

# Organic Cotton and Climate Change

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Moderator

**Agricultural  
Lands**

**Coastal  
Zones**

**Forest  
Lands**

**Freshwater  
Systems**

**Arid Lands &  
Grasslands**



**Food and Fiber Production  
Provision of Clean and Sufficient Water  
Maintenance of Biodiversity  
Maintenance of Human Health  
Storage and cycling of Carbon, Nitrogen, Phosphorus**

**Climate change will affect the ability of ecological systems to provide a range of essential ecological goods and services**

# Biological Approaches to Curb Emissions

- 1. Conservation:** Conserving an existing C pool, thereby preventing emissions to the atmosphere
- 2. Sequestration:** Increasing the size of existing carbon pools, thereby extracting CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere
- 3. Substitution:** Substituting biological products for fossil fuels or energy intensive products

## **International Conference on Organic Agriculture and Food Security- UN Food and Agriculture Organization. May 2007, Rome.**

Organic Farming Offers Many Climate Change Mitigation Benefits:

- Reduced consumption of fossil fuels for energy
- Reduced emissions of carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide
- Reduced vulnerability of soils to erosion
- Sequestration of soils under organic management

# United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

- CC will change agriculture worldwide
- Many methodological questions
- How to address complex issue under a convention?
- Develop, test and implement new instruments and processes
- Costs for mitigation
- Political will?

# CC Challenges for Organic Cotton (OC)

- Vision and mission include engagement in CC?
- What happens without OC community involved?
- How to connect organic cotton with climate debate?
  - Implications?
- How to respond to expectations within OC community and from outside OC community?

**Can OC make a difference in ongoing and new discussions and negotiations?**

# Strategic Opportunities for OC

1. Evaluate and include organic cotton sourcing in government and corporate greenhouse gas reduction strategies and carbon mitigation efforts.
2. Advocate with NGO and government partners for organic agriculture's inclusion in climate change mitigation legislation (U.S. and E.U. Farm Bills, country GHG initiatives, Copenhagen climate conventions, etc.
3. Find stakeholder partners with climate change funding focus. Lead by example through pilot projects.