



83RD ICAC PLENARY MEETING

**“Uniting the Cotton and Textiles Value Chain
for a Sustainable Future”**



Bremen, Germany
March 23-24, 2026



Global Textile Fiber Demand: Market Dynamics and the Changing Position of Cotton

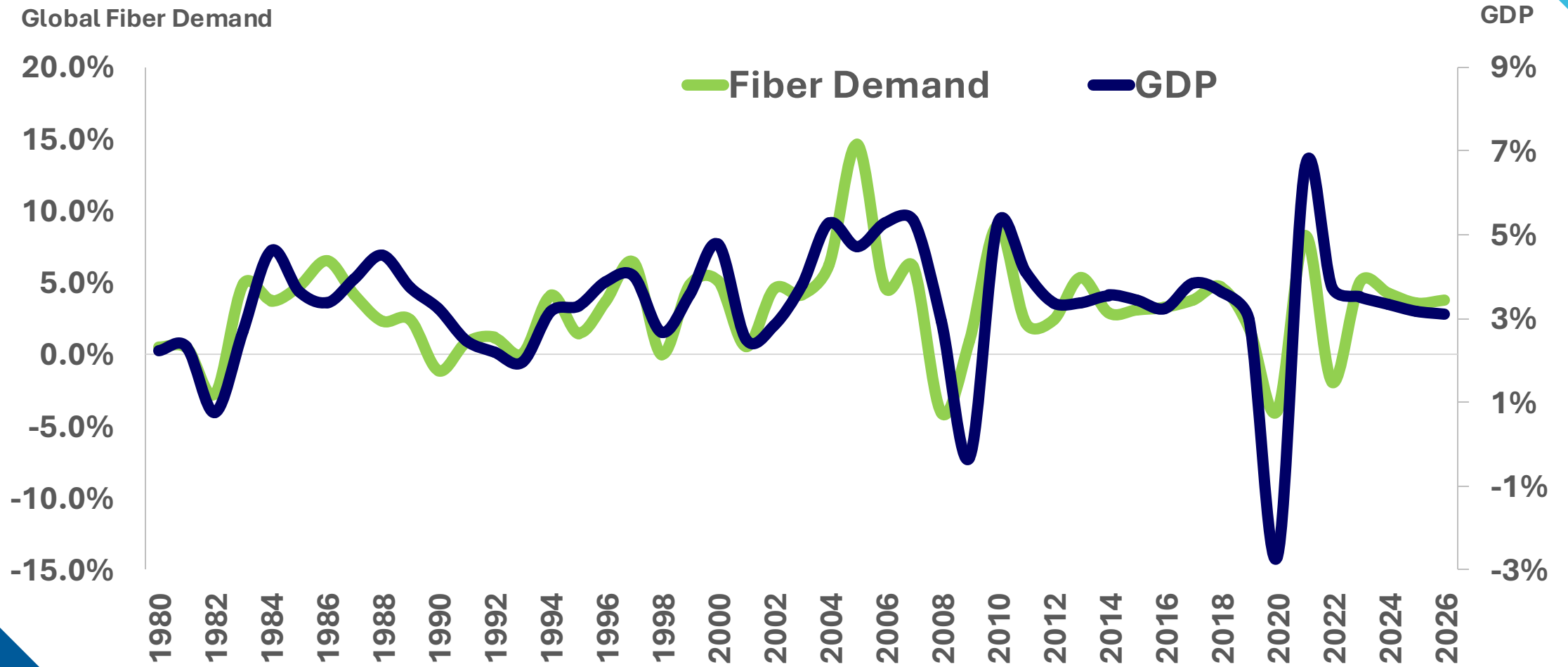
Lorena Ruiz

Economist



The Link Between Textile Fiber Demand and GDP Growth

Annual percentage change

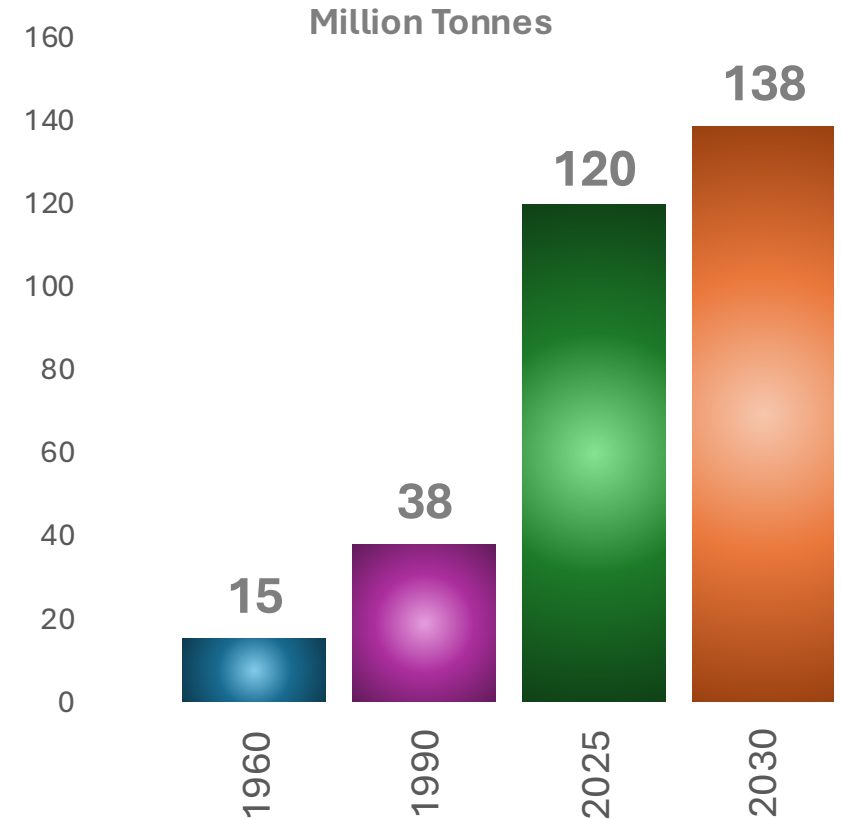


Source: World Textile Fiber Demand Report, ICAC and IMF World Economic Outlook

Global Textile Fiber Demand: Long-Term Growth

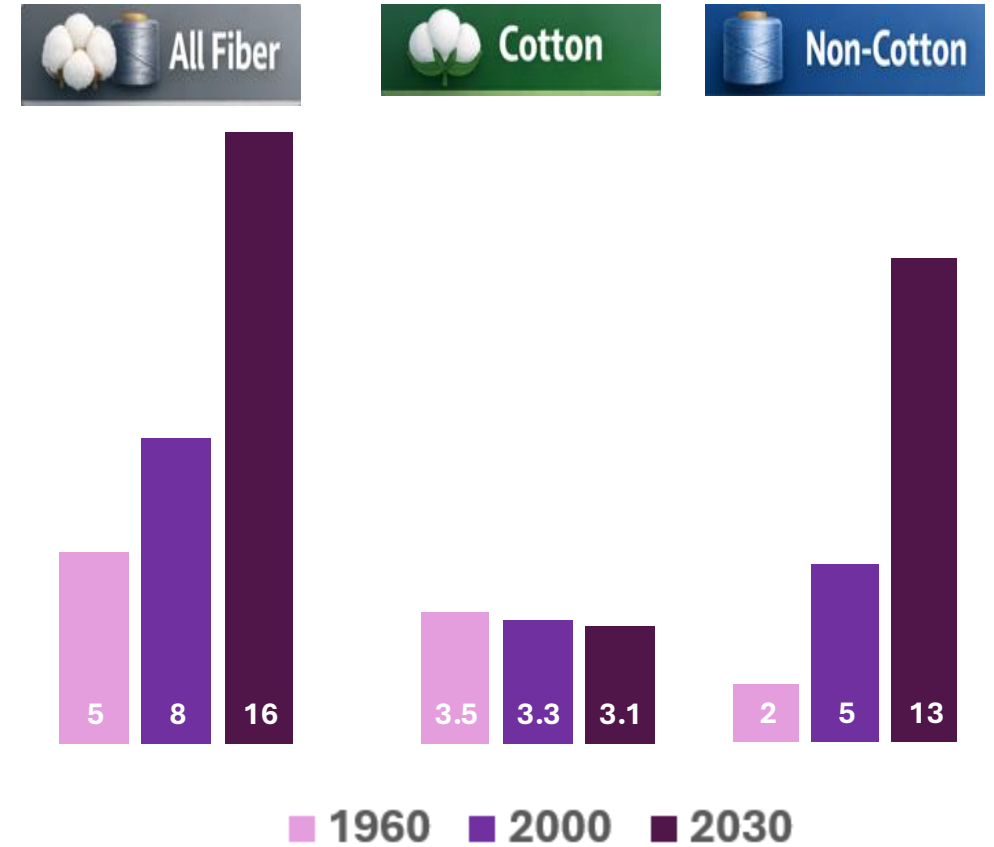
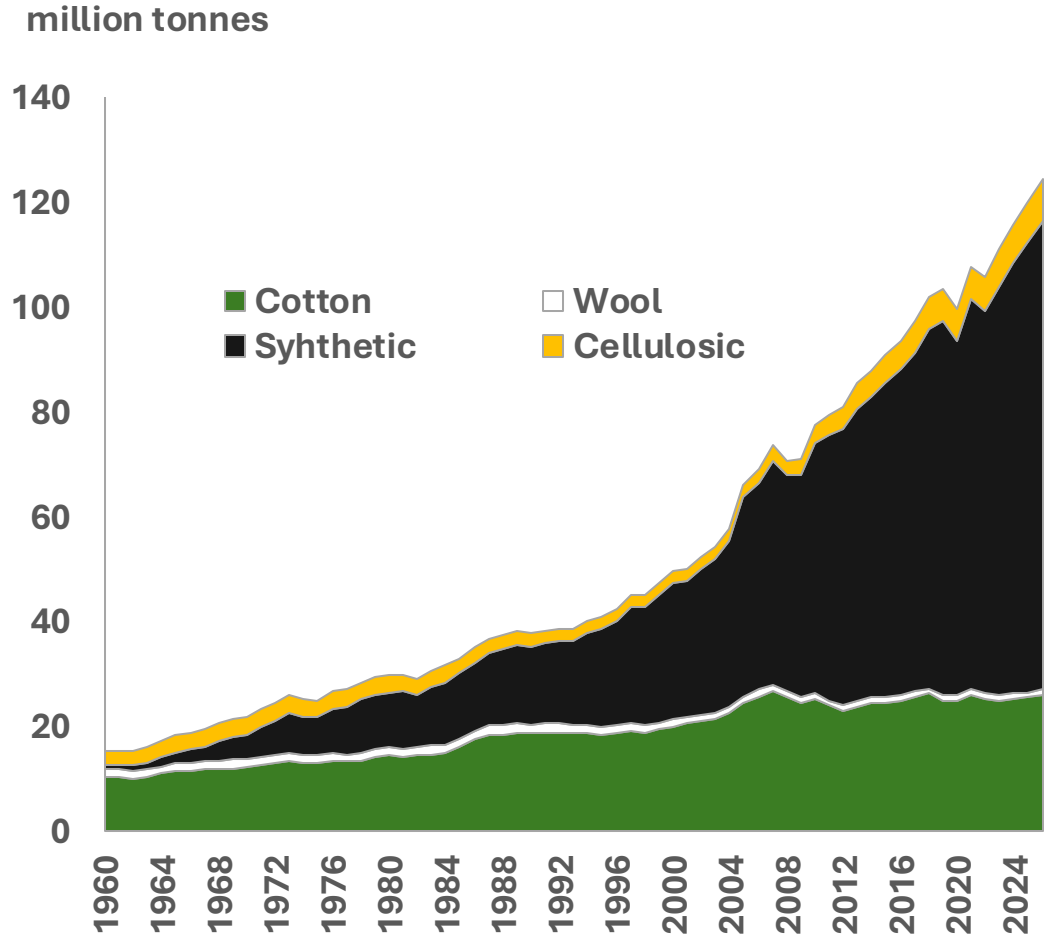


World Textile Fiber Demand



Source: World Textile Fiber Demand Report, ICAC and UN World Population Prospects

Cotton vs Other Fibers: Changing Market Share



Source: World Textile Fiber Demand Report, ICAC

Synthetic Fibers: Polyester Scenario



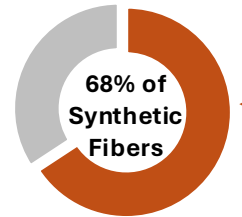
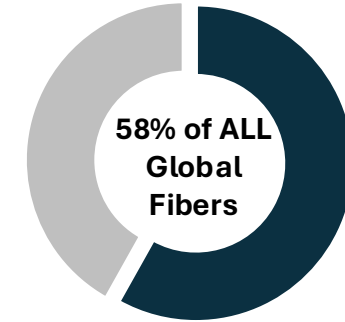
Global Production



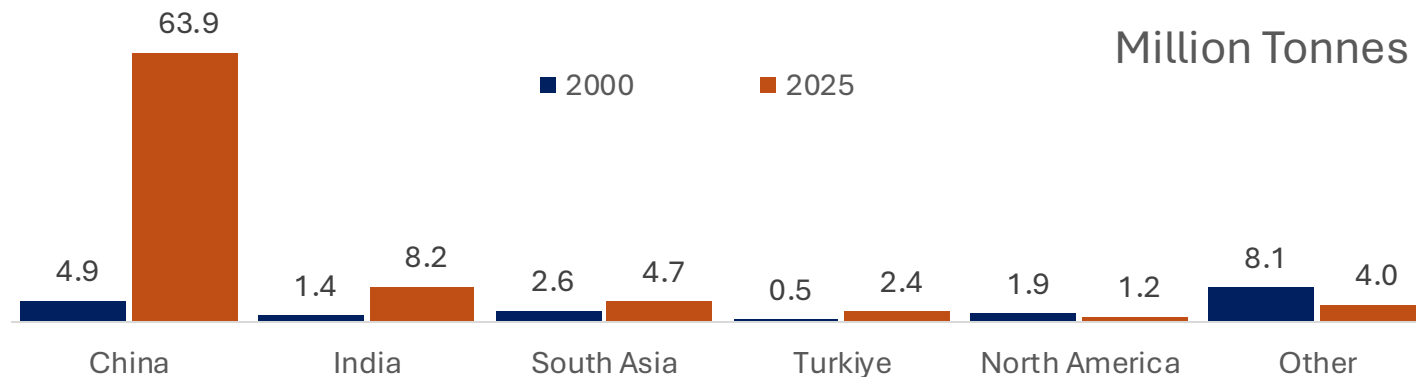
19 Million MT
2000



70 Million MT
2025

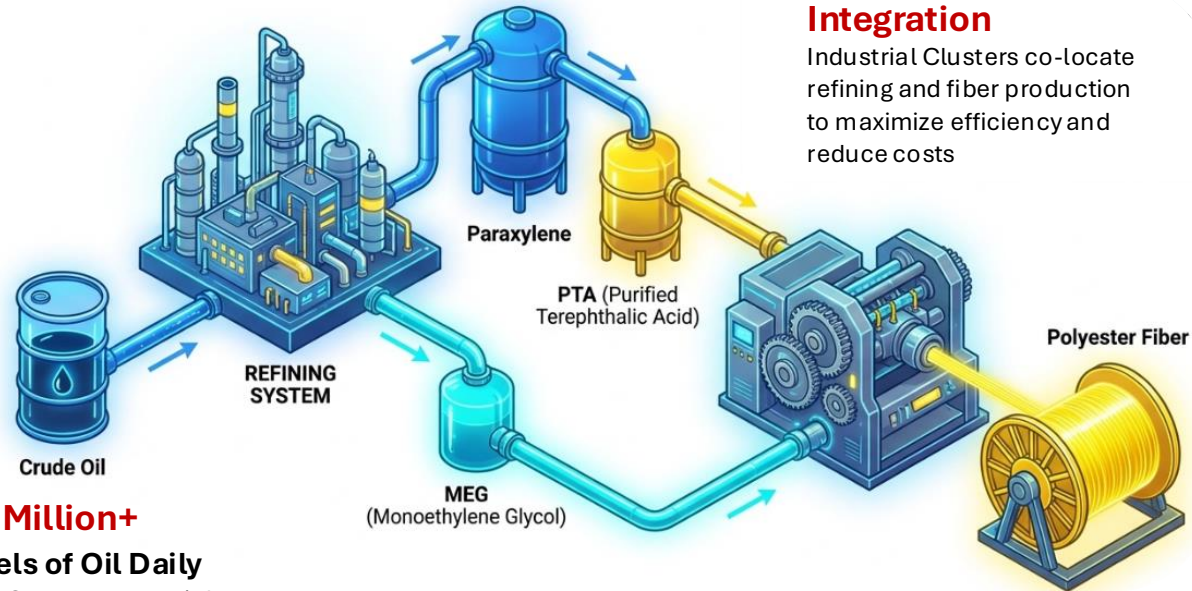


Top 5 Polyester Producers 2025



Source: ICAC based on Wood Mackenzie Fibers Report

China's Synthetic Fiber Production: A 30-Fold Expansion



Total Vertical Integration
 Industrial Clusters co-locate refining and fiber production to maximize efficiency and reduce costs

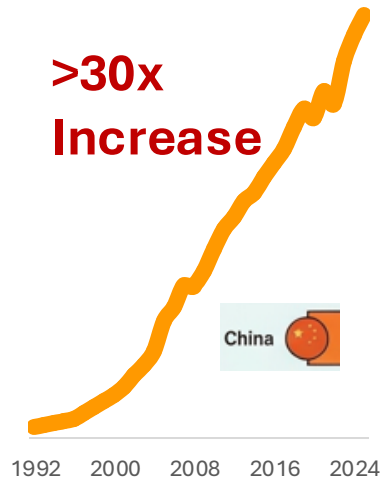
11 Million+
Barrels of Oil Daily
 China Secures essential feedstocks through the world's largest crude oil import and refining system



Mastery of Key Inputs
 A stable supply of PX, PTA and MEG ensures consistent high-volume manufacturing



30-Fold Production Increase
 Since the 1990s, China's synthetic fiber growth has outpaced the rest of the world 15 to 1



Source: Prepared by the ICAC Secretariat

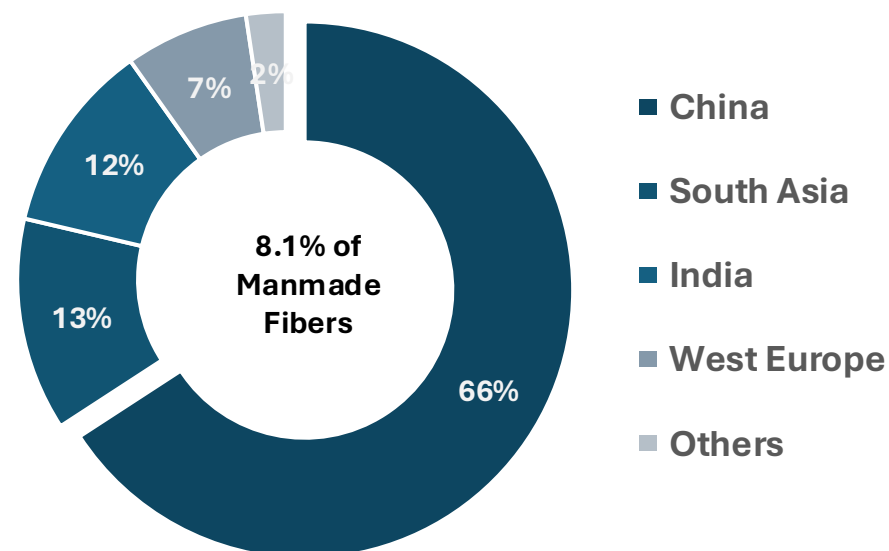
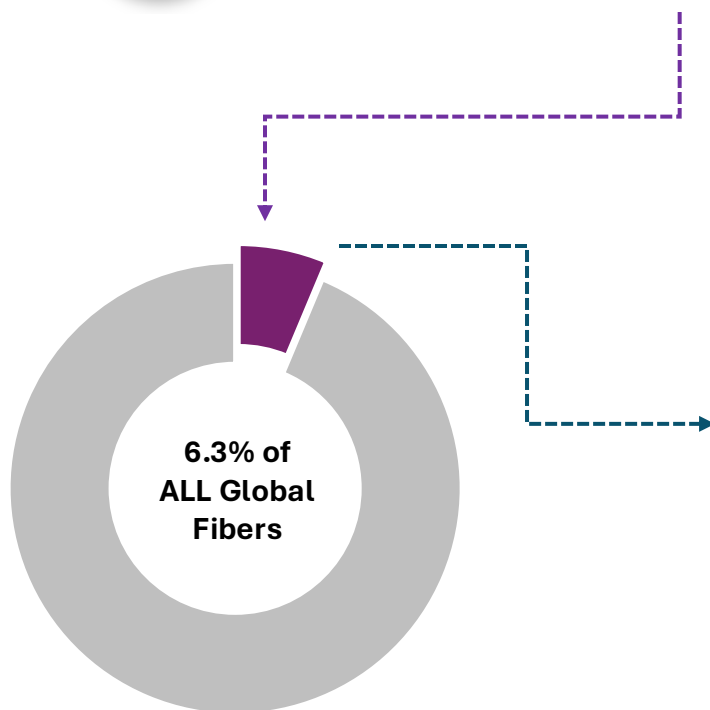
Cellulosic Fibers: represent a smaller but increasingly relevant segment



Global Production



7.6 Million Tonnes
2025

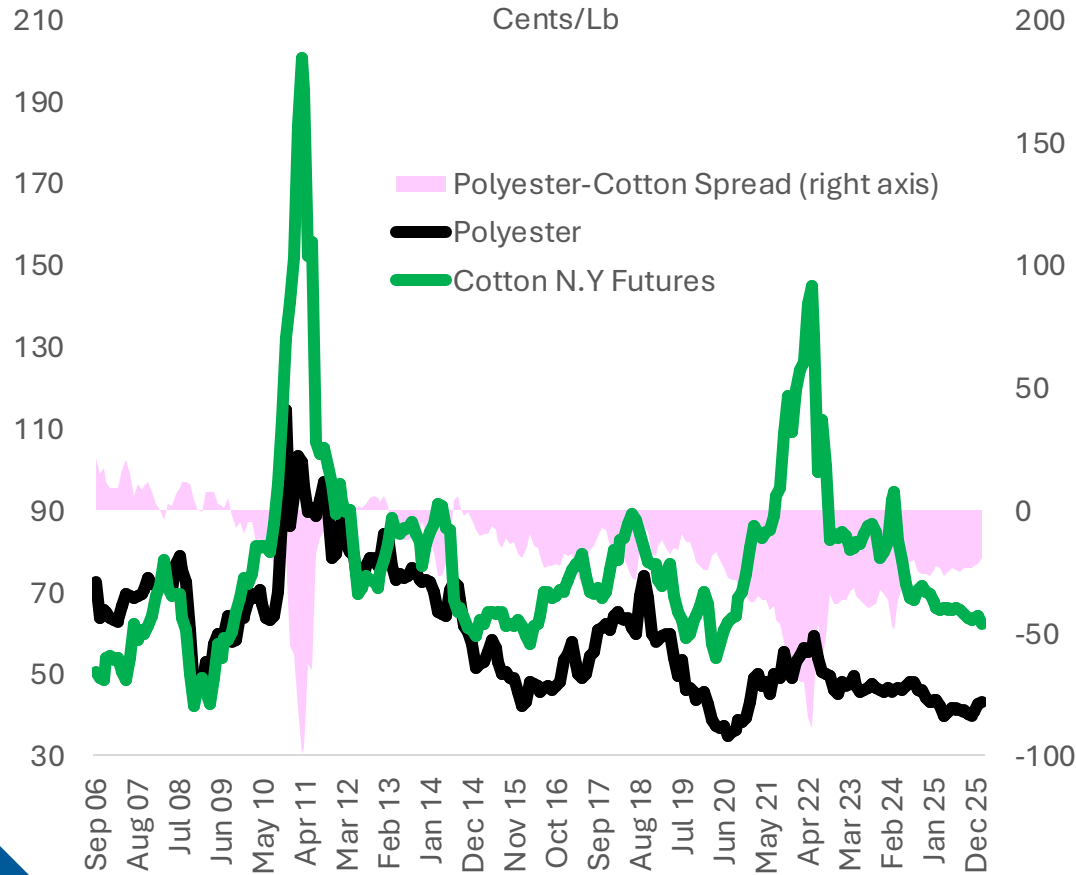


Source: ICAC based on Wood Mackenzie Fibers Report

Cotton vs Polyester: A Growing Price Gap Over Time

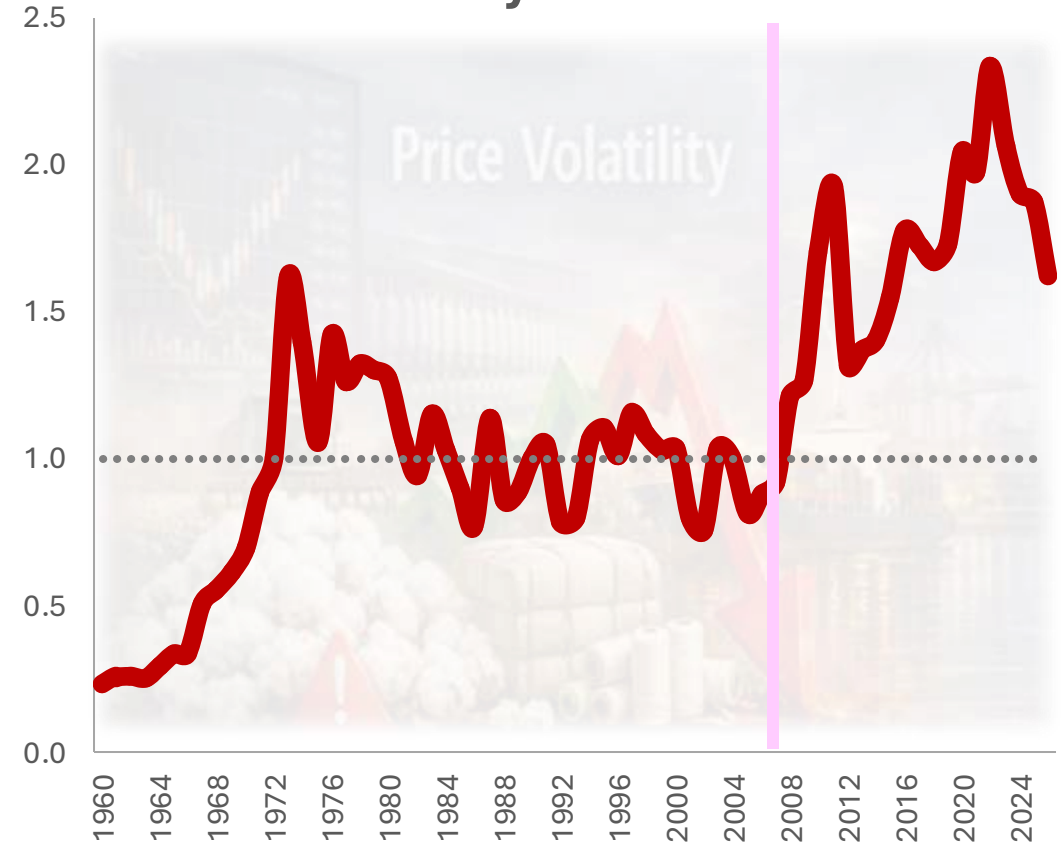


Monthly Cotton & Polyester Prices



Source: ICAC Calculations based on ICE Futures, Cotlook A-Index, PSF in China

Cotton/Polyester Price Ratio

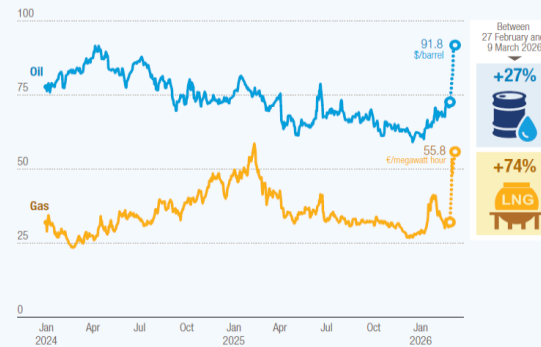


Global Supply Risks: The Strait of Hormuz



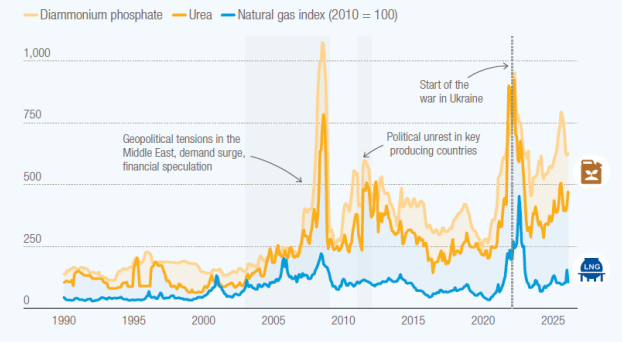
And energy markets have immediately reacted to the shock.

Daily oil and gas prices, 1 January 2024–9 March 2026



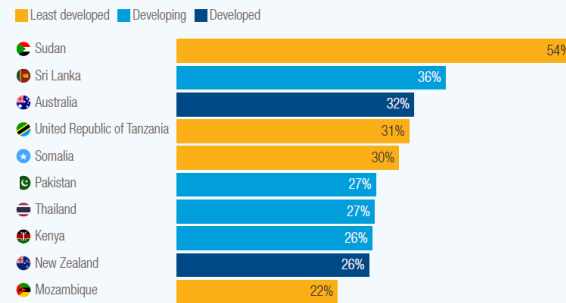
When gas prices go up, fertilizer prices often go up.

Monthly natural gas price index and prices of selected nitrogenous fertilizers, January 1990 to February 2026



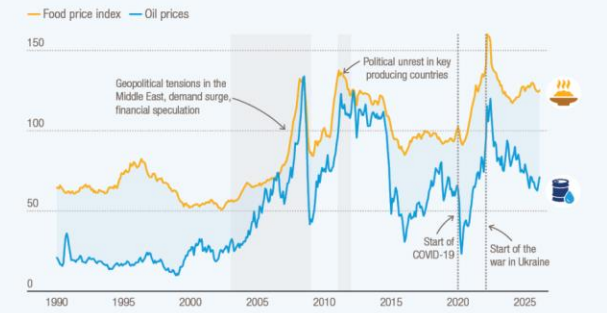
Access to fertilizers may worsen for some of the poorest countries.

Share of fertilizers imported by sea and originating from the Persian Gulf region in 2024



When oil prices go up, food prices often go up.

Monthly food price index and crude oil prices, January 1990 to February 2026



Source: UN Trade and Development Report, Strait of Hormuz Disruptions, March 2026

Geopolitical Shocks: Impacts on Cotton and Polyester



COTTON	POLYESTER
➤ Higher Fertilizer Costs	➤ Rising Oil Prices
➤ Strong US dollar	➤ Energy Market Shocks
➤ Logistics Disruptions	➤ Weak Downstream Demand
➤ Weaker Retail Demand	➤ Rising Inventories



Key Takeaways



**Global Textile
Demand Expanding**



**Population &
Income Growth**



**Synthetic Fibers
Dominating Growth**



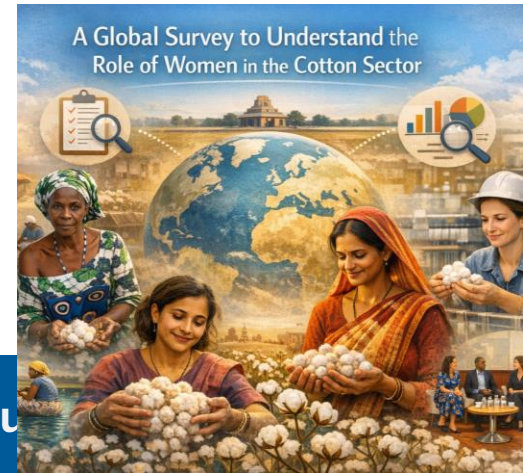
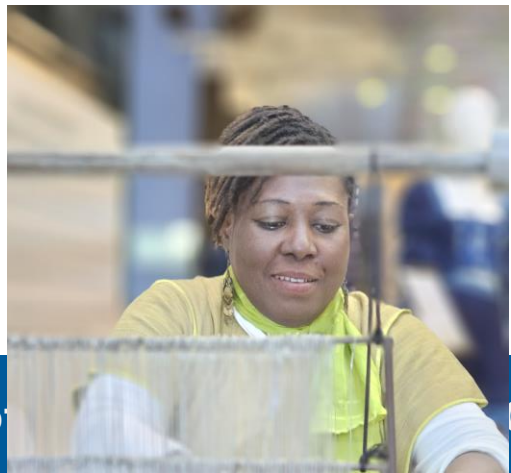
**Steady Cotton
Demand**



**Competitiveness
is Key**



The Role of Women in the Cotton Sector: A Global Analysis



WOMEN IN COTTON

RESULTS OF A GLOBAL SURVEY



The last global survey was conducted in 2011. A total of 38 organizations from 20 countries participated (14 in Africa, 3 in Asia, 3 in Latin America).



The study examined the role of women across the cotton value chain, with a strong focus on Africa.



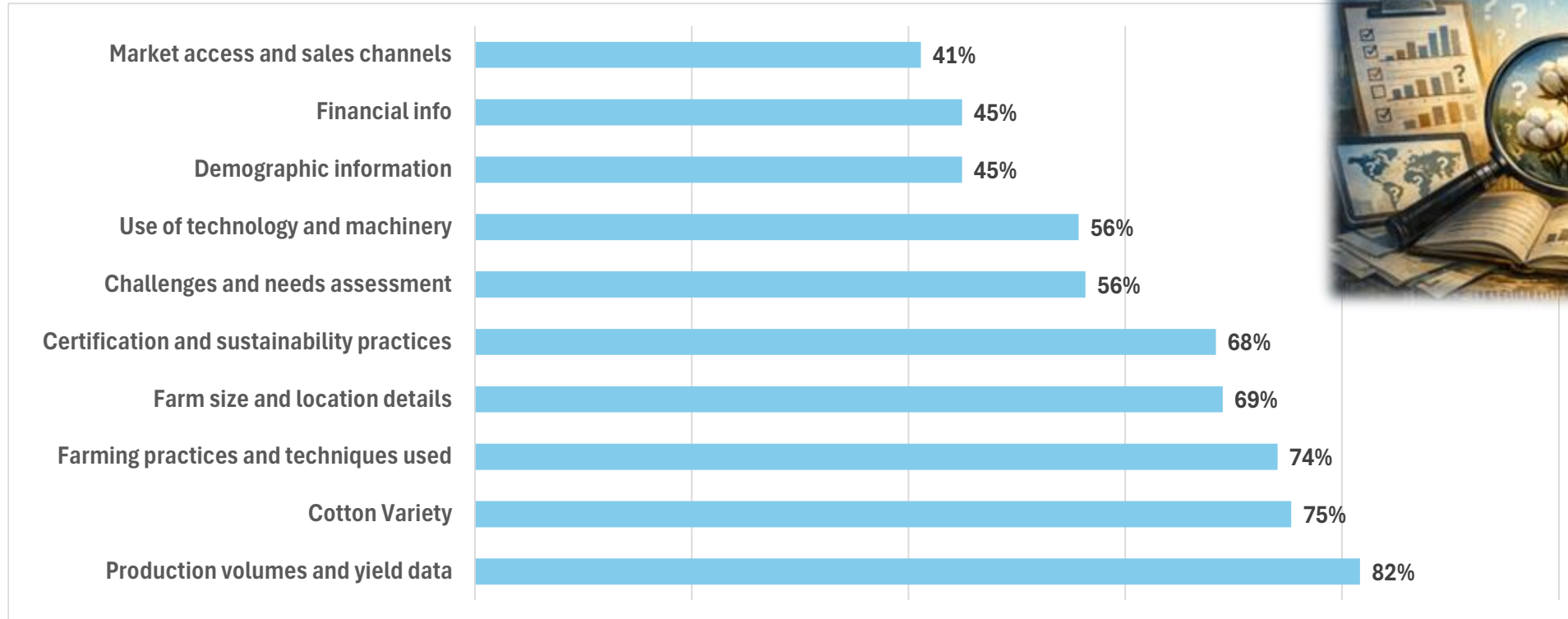
Responses were based on structured, voluntary inputs from ITC's global cotton network.



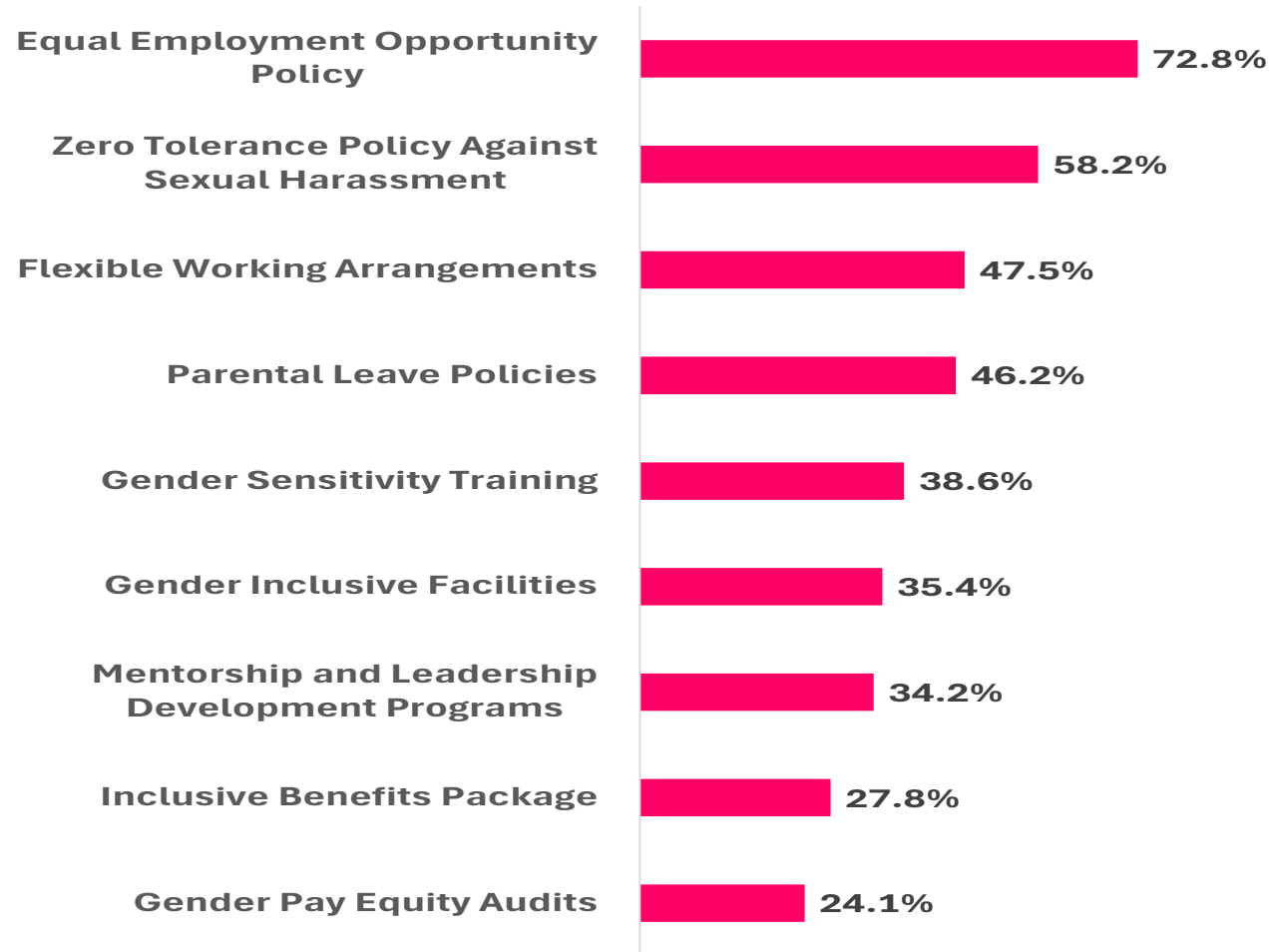
Data was collected through questionnaires sent to companies across Africa, Asia, and Latin America.



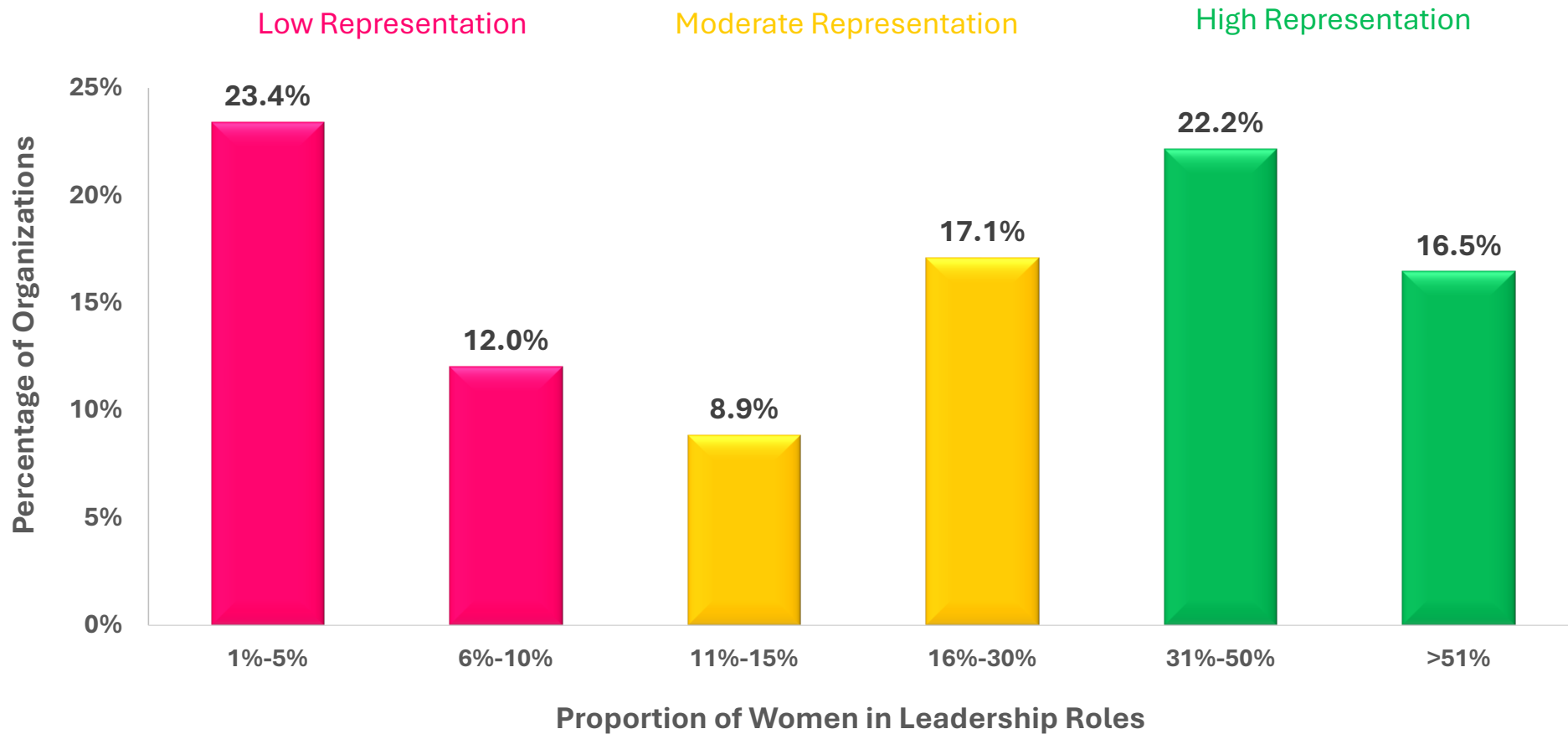
Data Collection in the Cotton Sector: Gaps and Opportunities



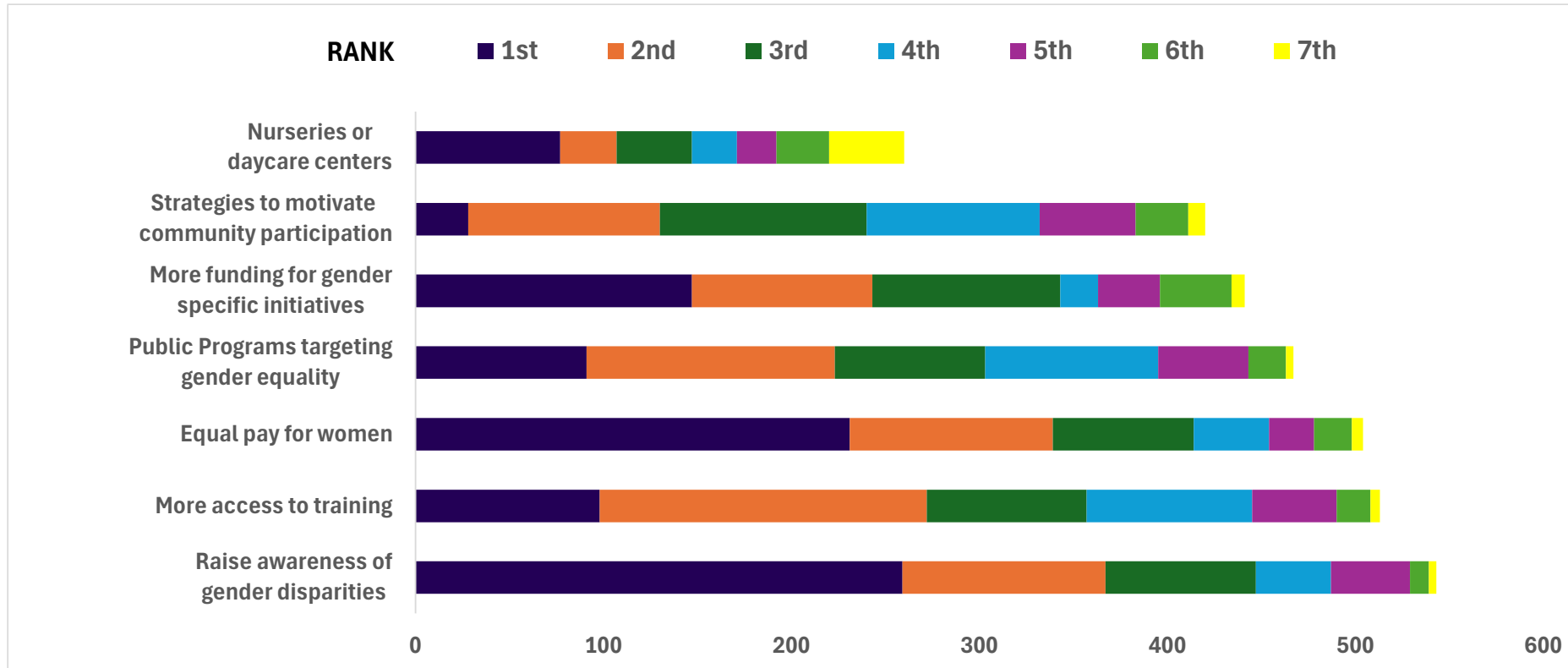
Overview of Workplace Policies and Practices Implemented by Organizations



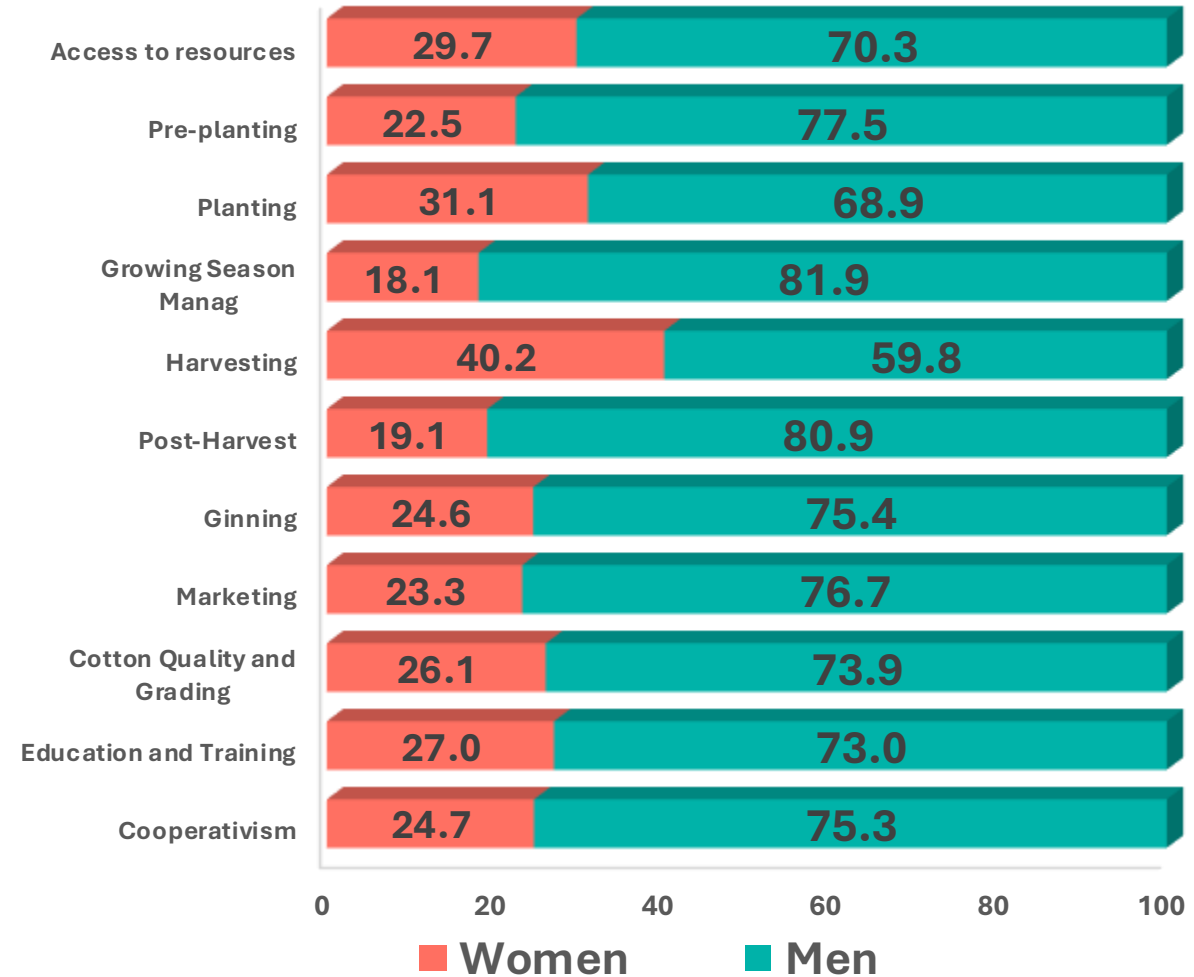
Representation of Women in Executive and Management Roles



Key Improvements Needed in the Cotton Sector



Women's roles in cotton production and related activities



THANK YOU



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