

With consumers waking up to the impact of how their clothes and other textiles are made, it is important for retailers and manufacturers to understand the key sustainability risks in raw material supply chains.

What are the key drivers for reducing the impact from textiles?

Environmental | Energy, water, land, chemicals: fibres such as cotton are associated with high water usage, high pesticide and fertiliser use, water pollution from chemical run off and soil erosion

Ethical | Some production of raw materials for textiles are associated with poor working conditions

Reputation | Increasing concerns from consumers and buyers about the ethical and environmental aspects of fashion. Supply chains can have limited traceability to reassure consumers of these credentials

Certifications & Standards | e.g. Higg Materials Sustainability Index; Sustainable Apparel Coalition; Better Cotton Initiative

Some organisations are looking at alternative plants to produce clothes and other textiles, for example hemp, flax and bamboo. However, these too can have environmental impacts depending on how and where they are grown. It is not only plant products used in fashion. Materials such as leather, wool and cashmere are all popular materials used in clothing and fashion which also come with an array of sustainability challenges. ADAS is working with textile producers to help them understand the sustainability challenges in their supply chains.

- Do you know where you are sourcing from?
- Do you know what impacts your sourcing choices are having on the environment?
- Have you thought about alternative materials that can make your textiles more sustainable?

These are all questions that ADAS can help address to ensure that the natural materials used in our clothes are sustainably produced and have minimal environmental impact. We can support with:

- The measurement of water and carbon footprints
- Comparative assessments of different products
- Supporting farmers with best practice production approaches
- Communicating sustainability issues to consumers



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