

# Empowering stakeholders for responsible global supply chains

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# Ethical Trade Norway

a resource centre for responsible business conduct

- Membership organization and multistakeholder initiative
- Individual member counseling, training, tools, resources
- Annual reporting on HREDD
- Network and exchange of good practice/challenges
- International and national partnerships and strategic collaboration
- Projects in production countries



215 members +



*«Together for trade that benefits people, animals, society and the environment»*



# Empowering stakeholders for responsible global supply chains (2021 – 2024)

- General objective: “Contribute to decent work and prosperity of the workers and smallholder farmers, in particular women, in the target sectors and countries of the projects”
- Funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad)
- Projects:
  - Eastern Cape Upliftment, Empowerment and Sustainability: wool and mohair in **South Africa**
  - Decent work, gender equality and climate resilience for RMG workers in **Bangladesh**
  - Strengthening sustainable practices in the **Ivorian** cashew nut sector



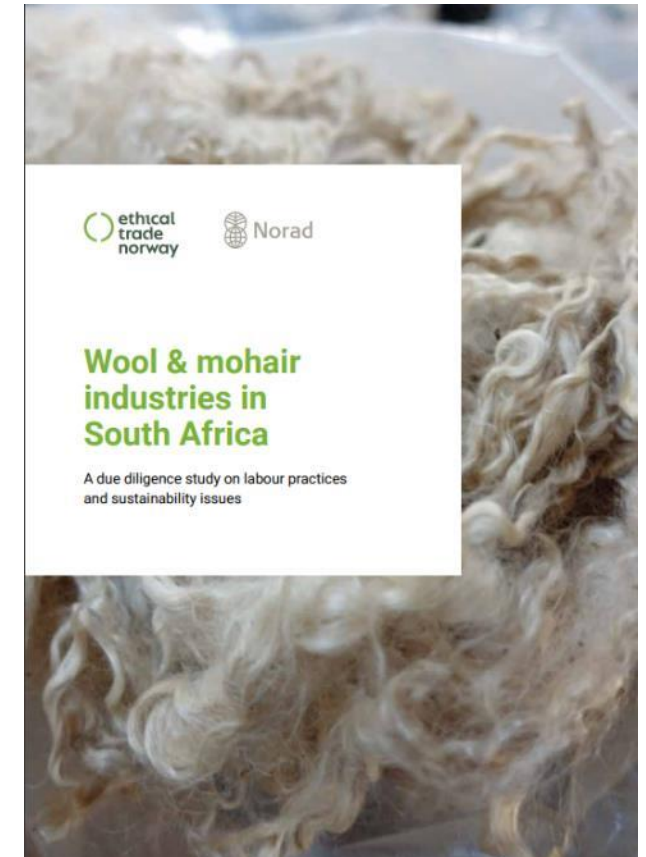
A group of people, including men and women, are working in a factory setting. They are surrounded by large piles of white wool. The workers are wearing aprons and some are wearing traditional headwear. The factory has a corrugated metal roof and wooden beams. The scene is brightly lit, and the workers appear to be focused on their tasks.

# Eastern Cape Upliftment, Empowerment and Sustainability



# Context: Wool and mohair sector in SA

- Due diligence study (2020):
  - Climate change, i.e. drought, has severe impact on livelihoods of farmers and sustainability
  - Fluctuating prices are a challenge in terms of living incomes
  - Productivity targets in shearing can affect animal welfare
  - Farmers' frustration with differing requirements of sustainability standards
  - Predators cause major losses
  - SA labor law offers good protection of workers, but unions are not active on farms.
  - Increasing use of casual workers and «short time» contracts
  - Communal farmers face additional issue, i.e. land rights



# Cooperating partner



- National Wool Growers Association (NWGA)
- Founded in 1926
- Organizes wool sheep producers to act on behalf of and in the interest of members on issues that have an effect on the producers, but also the industry as a whole
- Membership base : 4500 commercial and 20 000 communal members





# Objectives

- Better equip NWGA to support emerging farmers and their constituent farmers associations
- Strengthen participative representative structures of communal wool farmers, and increase participation of women
- Increase income of communal wool farmers through improved quality and increased volumes of wool production
- Improve sustainable farming practices of communal wool farmers and develop model for broader application in the region
- Capacity building of workers in wool processing factories and brokerage firms
- Encourage more sustainable farming practices through purchasing practices of ETN members





## Progress and achievements

- On-farm support and training of 600 farmers +++
  - Responsible Production Management System, climate resilience guidelines, business & farm management workshops +++
  - Production Advisors, 'Lead farmers', farmer networking groups and farmer study group
  - "Virtual vet" program
- Governance training and elections in shearing shed associations + more active participation of women and youth
- Improved record keeping and demonstrated improvement in average body condition of sheep
- 10 shearing sheds have received Sustainable Cape Wool Standard 'Certificate of Compliance' (= price premium on sold wool)

# Progress and achievements

- Partnership development and additional resource mobilization
- Training of workers in wool/mohair supply chain
- Dialogue forums w/ international buyers (brands) and SA producers
  - Traceability
  - Standards and certification schemes
  - Animal welfare
  - Climate change and environmental impacts
  - Consumer and market trends



# THANK YOU



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Relevant links:

- [More about the project \(Norwegian\)](#)
- [“10 shearing shed associations receive SCWS certification”](#)