

# Advancements in Cationic Cotton Technologies



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### Meet the Presenters



#### Matt Farrell Textile Chemistry Research Manager Cotton Incorporated



#### Esma Talu Marketing Manager & Sustainability Manager Dow





# Advancements in Cationic Cotton Technologies

### Basics of Cationic Cotton

- Previous Cationic Cotton Webinar: Subtle to Striped: Sustainable Fashion With Cationic Cotton, June 26, 2016.
- Cationic cotton refers to cotton that has been chemically modified to possess a permanent cationic (positive) charge
- Concept has been researched for ~50 years
- Ionic attraction of negatively charged dye to cationically charged cotton
- Negates the use of salt, reduces dyestuff, reduces process consumables, and can lead to overall lower costs

#### Conventional cotton

Natural negative charge repels dye and requires salt

![](_page_5_Picture_8.jpeg)

**Cationic cotton** Permanent positive charge attracts dye

![](_page_5_Picture_10.jpeg)

### Value to the Industry

If consumption trends continue, we'll need **3x as many natural resources** to produce clothing in 2050 compared to 2000.

Cationic cotton can play a key role in more sustainable textile production.

![](_page_6_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_6_Picture_4.jpeg)

#### Chemistry of Cationic Cotton Typical cationization reagent, 3-chloro-2hydroxypropyltrimethylammonium chloride (CHPTAC) "Quat 188"

![](_page_7_Figure_1.jpeg)

### Synthesis of CHPTAC

![](_page_8_Figure_1.jpeg)

Alternative non-volatile amines

- Low steric hindrance
- Minimal side reactions with EPI
- Economical

![](_page_8_Figure_6.jpeg)

Reducing Cotton's Dependence on Water for Coloration, AATCC 2018 ICE

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### Molecule Comparison

![](_page_9_Figure_1.jpeg)

**CHPTAC** Quat 188 CHPDMAP

![](_page_9_Picture_4.jpeg)

### ECOFAST™ Pure Textile Treatment

- Dow was approached for interest in producing the new molecule
- Dow shared their newly patented cationization molecule, BEDQ, tradename ECOFAST<sup>™</sup> Pure
- Also made from a non-volatile amine, bifunctional in reactivity and cationic sites
- No odor

![](_page_10_Figure_5.jpeg)

# Testing Cationic Cotton Treatments

![](_page_11_Picture_1.jpeg)

### Dyeing Comparison

- Initial applications to confirm product efficacy and no odor
- Presented at 2018 AATCC ICE, ECOFAST™ Pure officially launched

ntional eing	Black	Reactive Dyes	o.w.g.	Sodium Sulfate	Sodium Carobonate	Sodium Hydroxide
Conver Dye	Shade	Black	3.79%		3.0 g/L	3.5 g/L
		Orange	0.74%	90 g/L		
		Red	0.11%			
: Dyeing	Black	Reactive Dyes	o.w.g.	Sodium Sulfate	Sodium Carobonate	Sodium Hydroxide
onic	Shade	Black	2.46%			
atic		Orange	0.48%	N/A	1.5 g/L	1.75 g/L
0		Red	0.07%			

- 33% Less Dye
- No Salt
- 50% Less Alkali
- 20% Time Savings
- 2 less rinses\*

### Dyebath Comparison

• Improved dye use efficiency and less water use in rinses

Conventional

![](_page_13_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_13_Picture_4.jpeg)

![](_page_13_Picture_5.jpeg)

![](_page_13_Picture_6.jpeg)

**BEDQ** ECOFAST™ Pure

![](_page_13_Picture_8.jpeg)

### Increased Collaboration for Impact

- Cotton Incorporated and Dow have collaborated to explore and validate ECOFAST<sup>™</sup> Pure, including comparison to Quat-188
- Analytically evaluated ECOFAST Pure vs Quat 188 in cold pad batch, pad steam, exhaust, and pad dry cure processes
  - ECOFAST Pure outperforms and improves cationization efficiency in all processes
- Evaluated nitrogen both by Kjehldahl and combustion techniques
- Evaluated effect of wet pick up on cationization efficiency
- Collaborated to build Dow's kinetic calculator

![](_page_14_Picture_7.jpeg)

### Cold Pad Batch Comparison

![](_page_15_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_15_Picture_2.jpeg)

#### Cold Pad Batch Dyeability Is there a difference in dyeability?

With limited dyes evaluated, have not observed appreciable blocking effects

![](_page_16_Figure_2.jpeg)

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### Validating the Benefits

**ECOFAST™** Pure enables...

![](_page_17_Picture_2.jpeg)

dye

water

energy

Key Life Cycle Assessment Insight

> BIG INNOVATION 20 20

#### 63% GHG emissions when using ECOFAST™ Pure

#### Other considerations

- Optimized with pad application
- Registered at **ZDHC** Gateway
- Meets MRSL standards

![](_page_17_Picture_12.jpeg)

# Addressing Common Concerns with Cationic Cotton

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### Challenges Utilizing Pre-Cationized Cotton

- Purchasing pre-cationized fiber can be an attractive alternative to fabric treatment
- Dark shades such as black or navy may only require a simple scour for, bright shades and/or performance requirements may dictate a bleach preparation
  - Typical bleach formulas and process over-activate hydrogen peroxide species causing extensive fiber damage, loss of dyeability, and low whiteness index
- Without the ability to control the treatment levels, and in general, the cationization may work "too well" in attracting dyestuffs
  - Quick strike of dyes onto cationic cotton can cause unlevel dyeings, splotchy appearances, and may impact fastness properties

![](_page_19_Picture_6.jpeg)

# Investigating the Bleaching of Pre-Cationized Cotton

Table I. Effect of Ble	aching Tempe	rature on Catio	onized Cotton	Fabric			
Cotton Fabric	Bleaching Temperature	Bath after Bleaching		Final Fabric Properties			
		% NaOH Consumption	% H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> Consumption	WI-CIE	Burst (PSI)	% Strength Loss	
Uncationized	Greige	5	-	9.5	81.3	-	
	100 °C	32	51	82.0	90.0	-10.7	
Cationized	Greige		_	20.3	63.2		
	100 °C	82	94	50.5	30.1	52.4	
	90 °C	72	90	52.0	30.2	52.2	
	80 °C	54	67	53.2	38.4	39.2	
	70°C	42	44	49.2	41.9	33.7	
	60 °C	37	31	43.8	50.3	20.4	

- Statistical analysis of design of experiments with factors including bleach temperature, time, concentration of caustic and hydrogen peroxide and magnesium sulfate
- Responses included whiteness index, burst strength, and dyeability

### Key Considerations for Bleaching Pre-Cationized Cotton

- Direct input of magnesium sulfate (Epsom salt) key in quenching over activation of peroxide system
- Difficult to increase whiteness, burst strength, and dyeability responses at once
- 3-7 g/L of  $H_2O_2$  and 0.5-1 g/L of MgSO<sub>4</sub> are suggested in consideration of all responses
- Other factors including time, temperature, and caustic determined by fabric requirements

![](_page_21_Picture_6.jpeg)

### **Bleaching Visualization**

Table III. Effect of Mg	SO4 on B	leaching Catio	nized Cotton F	abric		
Bleaching Temperature	MgSO Conc. (g/L)	Bath after Bleaching		<b>Bleached Fabric Properties</b>		
		% NaOH Consumption	% H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> Consumption	WI-CIE	Burst (PSI)	% K/S <sub>dyeing</sub>
100 °C	0	82	94	50.5	30.1	81.5
	0.5	46	27	64.4	58.0	90.9
90 °C	0	72	90	52.0	30.2	82.5
	0.5	41	18	59.6	61.8	95.8

![](_page_22_Picture_3.jpeg)

# Controlling Strike Rate by Process Changes

- The influence of temperature, dye structure, and addition of soda ash on dyeing kinetics and levelness of cationized cotton were evaluated utilizing real-time dyebath monitoring
- For most of the dyes, significantly better dyeing levelness was obtained by lowering the dyeing temperature although the strike rate was minimally slowed
- Addition of soda ash has different effects on dyeing kinetics and levelness for different dyes
  - For VS-MCT dyes, the addition of soda ash has a relatively small influence on the dyeing performance.
  - For MCT-MCT dyes, eliminating soda ash from the initial dyebath significantly reduced the dye strike rate and improved dyeing levelness.

![](_page_24_Figure_0.jpeg)

Cellulose DOI 10.1007/s10570-016-1008-9

![](_page_24_Picture_2.jpeg)

### Controlling Strike Rate by Chemical Means

![](_page_25_Figure_1.jpeg)

Fig. 12 Cationic cotton fabrics dyed with different leveling agents

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### Key Recommendations for Strike Rate

![](_page_26_Picture_1.jpeg)

 Naphthalene sulfonate formaldehyde condensate is key component to allow dye retardation, obtain levelness, but still obtain near complete exhaustion

- Dye exhaustion temperature as low as possible
- Add soda ash late in process
- Utilize condensate levelling agent
- Add dye in parts or progressively

Cellulose (2017) 24:3061-3071 DOI 10.1007/s10570-017-1291-0

![](_page_26_Picture_8.jpeg)

![](_page_27_Figure_0.jpeg)

Table 7 The effect of adding dyes in portions on dyeing cationized cotton with Reactive Red 239

Addition of dye	Conc. of	Dye exhaustion monitoring			Dyed cationized cotton		
	INVALON DAM	Initial rate (%/min)	Max. rate (%/min)	Final exhaustion (%)	Dyed cationized   L* K/S   40.71 13.9   42.59 11.1   40.31 15.8	K/S	Levelness (o)
All in	No leveling agent	36.8	11.1	99.0	40.71	13.95	0.678
	20%	15.3	5.8	95.5	42.59	11.14	0.318
Add in 4 portions	No leveling agent	8.1	6.2	98.3	40.31	15.81	0.796
	20%	3.2	2.1	98.3	41,80	12.12	0.217

![](_page_28_Picture_0.jpeg)

# Advancements in Cationic Cotton Technologies

#### Cationic Cotton

Topics > Sourcing & Manufacturing > Dyeing

![](_page_29_Picture_3.jpeg)

affinity, colorfastness, color flexibility, and guick replenishment b consumer demand. The cationization chemistry is REACH registe the application of cationic reagent chemistry to cotton can transf

#### What is Cationic Cotton?

Cationic cotton is cotton that has been chemically modified to possess a permanent cationic, or positive, charge. Although the concept of cationic treated cotton has been available for many years, this innovative technology has continued to grow in popularity among companies exploring ways to reduce water, energy and chemical consumption in the development of their products, while also seeking ways to increase responsiveness to consumer fashion demands with more versatile and on-trend fashion offerings.

When immersed in water, cotton naturally possesses a neutral or mildly negative charge. Common dyes used for cotton also possess a negative charge. Like common poles of magnets, the same charges repel each other. Therefore, in typical dyeing of cotton, salt and alkali are used in the dyebath to reverse the charge on cotton so that it has a positive charge, allowing the dyes to react and bond to the cotton. Cationic treated cotton is chemically modified to possess a permanent cationic,

#### Cationic Design Possibilities

Cationic cotton technology prepares the fabric to accept a greater variety of dyes and provides for greater flexibility in the color offerings. Unique designs can be achieved by altering the level of cationization (higher - deeper color) and creating fabrics using both cationized and conventional cotton in the same fabric. Altering the level of cationization can help create tonal effects in the fabric, while blending with non-cationized yarn creates areas that do not take the dye, yielding clean crisp lines. Yarn dye effects can also be created with alternating cationic and In the textile dyeing process, there are significant challenges relanoncationic varns. Cationic cotton can be used for 100% cotton or blended yarns.

#### TRADITIONAL COTTON DYEING Cotton Fiber

![](_page_29_Figure_11.jpeg)

![](_page_29_Figure_12.jpeg)

**Cationic Treated** Fiber Reactive **Cotton Fiber** 

![](_page_29_Picture_14.jpeg)

![](_page_29_Picture_15.jpeg)

#### pred warps

or and white

Print effects

#### **Cationic Cotton**

Learn more about cationic cotton on CottonWorks<sup>™</sup>.

#### Go to cottonworks.com/ cationic-cotton.

![](_page_29_Figure_21.jpeg)

![](_page_30_Figure_0.jpeg)

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#### Go to cottonworks.com/ fabricast.

![](_page_31_Picture_0.jpeg)

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# Advancements in Cationic Cotton Technologies

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