

REGENERATIVE COTTON

Cotton is one of the most frequently used natural fiber in the textiles industry but cotton comes with its fair share of social and environmental risks. Cotton production requires lots of water and can be chemically intensive, with pesticides that contaminate soil and groundwater and affect farmers' health. Synthetic fertilizers are often used to boost production, as are growth regulators and defoliants. When combined with irrigation systems, these agrichemicals can have negative effects on water supplies, natural ecosystems and biodiversity, impacting local landscapes and communities. That makes it critically important that we find more sustainable, more resilient sources for that cotton and we do follow closely all the sustainable solutions in this field like Organic , BCI, Fairtrade, Recycle...

Now there is a new approach which is becoming more attractive solution and under many brands' radar in the business; which involves a nature-positive approach to fibre production in many ways , *Regenerative Cotton*.



What is Regenerative Farming?

To be able to understand the basics of Regenerative Cotton, we need to understand regenerative farming to its core. Regenerative agriculture is farming and ranching in harmony with nature; in a style that nourishes people and the earth, with specific practices varying from grower to grower and from region to region. There's no strict rule book, but the holistic principles behind the regenerative agriculture are meant to restore soil and ecosystem health, address inequity, and leave our land, waters, and climate in better shape for future generations.

Main Principles of Regenerative Farming

Maintaining Soil Armor

Adding Plant and Microbial Diversity

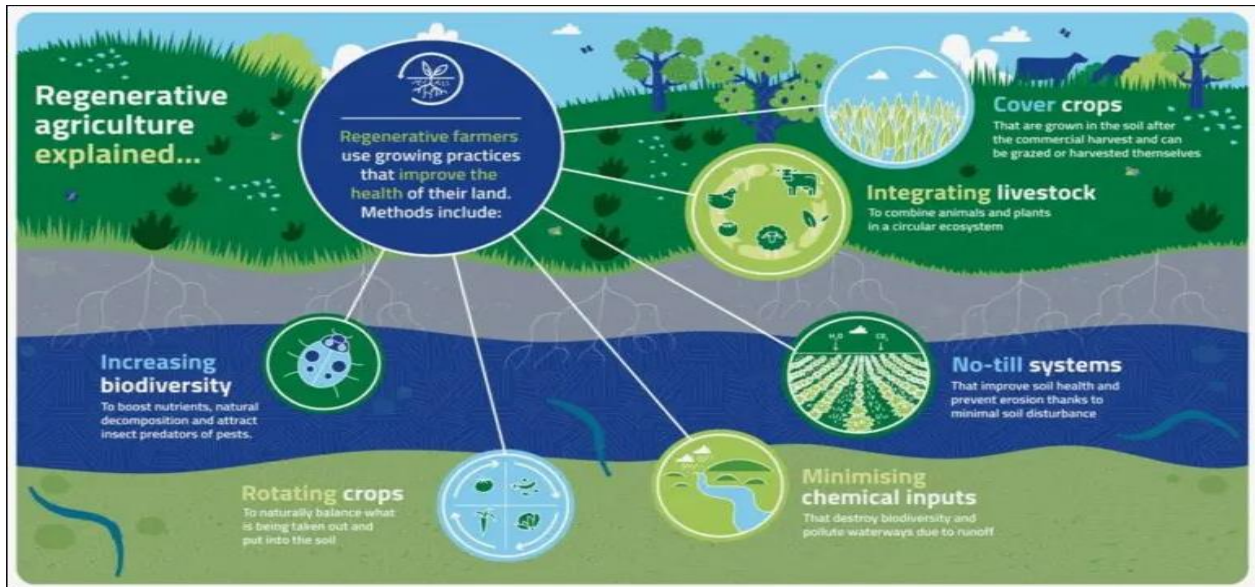
Maintaining Continual Living Plant Roots

Keeping the Soil Covered

Reducing Soil Disturbance through no-till agricultural practices

Integrating and Managing Livestock

Integrating Animals into the system



Based on these principles, Regenerative farming practices are growing worldwide and this agriculture movement has endless benefits; most important one is to address the climate crisis as rather than functioning as a source of carbon emissions, croplands can become a carbon sink.

Regenerative Cotton in Turkey

Also in Turkey there are NGO's fabric mills, yarn suppliers and farmers are looking deeper into Regenerative Cotton, even some of with the Brand's partnership.

Ege Organics has their first Regenerative Cotton harvest in 2022. They also grow regenerative hemp addition to cotton in their farms.

Kipas not only have their own farm transforming with regenerative practices but also work with global regenerative cotton farmers to provide different blended yarns and fabrics.

Soktas has a Regenerative Cotton Collection in their range where the cotton locally grows in Turkey.

Maritas recently joined forces with Turkey's Harran University and local registered farmers to establish the regenerative cotton project.

WWF cooperate with a Brand in running Regenerative Organic Cotton Pilot Project in Turkey.

Turkey is a very important player in textile business and as locally sourced regenerative cotton and capabilities to turn this into fabric and garment, locally sourced garments for brands can be produced with reduced carbon emissions.

Certification in Regenerative Cotton

As we mentioned Regenerative Farming is a combination of practices which may vary due to crop, land, ecosystem, climate...etc. it's still a new field to set rules but there are various progress.

Control Union launched a new certification, Regenerative Organic Certified™ (ROC), for food, textiles and personal care ingredients. ROC™ farms and products meet high standards in the world for soil health, animal welfare and farmworker fairness.

REGENAGRI® is a regenerative agriculture program aimed at securing the health of the land and the wealth of those who live on it, coordinated by Control Union again.

Some brands work closely with their supply chain.

Textile Exchange published Regenerative Agriculture Landscape Analysis report and they are giving the impression that they are working on it in a deeper sense.

Many regenerative practices are already embedded into the Better Cotton Standard System

Regenerative Cotton Roundtable (Inspiring Sessions by Sustainability Talks Istanbul)

Our Solution partner **Orbit Consulting** and **Kipas** who is one of the biggest fabric mill in Turkey are hosting a **“Roundtable Discussion on Regenerative Cotton”** at *Premiere Vision Paris* as an extension to **Sustainability Talks İstanbul**.

Textile Industry Leaders on the field will be discussing the current situation, possibilities and opportunities for the sector.

We would be more than happy to see you during the event.



As Gaia Sourcing we are happy to help you with your further queries and be a bridge with Turkish Suppliers for any Regenerative Cotton Projects.