

“Orange Fiber”

/ Sicily



Description of the good practice

Orange Fiber is a Sicilian (from Catania) company established in 2014 which produces sustainable fabrics for fashion recycling the waste products of the industrial pressing of oranges. In 2012 they developed an innovative process, together with the collaboration of the Politecnico di Milano, allowing the transformation of the over 700,000 tons of waste derived by the citrus processing industry every year in Italy in a high quality fabric.

The innovative process was patented in Italy in 2013. The first part of the transformation takes place in Sicily, where the cellulose is extracted, to then be sent to Spain, where a partner company transforms it into yarn and finally this returns to Italy, to a Como weaving mill, where it is transformed into a high quality sustainable fabric for the fashion-luxury sector.

Extracting a raw material from waste product can satisfy the growing demand for cellulose for textile use (due to the volatility of cotton and oil prices) preserving natural resources, without producing other industrial waste. Orange Fiber does not exploit natural resources, but uses a waste product destined for disposal, reducing the exploitation of soil and water, the use of polluting pesticides and the impact of textile production on the planet.

In 2016 the startup was awarded with the Global Change Award, the international award organized by the H&M Foundation (non profit foundation of the H&M brand), to support innovations with the highest potential for transformation of the fashion industry in a sustainable way.

“Extracting a raw material from waste product can satisfy the growing demand for cellulose for textile use (due to the volatility of cotton and oil prices) preserving natural resources, without producing other industrial waste”

Ogni anno solo in Italia vengono prodotte oltre 700.000 tonnellate di sottoprodotto agricolo.





Results

Recycle organic waste produced in agricultural farm and industries, preserving natural resources, reducing the exploitation of soil and water, pesticides etc.

Dispose the so called “pastazzo” (in Italy every year we produce about 1 million of tons of it), a particular kind of organic waste, which represents a big problem for the citrus production chain, due to its high costs for the industries and for the ‘environment.

Create, without any exploitation, a new high quality fiber. The famous Salvatore Ferragamo fashion house in 2016 started a collaboration with the startup that led to the creation of the Ferragamo Orange Fiber Collection, the first fashion collection made with the Orange sustainable fabric fiber.

Type of waste

Organic waste produced by the the citrus processing industry.

Volume treated

700,000 tons per year.

Further information

<http://orangefiber.it/>