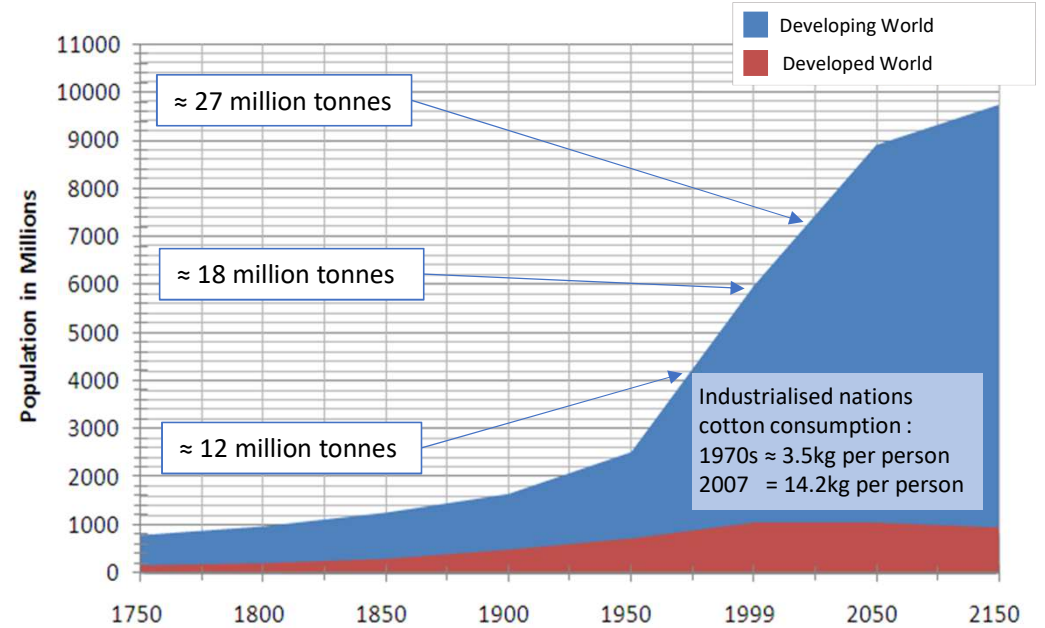


... the modern uniform ...



- Cotton production involves 300 million people from seed sellers, farmers, through all the processing, to merchants and traders.
- 99% of this “army” work in developing countries.
- 80 – 90% of cotton goes to apparel.
- The big 6 produce 85%: China, India, USA, Pakistan, Brazil, Uzbekistan.
- C-4 among poorest on planet (Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali).
- USA consumers buy approximately 450 million pairs of jeans every year.
- Experts say as much as 20,000 litres of water (virtual water footprint) is used in the production of one cotton T-Shirt.
- Supply chain has many stages, and is riddled with problems at all levels...

World population and global cotton consumption



Growing

- One of the thirstiest crops.
- Often grown in water scarce areas.
- Desertification (e.g. Aral Sea).
- Grown in large monocultures.
- Huge amounts of agrichemicals used – hazardous to human health and large scale use results in soil/biodiversity destruction.

Processing

- Carded, Spun, Spooled and Warped, Slashed, Drawn, Woven or Knitted, Kiered, Bleached, Mercerised, Printed / Dyed, Waterproofed...
- A host of chemicals (and masses of water) are used throughout these processes – many of which are very toxic.
 - 90% of waste water in the developing world is discarded into waterways without any treatment.

Cut, Make and Trim

- Big fashion powered by 40 million garment workers – primarily women.
- Difficult to get figures on how much of our clothing is made in sweatshop conditions.
- Supply chain oversight difficult due to subcontracting, and “faked” audits.
- Competition pressurises factories with “Freight on Board” pricing.

To get more involved please join the very catchily named Facebook Group - [Fashion & Sustainability, Bournemouth & Poole](#)