

TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION IN CIRCULAR FASHION

A SUMMARY

DEFINING CIRCULARITY



- The panel defined circularity from a technical perspective as a regenerative system in which resources, inputs, and energy are minimized.
- In addition, waste is a key component. It's essential to eliminate waste from the process, recapture value, and make new materials out of waste or have existing processes use that waste.

LANDSCAPE



- Speakers took us through various startups in the circular technology for the fashion field and highlighted what technologies are in demand in the industry, namely chemical and mechanical recycling.
- Some categories of promising materials innovation: chemically recycled textile waste into materials, post-agricultural waste into materials, and more.

FINANCING THE TRANSITION IS A KEY CHALLENGE



- Ms. Priyanka Khanna and Mr. Karan Kumar highlighted the need for tests and pilots to identify the right tech.
- Brands are usually driven by policy push, and then industry push drives the supply chain to be more sustainable.

LONG-TERM COMMITMENT KEY TO BUILDING TRUST



- Ms. Gauri Sharma and Dr. Deepti Gupta spoke about the need for long-term commitments to innovation projects between brands and suppliers in an atmosphere of trust to move to a circular economy in fashion.

INNOVATION IN NATURAL DYES AND MULTIFUNCTIONAL FINISHES



- Dr. Deepti Gupta highlighted that waste materials can be used for natural dyes and multifunctional finishes but they require investment in a completely different ecosystem.
- The strong antimicrobial properties in many dyes give multifunctional finishes. Eg. Wastes like chitosan (a polycationic molecule in waste shells of crustaceans) can be a substitute for synthetic antimicrobial agents.