

## Cotton & textiles in the Netherlands

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## Part I

### The Netherlands

## The Netherlands (I)



- Image
  - soccer, flowers, wooden shoes, windmills, cheese, Amsterdam
  - soft drugs, XTC, euthanasia, gay marriage
  - Van Gogh, Rembrandt, Vermeer
  - water works
- Trading nation
  - Golden Age in 17th century
  - 16 million inhabitants
  - about 350 x 250 km ; densely populated
  - international orientation
  - Mainport to Western Europe: Port of Rotterdam, Schiphol Airport

## The Netherlands (II)

- Economic wealth
  - high level of education
  - transport
  - services
  - trade
  - natural gas & oil
- Large companies with Dutch roots
  - Shell, Philips, KLM, Ahold, KPMG
  - ABN/AMRO, ING, Rabobank
- UNDP Human Development Index
  - HDI rank 12 (of 177)
  - Life expectancy: 78.4 years
  - GDP 2003 (in PPP US\$) : 29.371
  - Relatively even distribution of income



## Part II

### Cotton & textiles in the Netherlands

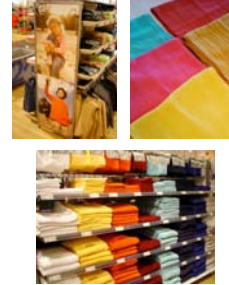
## Cotton & textiles in NL (I)



- Cotton production
  - None
  - Temperate climate
- Cotton consumption
  - Small processing industry
    - 54 companies with 4,573 employees
    - Euro 736 million turnover (2004)
  - Technical textiles (40%), Clothing (25%), Interior (14%), Yarns (8%)
  - Re-location of production to Asia and Eastern Europe (head-tail)
  - About 3,000 tons of cotton fibre imported per year

## Cotton & textiles in NL (II)

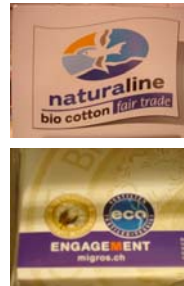
- Cotton textile consumption
  - approximately 40% of textile & clothing
  - preferred by many end-consumers
  - part of EU-25, without internal borders
  - no separate statistics on cotton part or origin of cottons in end-products
- Cotton & textiles in NL
  - Little processing industry
  - Home to head/European office of larger companies (Nike Europe, Gucci, C&A)
  - Fashion & design is growing
  - Fashion leader in African dress with 'Dutch wax' since colonial times
  - Dutch involvement in development cooperation (0.8 % of GDP)



## Part III

### Cotton & textiles & sustainability

## Sustainability (I)



- Sustainable consumption
  - on the political agenda
  - companies attach importance to 'socially-responsible entrepreneurship'
  - People, Planet, Profit & CSR reporting
  - government purchasing to be 100% 'socially-responsible' by 2010
  - consumers have a preference for 'socially responsible' products
  - a relevant but minor part of consumers pays explicitly more for this
  - there is still little CSR textile & clothing on offer to consumers (relevant pictures in this presentation are from Switzerland !)

## Sustainability (II)

- Netherlands is home to:
  - Global Reporting Initiative
  - Clean Clothes Campaign
  - Fair Trade initiatives (e.g. coffee, fruits)
  - WWF secretariat 'Better Cotton'
  - Organic wholesale trade
  - Socially responsible cotton initiatives (Bo Weevil, Kuyichi, MADE-BY, Fair Wear Foundation, ICCO)
- Cotton & sustainability
  - support to African Initiative in WTO
  - financial support to FAO and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) initiatives
  - project support: Benin, Burkina Faso, India, Mali, Paraguay, Peru, Uganda.



## Conclusions



- Cotton textile trade
  - consumer of textiles & clothing
  - distributor of textiles & clothing
- Textiles & sustainability
  - Public support for Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives
  - Active in 'socially responsible' cotton initiatives
- Cotton & sustainability
  - Cotton links with small-scale producers in West Africa and India
  - Important donor in development cooperation.

