

An Engineer with a MS degree in Mechanical Engineering from the Ohio State. University, USA, Rahul has been working in the textile industry since 1994.

After graduating with a BE (Mechanical Engineering) degree in 1984, he worked with Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd., Mumbai, as a Graduate Trainee before pursuing a Masters' degree. After 20 years with Texanlab, Rahul moved to head Hermes Eco Laboratories in 2014. In January 2016, Global Standard, a non-profit organisation registered in Germany, appointed Rahul as their Director, Standards Development & Quality Assurance, where he runs the acclaimed Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS).

Rahul has conducted numerous training programmes for educational institutes, buying houses, exporters, and others in the textiles supply chain on the subject of quality control and ecological testing. He frequently lectures at seminars and workshops on subjects of chemical restrictions, sustainability, as well as improvement of quality standards in the textile Industry, both in India and abroad. He has written articles for technical journals related to quality control and testing in the textile industry, including a co-authored series of articles on colourfastness in the trade magazine, Colourage, and contributed to a chapter in CN Sivaramkrishnan's 'Anthology of Speciality Chemicals for Textiles'.

Rahul represents GOTS on the United Nations UNECE project for sustainability and traceability in the textile and leather industry, as well as spearheading GOTS' involvement with the United Nations Fashion Industry Charter for Climate Change (UNFCCC). He travels extensively in support of GOTS activities and is frequently a moderator or speaker at conferences/meetings/webinars around the globe.