

Objective

Helping textile brands take practical action: with over 10 years solid experience IDH can support Danish companies to identify critical sustainability issues in the textile sector, and support them in taking action in partnership with other brands. This session brings together Danish companies (apparel retailers) as well as other partners and presents IDH's work in cotton and apparel. As a thought leader, the Global Fashion Agenda will present key trends and outlook for textiles which every company should be keeping in mind. The workshop will provide an opportunity for brands, development partners and governments to understand how they can further leverage, facilitate and enable progress on cotton and apparel supply chain sustainability, while exploring new topics such as circularity.

Content

The textiles value chain is long and complex, spanning multiple types of companies from raw materials to processors, and garment manufacturers, often based in multiple countries. Each of these actors face their own, unique, social and environmental sustainability challenges. Despite significant progress in addressing critical social challenges, unsafe working conditions continue to be a challenge in many developing countries where production occurs. In addition to these social issues, the sector also needs to urgently address its environmental externalities. The apparel value chain is a significant contributor to the greenhouse gas emissions, from agriculture and production to the use and disposal of textiles.

These myriad challenges can seem overwhelming to many value chain actors. Though retailers and brands operating in Europe have ambitious sustainability targets and commitments, they need to collaborate to meet these targets, and access practical support. This is where IDH comes in. The session aims to give Danish retailers and brands an overview of some of the key priorities they should focus on. We will hear which topics CEOs in this sector have, or should have, on their priority list, from the Global Fashion Agenda. The session will also use the examples of IDH's successful work in the cotton and apparel sectors to highlight how collaboration can lead to change and setting, and meeting commitments. Finally, participants will be able to help IDH design future interventions through interactive discussions.

About the IDH cotton and apparel programmes

IDH brings together major players in the cotton and textile sector, including Bestsellers, H&M, IKEA Levi's, Nike and many others to both invest in, and source Better Cotton (BCI). Next to that IDH works in multiple countries in public private partnerships to address working conditions and environmental issues in apparel in (e.g.) Vietnam, Pakistan and India. To that end we convened an industry coalition of major apparel industry under LABS (the Life and Building Safety Program) to mitigate building safety and other hazardous sustainability issues in apparel manufacturing industries, starting in Vietnam. The goal is to improve livelihoods of 3.5 million smallholder cotton farmers by 2020 in India, Pakistan, China, Turkey, Mozambique and Tajikistan, and improve working conditions of ten thousands of workers in the apparel industries in Asia and Africa.