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Textile fibre from wood

The call for more sustainable alternatives within the fashion industry has never been clearer. Responsible brands are looking for ways to transition away from the widely used polyester and other synthetic fibres that rely on non-renewable fossil-based feedstocks. Cotton has earned a less favourable reputation due to its extensive use of arable land and water resources, rendering this natural fiber a less viable choice for future textiles.

Renewable cellulosic fibres have emerged as a solution. "Cellulose-based raw materials, such as viscose, have for some time already been an established part of the textile industry. However, there are sustainability concerns regarding the existing production methods. The industry is now focusing on innovative, emerging technologies for manufacturing man-made cellulosic fibres," describes Riikka Timonen, Vice President of New Markets and Biomaterials at Kemira. What sets cellulose apart as an exceptional raw material is not only its renewable, biodegradable, and safe nature, but also its versatility and potential for transformation. Harnessing this potential requires a deep chemistry know-how.

"Kemira has extensive expertise on cellulose modification, stemming from processes and products within the traditional pulp and paper industry. The chemical solutions necessary for manufacturing new cellulosic textile fibres are very similar to those used in papermaking."

"And thanks to our long background with paper chemistry, we know the cellulosic matrix very well and have the needed expertise to treat the fibres and adjust their durability and other characteristics so that they meet the needs of textile production." For example, Kemira has an array of hydrophobing agents that can be used to create resistance to moisture and water. These chemistries are based on renewable raw materials. (Source: www.kemira.com)