

Textiles & Garments: Innovative Interventions Required

Intervention 1 : Improve competitiveness of critical raw-materials			
S.No.	Tasks	Key Stakeholder	Innovation
1	<p>Policy support from government in the following areas so as to resolve raw-material issues faced by Indian Textiles & Garments sector:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consistent policy on export of cotton yarn so as to put an end to speculative cotton market. This will help in keeping a check on fluctuating prices of cotton yarn and malpractices related to cotton yarn. Formulate a Fibre-neutral excise policy, i.e. all textiles and fibres should attract the same excise duty to bring man-made fiber at par with cotton industry. This can be done by formulating a committee comprising of equal participation from Ministry of Textiles and Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals so as to protect the interests of user sector as well for man-made fibres. <i>(At present, this is restricted to Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals)</i> 	Ministry of Textiles, Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals	Knowledge Creation and Commercialization
2	<p>Launch a Pan- India scheme to ensure availability of yarn to weavers at reasonable rate. Various aspects of the scheme should be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set up an agency to operate a yarn bank in all textile knitting & weaving clusters in India. Agencies can be Textile Association, SPV or other consortium. Provide interest free corpus fund for the proposed yarn bank. The agency should create a database of all the small & medium weavers in the cluster and collect orders from these firms. The agency shall then purchase the yarn in bulk in order to avail quantity discount which can be passed on to the weavers. 	Ministry of Textiles	Knowledge Creation and Commercialization
3	<p>Launch a scheme for: Planning, implementing and monitoring the program for increasing raw-material competitiveness of man-made fiber textiles and technical textiles. The tasks that may be performed are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invite proposals from individual innovators/incubates having innovative proposals for research/manufacturing high grade man-made yarn, or specialized types of yarns/fibres that form raw-material to man-made fibre textiles and technical textiles. Extend support for construction of pilot line for new types of man-made fibres and yarns. Provide incentives to domestic firms for commercialization of these newer technologies 	Ministry of Textiles	Knowledge Creation and Commercialization
Issues Targeted			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of uninterrupted supply of both the critical raw-materials, i.e. cotton yarn and man-made fiber yarn impacts the scalability of Indian textiles & garments industry Inconsistent policy on export of cotton yarn leading to fluctuation in prices and impacts cost structures of 			

Indian firms in a big way <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Higher duty on MMF and MMF textiles; while cotton is exempt from excise duty makes cost structures of man-made fibre industry less competitive.

Intervention 2 : Foster domestic textile machinery manufacturing & enhance mechanization in the industry			
S.No.	Tasks	Key Stakeholder	Innovation
1	Launch a Pan-India 'Textile machinery restructuring program' with following steps to be initiated: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create an implementing agency to conduct and oversee the aforementioned restructuring program. Invite application from companies whose existing machines are over 20 years old and intend to purchase new machines in the next fiscal year. The selection of applicants to be done through delicate process and should involve third parties as verification agencies to guarantee accountability, non-discriminative treatment. Tie-ups with financial institutions like SIDBI to extend the credit to the shortlisted applicants to undertake the machinery replacement project. (Relatively soft loans should be advocated to encourage small firms to go for technology up-gradation) Provide incentives to domestic firms for technology up-gradation in the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replacing shuttle looms with shuttle-less looms Purchase of waste reduction equipment or devices Purchase of modern rapiers and air-jet looms etc. 	Ministry of Textiles	Knowledge Creation and Commercialization
2	Program to accelerate textile machinery manufacturing in India. Various steps to be taken include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compile a list of all the textile machines which are not indigenously available. Encourage FDIs to collaborate with Indian counterparts to create machinery manufacturing facilities in India for the identified machinery. (Same model was adopted in China) Several measures that can be adopted for the same are : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce or exempt investors from India's corporate income tax rate for 5-10 years. This may be done for investors who are willing to produce machinery currently not available in India. Provide incentives for foreign players who are ready for technology transfer to Indian players. Provide infrastructure support to shorten to ensure shorter time to market Reduced excise duty on the identified textiles machinery to encourage textiles units to purchase the machinery, and indigenous textiles machinery manufacturers to expand their capacities. 	DHI, Ministry of Textiles, Ministry of Finance	Knowledge Creation and Commercialization
3	Revive TUFs scheme with following changes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Syntheticfibres should be covered under TUFs with fund 	Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals,	Knowledge Creation and Commercialization

	<p>support from their administrative Ministry i.e. Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals. The machinery for manufacture of synthetic fibres post polymerization may be covered under TUFs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More incentives for firms willing purchase of new indigenous machinery 	<p>Ministry of Textiles</p>	
Issues Targeted			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Underdeveloped domestic textile machinery industry forces Indian firms to rely on import of textile machinery. This imported machinery is expensive and increases the overall cost of production. • Lack of FDI as compared to competing countries which have a proactive investment policy over a period of time as opposed to India which has no special incentives for foreign enterprises. • Ageing machinery being employed in most of the enterprises, thus compromising on productivity. 			

References:

1. Indonesia’s Textile and Textile Products Machinery Restructuring Program

The Government of Indonesia since 2007 has launched Indonesian Textile Restructuring Program to help the industry alleviate some of their problems related to out-of-date or obsolete machinery. The main objective is to assist Indonesian Textile Industry in modernization for their machinery and equipment as well, by providing financial assistance for them. The scheme is divided into 2 sub-schemes. The first is for the company which bought newer machinery first (either by borrowing from bank, from supplier credits, or their own money); when they finished installing their own machinery, they were granted 10% reimbursement by the Government. The second is by facilitating a relatively soft loan to would-be applicants that intended solely to buy textile machinery. The selection of applicants is done through delicate process and involves third parties as verification agencies to guarantee accountability, non-discriminative treatment and other responsible matters.

Government plans to collect funds to help firms to update their machinery. Many companies could not replace their aging machinery as they had been saddled with huge debts and poor cash flows. Now the government is trying to collect fund to support the replacement program. It advocates local banks to recommence their credit to this sector. And some local banks have expressed interest in providing loans for the replacement project. It is reported that at least 14 banks are interested in financing the industry.

International Tie-ups:

The government is offering Japan to invest in building a textile machinery factory in Indonesia, since Japan is a country with a strong textile machinery industry, both for sewing and thread rollers machines.

Other than Japan, the government has also offered Taiwan to invest in Indonesia, including investment in the textile machinery sector. The government’s effort to attract foreign investment is related to the restructuring program of the textile machinery and textile product (TPT) industry. From about 2,900 textile industries, 600 companies have followed the restructuring program. Several components of the sewing machines cannot be made, such as spindle, weeping, and laundry. The restructuring program is aimed at helping the industry in replacing old machineries. The government provides tax relief on import of capital goods, because such machineries are imported. Further, Indonesian government is targeting a budget for restructuring the textile industry in 2012 at RP 250 billion (US\$ 28.25 million).

The government of Indonesia is also seeking the help of China in revival of its textile industry, and government is optimistic about the Chinese government for providing export credit facilities to China-based textile machinery makers to sell their products to Indonesia to replace the old machinery of local textile companies. China and Indonesia governments have also agreed to form a committee to come to common terms. To increase competitiveness of the local textile products deal with the incursion of China's textile, the Government has expended RP 200 billion for reformation or regeneration of textile machinery. This investment has generated employment for around 42,000 new workers.

Intervention 3 : Focused scheme on Technical Textiles segment			
S.No.	Tasks	Key Stakeholder	Innovation
1	<p>Set up a government aided consultancy for technical segment with focus on end-to-end development of technical textiles. The key focus areas of the agency should be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create awareness about converted technical textiles sector that can be sold at retail level - Creating marketing know-how and supply-chain linkages. - Export Market Intelligence - Practical knowledge on the processes and products - <p>Various tasks that may be performed by this agency are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up technical collaborations for various product lines with international pioneers in these technologies so as to develop product & process know-how for specific market applications. • Map all the end-user industries for these product segments. • Set up world class testing facilities (with collaboration from international testing laboratories) for accurate and relevant evaluation of technical textile in India to satisfy the stringent and critical requirements of performance related products parameters in the global market. • Arrange for high-level trade delegation to the United States and Europe to interact with respective trade bodies in technical textiles. This should help in convincing the members of these trade bodies to think about possible investment and collaboration opportunities. This will pave way for Indian entrepreneurs to develop as suppliers/vendors for international companies and kick start joint ventures. • Arrange knowledge transfer & awareness programmes inviting all the relevant stakeholders who are willing to set up units within technical textiles segment, apprising them of opportunity areas and markets in various product segments • Provide implementation support on a payment basis to these enterprises 	<p>Ministry of Textiles, Ministry of Science & Technology</p>	<p>Knowledge Diffusion and Absorption</p>

2	<p>Enforce the usage of technical textiles, wherever possible so as to induce demand resulting in more investments in the technical textiles industry. Some of the legislations that can be looked at are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory use of the fire retardant fabrics in high-rise buildings. • Environmental legislation for the use of geotextiles and geo-membranes in waste containment for disposal of hazardous wastes 	Ministry of Textiles	Knowledge Creation and Commercialization
Issues Targeted			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of awareness on how to make finished or converted technical textile products of global standards. • Lack of FDI as compared to competing countries which have a proactive investment policy over a period of time as opposed to India which has no special incentives for foreign enterprises 			

References:

1. Technical textiles program at the Textile Research & Innovation Centre, Pakistan

The Textile Institute of Pakistan (TIP) has launched an initiative aimed to facilitate the growth and development of the textile industry of Pakistan. The Textile Research and Innovation Centre (TRIC) is expected to meet Pakistan’s needs in emerging technologies and also provide a new dimension to textile education in Pakistan. This will also help the textile industry of Pakistan to manufacture new value-added products and become competitive in the changing global market.

Established in August 2007 with support from the All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA), the Textile Research & Innovation Centre (TRIC) at the Textile Institute of Pakistan (TIP) is striving to set up infrastructure for the development of technical textiles in Pakistan. The Pakistani textile industry understands the significance of value added textiles in enhancing export earnings.

Textile Research & Innovation Centre is currently focusing its activities on three classes of technical textiles on the basis of their importance in Pakistan. A survey in hospitals is underway to determine the scope of medical textiles and studies on the use Geotextiles in road construction are in progress in collaboration with City District Government Karachi (CDGK) to determine the cost savings aspect as well as enhancement in life of roads constructed through the use of technical textiles. Similarly, on agricultural textiles, TRIC is working with farmers in interior Sindh to develop a fabric which will help increase the yield of sun dried premium chili, free from any harmful toxins.

TRIC’s staff has also been working on projects related to nanotechnology and in November 2008 they presented some of the developments in surface modification with atmospheric plasma at the 86th Textile Institute World Conference in Hong Kong. This technique holds massive potential in research and development and can also find many applications in the development of technical textile products. While potential users are generally aware of products and their usage, concerns expressed by both consumers and producers are restricting growth. TRIC is trying to create awareness on the benefits and prospects of technical textiles as a step towards resolving such problems to encourage people to explore the sector.

Intervention 4 : Increase competitiveness of fabric dyeing & processing industry			
S.No.	Tasks	Key Stakeholder	Innovation

1	<p>Set up a National Implementing Agency that shall be entrusted with the responsibility of Planning, implementing and monitoring the program for increasing the competitiveness of the fabric dyeing & processing industry in India. The tasks that may be performed by this agency are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare a comprehensive information database on technologies pertaining to cleaner technologies, wastewater treatment etc. • Demonstration at Pilot scale on selected technologies at different dyeing clusters. • Set up a joint sub-group also including experts from countries like Germany, Italy etc. to organize training programs to comply with necessary standards like REACH. The sub-group shall be responsible to conduct plant visits and ensure the adherence of standards. • <i>*Tie-ups with institutions such as SIDBI to provide loans at lower rates with interest subvention for enterprises going for technology adoption from the list of technologies</i> 	Ministry of Textiles, Ministry of Science & Technology	Knowledge Diffusion and Absorption
2	<p>Set up mechanism for treating the effluent from the dyeing units with domestic sewage. (It will decrease the TDS content in the affluent and also help treating the sewage) Various tasks required for the same are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical & Infrastructural requirement analysis for the plant. • Pilot can be conducted for the same using PPP model in one of the cluster like Surat, Tirupur etc. • Commercialize the model. The dyeing & processing units may be charges as per the outflow of affluent from the plant. 	Ministry of Science & Technology, Ministry of Environment & Forests	Knowledge Creation and Commercialization
3	<p>Scheme for setting up Common Effluent Treatment Plants with Marine Outfall, by having expenditure shared between industry, state government & central government (This can be done for clusters in the vicinity of shores. This would also enable desalination and disposal of treated water.</p>	Ministry of Science & Technology, Ministry of Environment & Forests	Knowledge Creation and Commercialization
Issues Targeted			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inadequate Common Effluent Treatment Plants for dyeing units. • Increased cost of dyeing & processing as hundreds of units have closed out owing to environmental concerns. Left over units has to set up effluent treatment plants which increases their overall costs. 			

Intervention 5 : Foster R&D and Design & Development			
S.No.	Tasks	Key Stakeholder	Innovation
1	<p>Set up testing and designing facilities on Public Private Partnership (PPP) basis with the objective of deepening the testing and design culture on a wider scale in the industry. This can be done in the following manner:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage industry associations, SPVs for textiles parks, cluster level industry bodies and other user industry driven organizations like TRAs and the Textiles Committee to establish internationally accredited testing and design centres by providing one time financial assistance. • The Government can provide required plant & machinery, while the user industry group shall be responsible for land, building and infrastructure, apart from meeting the entire O&M costs. • Develop a framework under which the industry group, intending to develop the testing and design facility, will enter into an agreement with the Government to provide stipulated services to user enterprises. 	Ministry of Textiles, Ministry of Science & Technology	Knowledge Diffusion and Absorption
2	<p>Various activities needed to foster R&D in the industry are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Announce fully sponsored projects for various TRAs for conducting research in emerging technologies. Some of them can be : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Developing practical recycling technologies that can take existing Synthetic fibres back into the textile supply chain. – Textile production technologies with reduced carbon foot print and adopting cleaner technologies etc. • Incentives could be given to Academia based on industrial relevance of their research and development work and matching funding from Industry. Each patent may be incentivized with one time financial grant. Commercialization of same in the industry shall be further incentivized. • Empanelment of industry experts (Both national & international) on Academic Advisory committees of the colleges/institutes & Indian research institutes of textiles • Collaborate with foreign research laboratories who are pioneers to identify research projects to source technological know-how and research support. • Conduct knowledge management workshops inviting all the industry stakeholders and make them aware about the new research technologies and impact of the same on firm's productivity. • Arrange for financial assistance for commercialization of research work by the industry. This can be done through bodies like SIDBI wherein loans are provided at lesser rates with interest subvention for a fixed period. 	Ministry of Science & Technology, Ministry of Textiles	Knowledge Creation & Commercialization
Issues Targeted			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of globally accepted certifications in India • Limited value addition in the industry because of lack of investments in Research & design development. 			

- Lack of awareness of quality norms & standards

References:

1. Fibre Innovation Incubation Facility, Japan

Fibre Innovation Incubation Facility (FII) has been set up in Shinshu University, Japan for performing the following functions:

- Consistent production of prototypes, including raw materials, spinning, thread making, weaving, high-order processing, and finished products
- Nurturing young engineers and researchers with talent in development through collaboration with businesses (internship system)
- One-stop-solution feature for fiber development issues
- Evaluation and standardization of materials and products
- Information transmission hub functionality (such as marketing)
- Creation of local community based innovations through utilization of rental spaces of private corporations

To fulfill the above objectives, FII has so far launched several successful programmes for boosting Japanese textiles & garments industry. Some of these programmes are:

- **Construction of a pilot line (a baton exchange zone for joint development with private businesses)**
 - Installation of devices (new)
 - Transfer of existing devices
 - Restoration of existing devices
 - Shared use of large-scale machinery
 - Establishing international standards
 - Promotion of local industries
- **Development of practical and talented human resources**
 - Nurturing graduate students and young researchers
 - Internship system
 - Joint and collaborative studies with private businesses
 - Linking with a (program)
 - Human resource development program with government-academic-private collaboration
- **Creation of an informational hub function**
 - Construction of an international network in the fibre field
 - Establishment of an informational hub
 - Information analysis
 - Collection and transmission of information
 - Cooperation with other educational and research institutes (National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology, public testing and research institutes)
 - Collaborative efforts among the government, academic and private sectors

Intervention 6 : Measures to improve labour skills & productivity			
S.No.	Tasks	Key Stakeholder	Innovation
1	Set up a mechanism so as to enable NSDC to work in tandem with Ministry of Rural development so that NREGA scheme is utilized to fill the skill gaps in the industry. Various Tasks that may be performed are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSDC can identify the key skill gaps in the Textiles & Garments industry and train the people availing NREGA scheme so as to make them employable in the industry. For training purpose, people from industry may be invited. Set up placement councils in various clusters to maintain the details of all the people trained in the various areas so that industry can approach the council for employment required for employing the desired skills 	Ministry of Rural Development, NSDC, Ministry of Textiles	Knowledge Diffusion and Absorption
2	Set up secondary training centres on a PPP model in the existing as well as developing textiles clusters to cover skill up-gradation training of those already involved in shop-floor operations in both organized and unorganized sector of the textiles industry. Specialized courses may be started in the area of programming on CNC machines.	Ministry of MSME, NSDC, Ministry of Textiles	Knowledge Diffusion and Absorption
3	Infrastructure updation in existing ITI & Polytechnics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce courses on different trades and certificate courses in the core textile field like spinning technician, weaving technician, textile mechnronics, textile electrician, processing technician, garmenting technician, pattern making etc. Invite people from the industry to spread working knowledge in the mentioned areas. One time capital grant may be given for upgrading the infrastructure of such institutes. Recurring expenditure should be met by the concerned institution. 	Ministry of Textiles	Knowledge Diffusion and Absorption
Issues Targeted			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of availability of technical manpower for running machines. Support skills like electricians, pneumatic & hydraulic technicians are also lacking in the industry. In major textile clusters like Tirupur, closing down of around 700 dyeing units owing to environmental concerns lead to movement of labour to their natives leading to huge crunch of unskilled and skilled labour. Skill gaps for programmers who are able to produce innovative designs & patterns 			

References:

1. Initiatives of Joint Apparel Association Forum (JAAF), Sri-Lanka

Realizing the importance human capital, Joint Apparel Association Forum (JAAF), Sri-Lanka has undertaken several schemes to improve the skills and productivity of their workforce. To begin with, JAAF in collaboration with International Labor Organization (ILO) and The Employers' federation of Ceylon launched a Factory Improvement Program (FIP) in 2002 with funding from the U.S. Department of Labour and the Swiss Secretariat for Economic Affairs. FIP was a training program that aimed to help factories increase competitiveness, improve working conditions, and strengthen

communication and collaboration between managers and workers. Other initiatives that have been taken by JAAF are:

- **To strengthen the marketing competencies**, the JAAF, in collaboration with the Chartered Institute of Marketing, initiated an industry-specific professional marketing qualification
- **To strengthen design capabilities**, the JAAF (with the support of the Sri Lankan government) initiated a Fashion Design and Development program, a four-year degree course conducted at the Department of Textile & Clothing Technology at the University of Moratuwa in collaboration with the London College of Fashion.
- **To increase firm productivity**, the JAAF (with the support of the Sri Lankan government) initiated the Productivity Improvement Program in 2004. The objective was to promote “leaner” and more effective organizations, which would result in higher productivity, lower costs, better quality, and on-time delivery.
- **To strengthen technical capacity**, the JAAF entered into an agreement with the North Carolina State University (NCSU) College of Textiles in 2004 to deliver an NCSU-affiliated diploma in collaboration with the Clothing Industry Training Institute and the Textile Training & Service Centre. The Sri Lanka Institute of Textile and Apparel also organizes the following:
 - The Apparel Industry Suppliers Exhibition, a biannual exhibition for machinery suppliers to show new technology to support technology transfer in Sri Lanka
 - The Fabric and Accessory Sourcing Exhibition, a fabric and accessories supplier exhibition showcasing new technology developments in fabric and textiles around the world and improving the awareness of the local textiles manufacturers about global trends
 - A magazine (Apparel Update)
 - A conference (Apparel South Asia)
- Several programs have been established in the context of the MFA phase-out, supported by donors. For instance, USAID created four model training centres within the 31 vocational training centres, which provide training for the textile and garment sectors (out of a total of 189 vocational training centres).

Intervention 7 : Support mechanism for certification/accreditation			
S.No.	Framework for Innovation	Key Stakeholder	Innovation
1	<p>Set up a cell with participation from TRAs, textile associations and industry so as to perform research on an Indian mark which can be globally accepted for various categories of Indian textile products. The tasks of the agency should be to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create an 'Indian Textile Mark' that will standardize Indian Products making them competitive in the domestic as well as global Markets. • Development of a "quality manual and accreditation scheme" which defines the quality standards which applicants will be required to meet in order to be accepted in the program and for use of the 'Indian Textile Mark'. • Development of an agency which would ensure the creation of database of all the companies in various levels of the value chain (Can be done with collaboration from Ministry of MSME, Ministry of Textiles and NSIC etc.). This agency may undertake training programs so that technological know-how and awareness is provided to enterprises willing to go for the certification • Develop a scheme through which 'Indian Textile Mark' can be awarded to Domestic companies based on their performance and standing across pre-set criteria such as capacity, technology, manufacturing excellence, packaging, sales and customer satisfaction etc. on a co-payment basis 	Ministry of Science & Technology, Ministry of Textiles	Knowledge Diffusion and Absorption
2	<p>Set up an implementing agency for identifying and enabling various standard/certifications to be adopted by small & medium scale firms operating in Indian textiles & garments sector.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make a database of various certificates/standards along with their mandatory requirements. Some of the certifications that may be considered are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – OEKOTEX 100 for certification of a product to be environmental friendly. – SA8000, WRAP and ILO certifications for social accountability at the work place – ISO 14000 for certification of environmental management systems at the work place • Conduct awareness programmes in all the big & small textiles clusters apprising SMEs of the benefits of these certifications and mandatory requirements for conforming to these certifications. • Develop a mechanism so as to enable the SMEs to apply for these certifications on co-payment basis. 	Ministry of Science & Technology, Ministry of Textiles	Knowledge Diffusion and Absorption
Issues Targeted			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of globally accepted certifications in India • Lack of awareness of quality norms and standards • Shrinking export markets 			

References:

1. Development of Textiles Standards in Egypt

In order to promote Egyptian exports and to cope with international competition, government of Egypt realized the importance of having textile products conform to International Standards. Accordingly, the Egyptian Organization for Standardization and Quality (EOS) was keen to implement, in collaboration with the Industrial Modernization Centre (IMC), a project which aims at harmonizing Egyptian Standards (ESs) with international counterparts so that Egyptian products can compete in foreign markets.

The harmonization process is based on ISO/IEC Guide 21-1:2005 Regional or national adoption of International Standards and other International Deliverables -- Part 1: Adoption of International Standards, ISO/IEC Guide 21-2:2005 Regional or national adoption of International Standards and other International Deliverables -- Part 2: Adoption of International Deliverables other than International Standards, European Directives, and Egypt's commitments toward WTO Agreements and in particular the TBT Agreement.

Through the program aimed at harmonizing Egyptian Standards, EOS has been able to achieve:

- Harmonization of 391 standards for textiles
- Development of Guides and Manuals
 - Development of the "Harmonization Strategic Plan" which aims at ensuring sustainability and continuity of the harmonization process. This plan has been developed with the support of the Ex-President of AFNOR (standards body of France) and Ex-Vice President of ISO.
 - Development of the "Harmonization Manual" based on ISO Guide 21/2005.
 - Development of "Technical Regulations Guide" in the framework of the New Approach Directives.
- Translation of standard & guides
 - Translation of ISO Guide 21/2005 and ISO Guide 59/1994
 - Translation of 30 harmonized mandatory standards, the rest being in the process of translation.
- Automation activity
 - Upgrading EOS web site and inclusion of a link for harmonization
 - Transference to the electronic format for distribution of draft standards in the elaboration process and to EOS Board members in addition to an electronic store of harmonized standards.

Some of the Egyptian standards developed by EOS are: Medical Dressings (ESS 114/2005), White Lint (ESS 120/2005), Cotton Cloth (raw) ESS 278/2005, Cotton Cloth (raw white) (ESS 278/2005), Cotton textiles (raw), Open-ended weaving method used (ESS 2209/2005) , Cotton textiles (white), open-ended weaving method used (ESS 2211/2005) etc.

Intervention 8 : Foster market access by evaluating possibility of trade agreements			
S.No.	Framework for Innovation	Key Stakeholder	Innovation
1	Countries which have huge market opportunities for Indian Textiles & Garments sector need to be examined for having Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) or Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreements to provide better access to Indian players in these countries. Some of the prospective countries which can be considered : USA, EU, Africa (Benin,Tunisia, Morocco), Indonesia, Korea Hong-Kong etc.	Ministry of External Affairs	Knowledge diffusion and absorption
Issues Targeted			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shrinking export markets 			

Intervention 9 : Provide database & technology support to SMEs			
S.No.	Framework for Innovation	Key Stakeholder	Innovation
1	Provide database & technology support to domestic firms in the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make a database of various certificates/standards along with their mandatory requirements. Some of the certifications that may be considered are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OEKOTEX 100 for certification of a product to be environmental friendly. SA8000, WRAP and ILO certifications for social accountability at the work place ISO 14000 for certification of environmental management systems at the work place Technology- and innovation-related international journals from major publishers. Country wise/OEM wise SOPs for certifying/testing the products. <p>Details of testing infrastructure available in India and globally. The details need to include testing labs availability and tests conducted by them, machinery employed for testing, fees for conducting the tests etc.</p>	Ministry of Textiles	Knowledge diffusion and absorption
Issues Targeted			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of awareness of quality norms and standards Non-acceptance of goods by the buyer because of quality issues 			