Oil-based feedstock used in European production of MMF amounts to less than 0.1% of world oil production.

Many MMF are produced from renewable natural resources such as trees.

Use of recycled materials as a raw material source for MMF is large and growing, including factory waste, PET plastic bottles, fishing nets, carpets, and other types of post-consumer waste from textiles and other sectors.

A small but growing proportion of MMF production is based on innovative raw material sources such as corn or vegetable oil, and may move to biomass in future.

Production facilities occupy little land and use very little water compared with alternative natural fibres requiring large quantities for irrigation and processing - no fertilizers and pesticides.

A large proportion of man-made fibres is dyed or delustered during the production process, avoiding the need for water and energy-intensive dyeing at a later stage.

Desirable characteristics such as flame retardancy, antimicrobial and anti-odour properties can be permanently built in during production and inherently embedded in the fibre, avoiding the use of resource-intensive processing at a later stage and emissions to the environment from textile article treatments, and introducing less dermal contact of surface-applied substances.
• Certain types of MMF are biodegradable

• Concentration on production efficiency and quality by European MMF manufacturers is very high, resulting in a great reduction of waste during processing

• MMF are easy to recycle through mechanical recycling, chemical recycling and glycolisis

• If necessary, textile waste which cannot be recycled (including post-consumer waste) can be efficiently incinerated with electricity and heat recovery, because of the high calorific value of MMF

• Most MMF can be processed at lower temperatures than alternative materials, with large energy savings

• All European MMF producers respect strict European, national and local limits on water and air emissions, on employee exposure levels and on chemical safety (under REACH) - European regulations are among the strictest in the world

• All European MMF producers have invested heavily to cut their energy consumption, thereby considerably reducing carbon emissions

• MMF are durable, and can be developed for even higher durability at an acceptable cost, giving longer product life to apparel and household textiles, and a wide variety of technical uses

• MMF are light in weight and can be efficiently packed, allowing savings on resource use and transport costs

• MMF can be laundered at low temperatures, with large energy savings

• Ultra-high strength MMF such as carbon fibres can replace other much heavier materials such as steel

• MMF reinforcement of composites allows dramatic weight savings in aircraft, cars, trains, wind turbines, and containers

• MMF play an essential role in geotextiles for flood prevention, land slides and civil engineering projects

• MMF in agrotextiles help to protect food crops from adverse weather conditions, increasing yields and reducing food spoilage

• MMF are necessary in filtration to remove pollutants from air and water emissions

• MMF in medical textiles can accelerate the healing process (wounding, fixation) and are used in hygiene in a wide area of medical environments

CONTACT

CIRFS
40, rue Belliard
1040 Brussels
Belgium

Tel: +32 2 436 96 35
Fax: +32 2 436 96 38
secretariat@cirfs.org
www.cirfs.org