



## MINUTES

### SEVENTH BREAKOUT SESSION Investments and Advances in the Cotton Value Chain WEDNESDAY, 5 DECEMBER, 14:00 TO 15:30

Chair: Mr KK Lalpuria, Executive Director & CEO, Indo Count Industries  
Co-chair: Mr Anil Rajvanshi, President, Reliance Industries Limited

The meeting began at 14:00.

Mr Navdeep Sodhi, Partner, Gherzi Textil Organisation, spoke on exploring new technologies and markets for the cotton value chain. He cited multiple megatrends impacting the marketplace: 1) The growth of textile industry will be characterised by restructuring and consolidation; 2) Reglobalisation of Sourcing is accelerating shifts in global mill cotton consumption; 3) Sustainability has become a policy imperative; 4) Digital technologies are impacting the entire value chain; and 5) Digitisation is creating a new 'textile eco-system' framework. On the technology side, Mr Sodhi said air-jet spinning has emerged as the fastest growing spinning technology, with high acceptance in downstream, and added that traceability is now a business imperative in the textile industry.

The second speaker in the session, Dr Fakre Alam Tabib of the Bangladesh Cotton Development Board, addressed the topic of advances in cotton value creation, value addition, and value utilisation. Regarding his country's cotton production, Dr Tabib said that while area has largely remained consistent over the last decade, overall production and yields have been rising from year to year. Domestic consumption is about 8.5 million bales annually, 7.9 million of which need to be imported at a cost of about \$3 billion. Textiles and clothing businesses employ 4.5 million people, about 60% of whom are women. He also cited multiple examples of intercropping with cotton, including wheat, chili, turmeric, and arum. He concluded by citing multiple threats in the textile value chain, such as natural disasters and political instability; economic recession and price volatility; bottlenecks in logistics; and demand fluctuation.

The final speaker of the sessions was Gimatex's Mr Prashant Mohota, who addressed the utilisation of cotton by-products such as cottonseed oil (cooking, frying, salad dressing), animal feed (safe, non-toxic, and packed with protein), bioenergy (charcoal, briquettes, mushrooms), biochar (rejuvenates soil, sequesters carbon), and linters (medical-grade bandages, non-wovens, paint). In addition to pointing out how many income opportunities for farmers that cotton provides in addition to the fibre, he also explored emerging sourcing hubs and investment destinations within the cotton value chain.

The session ended at 15:30.