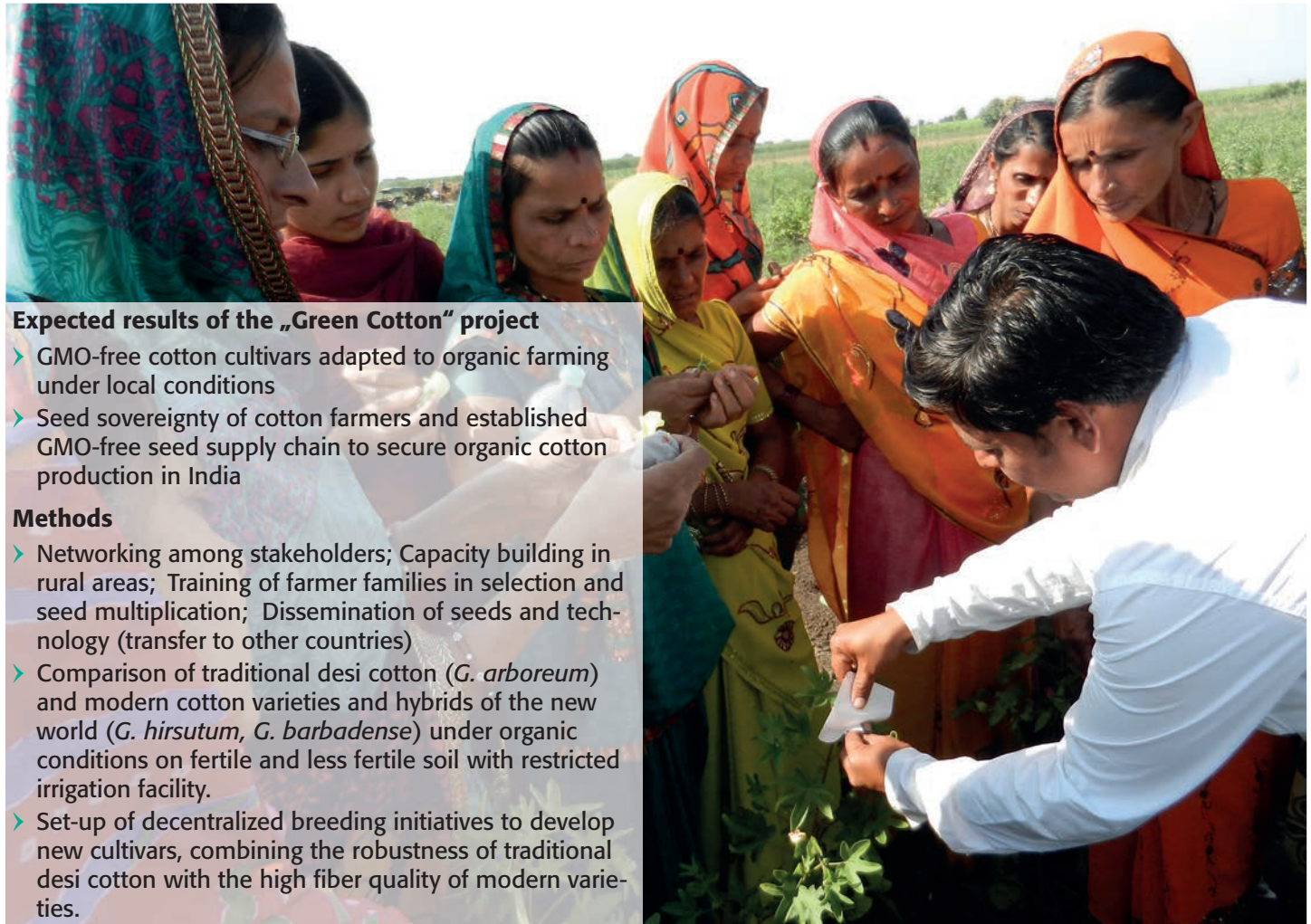


Green Cotton: Participative cotton breeding in India

The organic cotton production in India is threatened, because GMO-free seed is no longer available. FiBL together with bioRe Association, Chetna Organic and the University of Dharwad are supporting Indian peasant families to safeguard traditional cotton and improve GMO-free cotton cultivars.



Expected results of the „Green Cotton“ project

- GMO-free cotton cultivars adapted to organic farming under local conditions
- Seed sovereignty of cotton farmers and established GMO-free seed supply chain to secure organic cotton production in India

Methods

- Networking among stakeholders; Capacity building in rural areas; Training of farmer families in selection and seed multiplication; Dissemination of seeds and technology (transfer to other countries)
- Comparison of traditional desi cotton (*G. arboreum*) and modern cotton varieties and hybrids of the new world (*G. hirsutum*, *G. barbadense*) under organic conditions on fertile and less fertile soil with restricted irrigation facility.
- Set-up of decentralized breeding initiatives to develop new cultivars, combining the robustness of traditional desi cotton with the high fiber quality of modern varieties.



G. hirsutum
 The upland cotton accounts for more than 95 % of Indian cotton production.



G. barbadense
 Cotton variety with long fibers, but very sensitive to environmental stress



G. arboreum
 Robust, traditional Indian desi cotton variety with short fibres.



Evaluation and selection of cultivars



Workshop about seed security in March 2013

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Safeguarding the organic cotton production by securing non-GM seed supply

Are you interested to obtain more information, to join the project or to support us financially?
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