

## SUSTAINABILITY IN KIK'S SUPPLY CHAIN

M. Arretz

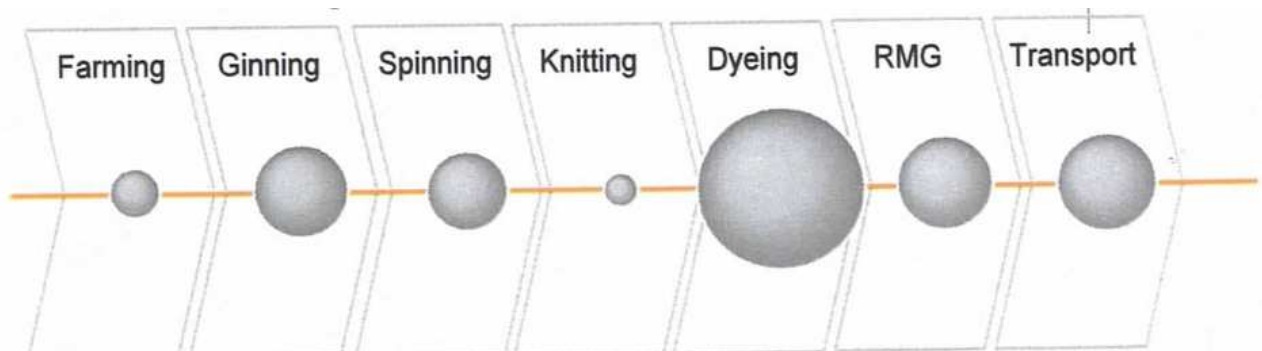
*KiK Textilien und Non Food GmbH, D-59199 Boenen, Germany*

### ABSTRACT

Ecological sustainability has become an important topic and belongs to the essential entrepreneurial challenges. Company KiK Textilien und Non-Food GmbH has met this challenge and has accomplished a comprehensive process to establish a management system for more sustainability. With the first sustainability report an extensive insight of the entrepreneurial trading is allowed. It is illustrated, that the engagement is not limited to damage containment, but is oriented constructively and proactively to improve social standards in a global context, to sparingly use raw materials and resources and to diminish greenhouse gas emissions. In order to achieve results, to secure and expand them, goals were defined, programmes and measures were developed and their implementation has begun. By means of operating numbers an efficient process control is ensured.

On the basis of a Code of Conduct more than 1,300 audits were carried out. Moreover selected suppliers in Bangladesh and China were qualified in order to improve the working conditions.

Also in regards to the topic of ecological responsibility company KiK is well aware of their responsibility and assumes it not only for the site in Germany but is already active in the production. This is to mainly conserve paper resources, water and energy in order to create a more sustainable supply chain. The goal is hereby to diminish the usage of fossil resources and the hereby resulting reduction and prevention of environmental pollution in the production. The single phases of the process chain for textile production can be illustrated as follows.



Distribution of relevant CO<sub>2</sub>-emissions of an exemplary value chain of a T-Shirt with a carbon footprint of 10.75 kg,  
© Systain 2009

Approximately 50 Million T-Shirts sold annually are accompanied by a tremendous high resource input. This way, for example, 1.5 kg cotton seed are needed to produce one T-Shirt. For the annual production of T-Shirts an agricultural area larger than the state of Berlin is needed to cultivate cotton. The input of the resources water and energy are hereby not of lesser importance. For the topic energy at least 20% savings are seen, whereby CO<sub>2</sub>-emissions can be diminished significantly. Herein KiK pursues a way of climate protecting textile production.

Besides the fact that good working conditions are a pre-requisite for establishing more sustainable supply chains, the creation of partnerships is very important. In order to achieve the decrease of environmental pollution, partnerships in combined projects with other German companies are focused. Because environmental- and resource protection is all of our concern and can only be achieved commonly.