



Cotton – clean water and sanitation

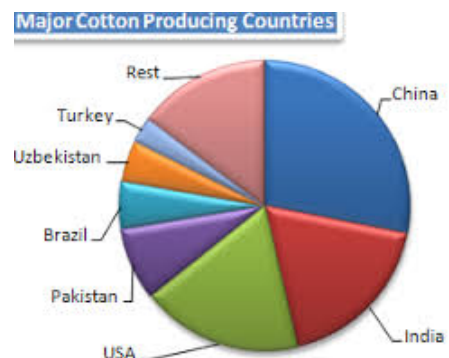
"Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all."

Did you know that a shirt made of cotton needs up to 15,000 litres of water to be produced? That is 100 bathtubs full of water which can't be used again.



A life without water is impossible – even humans consist of 70 per cent water. But water becomes scarcer and that is a big problem. Circa 3.6 billion people are affected by water shortages and it will increase because of climate change.

Most times cotton is grown in hot and dry regions – in regions that already suffer from water scarcity such as Egypt or Peru. And the problem is that cotton needs a lot of water to grow. To get a kilogram of cotton it needs 10,000 litres of water, that is 66 bathtubs full of water only to grow it.



Cotton has a big impact on our lives since it is contained in almost everything that has something to do with textiles, be it a shirt or a dish towel. A German buys in total 28 kilograms of textiles per year, so we consume about 400,000 litres of water just by buying things made of cotton. We could save water by buying less textile products and recycle them if we don't need them anymore.

The sixth sustainable development goal calls for clean water and sanitation for all people living on the earth. Another goal is increasing the efficiency of water use and invent technology to save water while producing textiles.