Since 1971, Turkish textile maker Soktas has been researching the unique qualities of cotton, using its knowledge to create the softest yarns. Today Soktas fabrics are favoured globally by top designers and tailors thanks to the creative minds and skillful hands of its 1,200-strong team in Soke, home to an integrated process of spinning, weaving, dyeing and finishing.

While technology has made much of the company's environmental achievement possible, Soktas is driven by a pride in the cotton-producing farmlands of the Meander Valley. The company sees its role as a steward of the ecosystem rather than a conventional producer, planting trees and encouraging the natural habitat to thrive. “We have to protect and maintain the landscape for future generations,” says Soktas CEO Muharrem Kayhan. “Environmental sustainability is a personal affair; we do it from the heart.”

Sustainability
As a family-run business with deep roots in the western Aegean region of Turkey, the business of sustainability has always been a personal endeavour for Soktas. The company oversees thousands of acres of farmland and has been pursuing an ecological ethos for many years. Using the basic principles of “reduce, re-use, recycle and protect”, Soktas has met international benchmarks such as the Global Organic Textile Standard, the world’s leading processing standard for organic fabric. Long-term investment in climate-smart production facilities and waste disposal systems has made these standards possible. That includes the uniquely designed software-systems control, optimum lighting and heating ventilation at HQ and careful agricultural irrigation techniques.

In 2012 the renovation of the Ilyas Bey complex was the recipient of the Europa Nostra Conservation award, an EU-backed prize designed to commend heritage projects that inspire while bringing social and economic value to the community around them.

Soktas works with some of the world’s leading fashion labels.