

World Cotton Day 2026



*Building Prosperity Through Trade, Transformation
and Partnership*

Tashkent, Uzbekistan | 7 October 2026

DRAFT AGENDA - WORLD COTTON DAY 2026

TASHKENT, UZBEKISTAN 7 OCTOBER

Hyatt Regency Tashkent, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

“Cotton for Good: Building Prosperity Through Trade, Transformation and Partnership”

[Click here to register for free!](#)

08:00–09:00 | Arrival, Registration and Networking Coffee

09:00–09:45 | Opening Ceremony

Master of Ceremonies: Representative of the Government of Uzbekistan

1. Welcome remarks by the Government of Uzbekistan

TBD, H.E. (Senior Government Representative of Uzbekistan)

2. Statement by the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Dr. Qu Dongyu, Director-General, FAO

3. Opening remarks by the Executive Director of the International Cotton Advisory Committee

Mr. Eric B. Trachtenberg, Executive Director, ICAC

4. Keynote statement by the Director-General of the World Trade Organization

Mr. Jean-Marie Paugam, Deputy Director-General, WTO

5. Opening remarks on behalf of the C-4+ countries

H.E. Mr. Angelo Dan, Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative and Chargé d'affaires a.i. of Benin, and Coordinator of the C-4+ Countries

09:45–10:45 | High-Level Leaders' Dialogue

Trade, Transformation and Partnership: How Cotton Builds Prosperity

Session Objective:

In a global context shaped by trade uncertainty, changing supply chains, industrial policy and growing sustainability requirements, this high-level dialogue will explore how cotton can continue to serve as a strategic driver of development.

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Bringing together leaders from Uzbekistan, the C-4+ countries, and international organizations, the session will examine how cotton-producing countries can strengthen competitiveness, diversify their economies, and build more resilient connections between agriculture, industry, trade, investment, and innovation. The dialogue will also highlight the Partenariat pour le Coton as a practical platform for mobilizing investment, technical cooperation, and partnerships to support the transformation of the cotton-to-textile value chain in the C-4+ countries. The initiative brings together the C-4+ countries and international, financial, and private-sector partners to support value addition and industrial development.

Speakers:

- **Ibrokhim Yulchiyevich Abdurakhmonov**

Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Uzbekistan; Academician of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan and The World Academy of Sciences
National-Scale Evidence for Rapid Cotton Yield Gains through Sustainable Intensification in Uzbekistan

- **H.E. Mr. Angelo Dan**

Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative and Chargé d'affaires a.i. of Benin, and Coordinator of the C-4+ Countries

The C-4+ Vision for Cotton-Driven Industrialization and the Role of the Partenariat pour le Coton

- **World Trade Organization – WTO**

Mr. Jean-Marie Paugam, Deputy Director-General, WTO

- **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations – FAO**

- **International Trade Centre – ITC**

- **United Nations Industrial Development Organization – UNIDO**

10:45–11:15 | Coffee Break and Official Photo

11:15–12:30 | Plenary Session 1

Building Prosperity Across the Cotton Value Chain

Session objective:

To showcase practical models of cotton value-chain transformation, drawing on experiences from Uzbekistan's textile development, Benin's industrial zone approach,

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Bangladesh's apparel export model, and India's integration into global textile and apparel markets. The session will highlight how investment, processing, manufacturing, and buyer linkages can turn cotton into jobs, exports, and broader economic opportunities.

Speakers:

- **Mr. Ismonaliyev Fayzullo**

Deputy Head of Department, Agency for the Development of Light Industry
The Potential of Uzbekistan's Textile Industry

- **Mr. Ramakrishnan Janarthanan**

Chief Executive Officer, LXMI Global Advisory
The Development of the Glo-Djigbé Industrial Zone and Its Role in Expanding Local Cotton Processing and Textile Manufacturing

- **Mr. Navdeep Sodhi**

Partner, Gherzi Textile Organization
Developing Competitive Textile Industries through Policy, Investment, Infrastructure, Technology and International Partnerships

- **Representative of Bangladesh**

[Speaker to be confirmed](#)

- **Representative of India**

[Speaker to be confirmed](#)

12:30–14:00 | Lunch Break

14:00–15:15 | Plenary Session 2

Trust, Quality, and Responsible Cotton Supply Chains

Session objective

To examine how cotton-producing and textile-exporting countries can build market confidence through quality assurance, inspection, traceability, and responsible sourcing systems. The session will highlight how credible data, verification, and supply-chain transparency can help producers, exporters, and textile companies respond to buyer expectations and access higher-value markets.

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Speakers

- **Mr. Ben Maitland**

Senior Director of Advocacy, Communications and Events, Better Cotton

The Role of Standards, Credible Data, Traceability and Verification in Strengthening Trust across Cotton Supply Chains

- **Ms. Alison Ward**

Chief Executive Officer of CottonConnect

Connecting Farmers to Markets: Responsible Sourcing and Collaboration Across the Cotton Value Chain

- **Mr Hafiz Muhammad Bakhsh**

Senior Manager WWF-Pakistan

From Seed to Sustainable Supply Chains: WWF-Pakistan's Collaborative Journey in Organic Cotton Cultivation

15:15–15:45 | Coffee Break and Networking

15:45–17:00 | Plenary Session 3

Investment, Innovation and Competitiveness in Cotton Economies

Session objective:

To examine what is needed to scale cotton value-chain transformation through investment, technology, infrastructure, sourcing partnerships, and private sector engagement. The session will focus on how cotton economies can become more competitive by attracting capital, improving production and processing capacity, adopting new technologies, and building stronger links with global buyers.

Speakers:

- **Xanxadjayeva Nilufar Raximovna**

Professor, Tashkent Institute of Textile and Light Industry

Textile Innovation and Skills Development: Strengthening the Competitiveness of Uzbekistan's Textile Industry

- **Mr. Varun Vaid**

Executive Director, Wazir Advisors

Attracting Private Investment and Developing Competitive Cotton, Textile and Apparel Industries

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- **Christian Ndikumagenge**

Senior Manager, Export Development, Afreximbank

Mobilizing Capital for Cotton Value Addition, Manufacturing and Export Growth

- **International Finance Corporation - IFC**

Speaker to be confirmed

- **Islamic Development Bank**

Speaker to be confirmed

17:00–17:45 | Closing Spotlight Session

Carbon Markets and Climate Finance: New Opportunities for Cotton Farmers

Session objective:

To discuss how carbon markets and climate finance could create new opportunities for cotton farmers and producer organizations. The session will highlight the conditions needed to make cotton-related carbon projects credible, farmer-centered and commercially viable, including science-based measurement, digital monitoring, certification, buyer confidence and fair benefit-sharing mechanisms.

Speakers:

- **Mr. Raimov Jovlonbek Farhod ugli & Mr. Firdavs Zukhurutdinov Khamitovich**

Head of the Division of Transfer of Agricultural Technologies

Nature-Based Solutions for Cotton Farming: Integrating Regenerative Agriculture, Biochar Technologies and Carbon Markets in Uzbekistan

- **Mr. Temurbek Omonov**

Head of Department, Green Economy Projects Center under the Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Uzbekistan's Pathway to International Carbon Markets: Opportunities for the Cotton Sector

- **Mr. Govind Setlur**

Merago, Carbon Asset Management Agency

Turning Carbon Potential into Farmer Value: Developing Credible and Commercially Viable Cotton Carbon Projects

18:30–19:00 | Closing Session

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Technical Field Visit Programme

8 October 2026 (Thursday)

Tashkent Region,

Time	Activity
14:00	Departure from Hyatt Regency Tashkent
14:00–14:40	Transfer to cotton-textile cluster / textile enterprise (location to be confirmed)
14:40–15:20	Visit to cotton processing and textile production facilities; presentation on value chain development and cotton transformation
15:20–16:00	Transfer to Research Institute of Cotton Breeding, Seed Production and Cultivation Agrotechnologies site
16:00–16:40	Visit to the Research Institute of Cotton Breeding, Seed Production and Cultivation Agrotechnologies and a cotton field, including a demonstration of modern cotton cultivation practices, harvesting technologies, and sustainability initiatives
16:40–17:20	Transfer to the Center of Islamic Civilization in Uzbekistan
17:20–19:20	Guided visit to the Center of Islamic Civilization in Uzbekistan
19:20	Return to hotel / end of programme

Notes: *The locations of the cotton-textile enterprise and cotton field demonstration site will be confirmed at a later stage. **Transportation** will be provided for all participants. Timing may be adjusted depending on traffic conditions and final venue selection.*