



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

“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

- **Welcome remarks by the Government of Uzbekistan**

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

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

Dr. Qu Dongyu, Director-General, FAO

- **Opening remarks by the Executive Director of the International Cotton Advisory Committee**

Mr. Eric B. Trachtenberg, Executive Director, ICAC

- **Keynote statement by the World Trade Organization**

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

- **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

09:45–10:50 | High-Level Leaders' Dialogue

Trade, Transformation and Partnership: How Cotton Builds Prosperity

Session description:

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, African institutions and international organizations, the session will examine how cotton-producing countries can strengthen competitiveness, diversify their economies, and build stronger 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, promoting greater 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

- **Mr. Jean-Marie Paugam**

Deputy Director-General

World Trade Organization – WTO

- **Mr. Mondher Mimouni**

Director of Market Development

International Trade Centre – ITC

- **Mr. Hamadou Karidio**

Senior Advisor to the Secretary-General

AfCFTA Secretariat

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

[Speaker to be confirmed](#)

10:50–11:15 | Coffee Break and Official Photo

11:15–12:00 | Plenary Session 1

Building Prosperity Across the Cotton Value Chain

Session description:

This session will showcase practical models of cotton value-chain transformation, drawing on experiences from Uzbekistan's textile development, Benin's industrial zone approach, and international expertise in building competitive textile industries. It will highlight how investment, processing, manufacturing, infrastructure and international partnerships can turn cotton into jobs, exports and broader economic opportunities.

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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

12:00–12:45 | Plenary Session 2

Trust, Quality, and Responsible Cotton Supply Chains

Session description:

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

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



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

12:45–13:00 | Coffee Break and Networking

13:00–14:00 | Plenary Session 3

Investment, Innovation and Competitiveness in Cotton Economies

Session description:

This session will explore what is needed to scale cotton value-chain transformation through investment, technology, infrastructure, sourcing partnerships and private-sector engagement. It will examine how cotton economies can strengthen competitiveness by attracting capital, expanding 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

Development of New Textile Products Technology and Preparing of Specialists in the Textile Industry of Uzbekistan

- **Mr. Varun Vaid**

Executive Director, Wazir Advisors

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

- **Mr. Christian Ndikumagenge**

Senior Manager, Export Development, Afreximbank

Mobilizing Capital for Cotton Value Addition, Manufacturing and Export Growth

- **Textile Export Council of Egypt**

Speaker to be confirmed

14:00–15:30 | Lunch Break

15:30–16:15 | Closing Spotlight Session

Carbon Markets and Climate Finance: New Opportunities for Cotton Farmers

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Session description:

This session will explore how carbon markets and climate finance can create new opportunities for cotton farmers and producer organizations. It 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

Efforts being implemented in Uzbekistan to enter international carbon markets

- **Mr. Govind Setlur**

Merago, Carbon Asset Management Agency

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

16:15–16:30 | Closing Session

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8 October | Technical Tour organized by the Host Country



October 8: Technical Tour

organized by Host country

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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



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.

