

Organic Cotton Produced for The First Time In Bogra, Bangladesh (March 26, 2008)



On March 26, 2008, Mr. Sharifur Rahman of MATI explaining organic cotton practice to delegation from People Tree and journalists from UK and Japan



Farmer harvesting organic cotton from the field located in Bogra

For the first time in Bangladesh organic cotton has been successfully produced in Bogra, Bangladesh. This attempt was initiated to test the feasibility of growing organic cotton commercially in Bangladesh. Waste Concern in partnership with Mohipur Agriculture Training Institute (MATI), a private agriculture training institute, Waste Concern-Baraka Agro Products, People Tree, UK (a Fair Trade Fashion pioneer). The Bangladesh Cotton Development Board provided good quality cotton seed, required manpower and support for monitoring crop yield and quality of cotton.

It is envisioned that the organic cotton can create a new opportunity for the poor farmers of Bangladesh to get premium price by creating an organic market for the international buyers like People Tree using the Fair Trade concept. In addition to this, organic production systems have low impact on environment, replenish and maintain soil fertility, reduce the use of toxic and persistent pesticides and fertilizers, and build biologically diverse agriculture.

Under this pilot project, compost produced by Waste Concern from the urban organic waste was used in the organic cotton field and proved to be good for the soil and quality of cotton. As a result, compost replaced chemical fertilizer and neem based natural pesticide replaced harmful chemical pesticide. Waste Concern is planning to harness carbon trading by offsetting green house gas by replacing fossil fuel based chemical fertilizer and using low emitting technology for ginning and weaving of cotton. People Tree has also shown interest to promote emission free fashion cloths to the global buyers.

Recently, Bangladesh Cotton Development Board has shown interest to provide 10 hector of land for organic cotton production.



Close up of cotton bud ready for harvest



Page from the **People Tree** fashion design catalogue promoting handloom cotton of Bangladesh