

RELEASE-NATURAL FIBRE CONNECT



NATURAL FIBRE
CONNECT

THINK NATURAL

A WORLD WITH MORE
NATURAL FIBRES BY 2030

CONFERENCE | 7-9 SEPTEMBER 2022

The first edition of Natural Fibre Connect (NFC) was successfully carried out and allowed to connect all the actors involved in the alpaca, cashmere, mohair and wool industries; exchange knowledge, points of view and join efforts to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

NFC was held from September 7 to 9, 2022 in virtual format with the aim of generating consensus in the four industries, identifying solutions to common challenges and highlighting the perspective of growers/breeders; and was organized in partnership by the world's leading natural fibre organizations: the International Alpaca Association-AIA (alpaca), Mohair South Africa (Mohair), The Schneider Group/Wool Connect (Wool) and The Sustainable Fibre Alliance, SFA (Cashmere).

During 3 days of live sessions and with the remote presence of approximately one thousand guests worldwide including growers/breeders/herders, processors, manufacturers, brands, NGOs, and government organizations involved in the alpaca, cashmere, mohair, and wool industries; more than 40 online talks were held, 5 panel discussions and included a virtual exhibition hall. The recorded talks will be available in English, Spanish, Chinese and Mongolian on NFC's virtual platform <https://bit.ly/NaturalFibreConnect> which will remain open until the end of the year.

The topics addressed in the talks and panel discussions were: The realities of animal welfare, social welfare on the agenda and natural fibres as the engine of rural economies, the challenges and perspective of growers/breeders/herders, greenwashing and life cycle analysis of natural fibres, regenerative agriculture for arid regions, traceability in industry, green finance to support growers/breeders, shifting times that are shaping the industry and the opportunities of web 3.0 for the textile industry.

NFC unveiled current global trends and innovations within the four industries, as well as limitations and obstacles to overcome in the face of new demands from conscious and demanding consumers when purchasing a natural fiber product. For example, an important conclusion has been that sustainability has different dimensions, including environmental, economic, social, and cultural, and that there is no sustainability without traceability.

To implement traceability, it is essential to ensure that data becomes in something accessible to everyone, connecting transparently with the actors of the supply chain of the natural fibers industry, through technology and the development of informative apps.

The natural fibre industries have had to deal with macroeconomic problems and the misguided greenwashing of competitors, while focusing their common goal on achieving a world by 2030 with more natural fibres. And it is not about the garments themselves, but hands make or manufacture those garments, and all the social-human component that supports natural fibers: growers/breeders/herders.



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It is vital to understand the perspective of growers/breeders/herders, how is their worldview, their traditions, the culture of raising animals that provide us with natural fibers that feed and clothe the world, finally understand how they are the present and future of this non-extractive industry, and how they live in harmony and communion with the nature that surrounds them.

Therefore, as the effects of climate change and market fluctuations continue to grow, it is a priority to assess the impact on growers/breeders/herders at the beginning of our supply chains: their prosperity is vital to safeguarding the future of this environmentally caring industry and achieving real progress towards our sustainability goals.

And precisely with an eye on the SDGs, we have concluded at the event, that we must have more indicators and tools to evaluate social welfare, the sustainability of a product; better regulatory frameworks to standardize the supply chain, new green seals or certifications that go beyond traditional life cycle analysis (Must include in addition to environmental criteria, social, economic and cultural criteria); better livestock practices with a larger budget and use of funds more efficiently.

We thank the entire organizing team that allowed this pioneering alliance in its field, our sponsors involved and committed to the future of natural fibers, and we hope to meet again in the second edition of the NFC with the world leaders in the production, processing and trade of natural fibers.

For a world with more natural fibers by 2030.



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