Water & Solid Waste Expo 2023

Theme: Sustainability Solutions

17 February 2023 | 1430-1630 hrs

Hall H3, A3 Mezzanine, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi

Outcome Report

Agenda

Time	Session
1400 hrs onwards	**Registration**
1430-1530 hrs	**Plastic Waste: Can Businesses and Citizens Work Together?** All of us use plastics and are responsible for generating plastic waste. Can't we also be part of a solution? Join us to learn about what's happening and share your thoughts. **Chair & Moderator** • Dr Nandini Kumar, Senior Consultant, CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development **Panellist** • Mr Ankit Gupta, General Manager Sustainability, ITC Ltd • Ms Shruti Sinha, Manager Capacity and Outreach, Chintan Environmental Research and Action Group India • Mr Rajesh Pahwa, Founder and CEO, 21 Century Polymers • Mr Rahul Nene, Head Sustainability, Huhtamaki Flexible Packaging India • Ms Kamna Swami, Project Manager, GIZ India
1530-1630 hrs	**Actionable Solutions for Clean Air** Air quality has become the biggest environmental health issue facing the planet. Also, air pollution is highly complex and expensive to tackle, especially for low-middle income countries. Hence, there is a clear need to develop actionable and cost-effective solutions that help monitor, plan, manage and control air pollution at its sources better. This session will highlight emerging actionable solutions some of which are also being showcased at IETF. **Chair & Moderator** • Mr Mohit Sharma, Senior Counsellor, CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development **Panellist** • Mr Sukhmeet Singh, Founder & CEO, A2P • Mr Ravi Kaushik, Environmental Scientist, AIRTH • Mr Kunal Soni, Deputy Segment Head-Process & Environmental, Horiba India Pvt. Ltd. • Mr Vijay Kumar, Managing Director, Swan Environmental Pvt. Ltd

Overview

This is a crucial decade; the world's environmental emergencies are as pressing as ever. The impacts of climate change and pollution have already caused immense suffering globally and harbour further vulnerabilities for the global economy. The action taken in these years will be critical for the planet and people. Radical re-thinking, re-imagining, re-engineering sustainable and long-term solutions is the way to move towards the future. With this background, the sessions were focused on the sustainability solutions that can support to build a sustainable future. These sessions were a part of the Water & Solid Waste Expo 2023 that was organised under the 25th International Engineering and Technology Fair (IETF).

Plastic Waste: Can Businesses and Citizens Work Together?

L to R: Dr Nandini Kumar, Senior Consultant, CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development; Ms Kamna Swami, Project Manager, GIZ India; Mr Ankit Gupta, General Manager Sustainability, ITC Ltd; Mr Rajesh Pahwa, Founder and CEO, 21 Century Polymers; Mr Rahul Nene, Head Sustainability, Huhtamaki Flexible Packaging India; Ms Shruti Sinha, Manager Capacity and Outreach, Chintan Environmental Research and Action Group India

Citizens and businesses, though viewed separately, are intrinsically dependent on each other. Citizens need goods and services provided by businesses, while businesses cannot function without citizens. Therefore, there is need for them to work together to create solutions that address the environmental impacts arising from their actions.

It is here that voluntary initiatives such as the India Plastics Pact, hosted at CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development, comes into play. The Pact is a business-led platform that brings together stakeholders from across the plastics value chain, to meet targets designed to create a circular economy for plastic packaging in India.

Challenges

- A lack of scientific understanding of plastic waste management among stakeholders
- Lack of basic facilities for waste segregation, such as Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) in various parts of the country
- Informal waste workers face discrimination and are usually not included in social security, income security, and economic empowerment schemes
- Difficulty in recycling mixed plastic waste streams, especially multi-layer plastics (MLPs)
- Lack of transparency and accountability in plastic waste management practices
- Lack of information on the ground realities of plastic waste management in India, such as the collection rates, price for recycled plastics, and price points for waste collectors.
- Lack of end-markets for recycled plastics, especially recycled flexible packaging
- Lack of awareness and will among citizens to use alternative business models for goods and services
- A lack of understanding among citizens on how to support industries and government bodies in creating integrated solutions for waste management

Solutions

- Waste management models need people-centric approach, which will lead to inclusivity and economic empowerment of waste collectors, and creates profitability in plastic waste management
- It is important to build a value chain for recycled plastic, and a way this is done is by optimizing current recycling practices and processes, which will build confidence among stakeholders in the plastics value chain to utilize recycled plastic for their needs
- Increased capacity-building among public and private stakeholders on the scientific ways to reduce plastic waste through actions such as awareness campaigns, linkages with local actors to implement new interventions, and supporting policy actions on plastic waste management systems
- Establishing infrastructure for effective waste management
- Create uniformity in design and composition of plastic packaging to optimize recycling processes and increase recycling efficiencies
- Encouraging material innovations and improved packaging designs to move away from MLPs
- Research and development on recycling machinery to separate individual MLP layers
- Establish reuse-refill centers across the country, piloting different payment mechanisms such as through barter systems (products in exchange of plastic waste).
- Efficient and effective decision-making processes supported by ground-level data and evidence collected through studies

- Drive behavior change campaigns at scale to increase awareness and engagement among relevant stakeholders
- Improved enforcement of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) rules
- Implement a scientific approach for solutions to achieve circular economy, by all stakeholders across the value chain
- Implementing integrated solutions that will connect businesses, citizens, and government bodies, to create a participatory approach to waste management

Actionable Solutions for Clean Air

L to R: Mr Ravi Kaushik, Environmental Scientist, AIRTH; Mr Kunal Soni, Deputy Segment Head-Process & Environmental, Horiba India Pvt. Ltd.; Mr Mohit Sharma, Senior Counsellor, CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development; Mr Sukhmeet Singh, Founder & CEO, A2P; Mr Vijay Kumar, Managing Director, Swan Environmental Pvt. Ltd

The discussion highlighted the role of actionable solutions to address the problem of air pollution. Participants agreed that there is an urgent need for a multi-faceted approach to tackle this problem. By adopting new innovative and practical solutions, cleaner technologies, the implementation of stricter regulations etc. can demonstrate change on the ground addressing air pollution. Participants also emphasized the importance of creating awareness and educating people on clean air and the need to take proactive measures in individual capacities. Overall, the discussion underscored the critical role that collective action could play in mitigating the effects of air pollution and creating a cleaner and healthier environment for all.

Challenges

- A lack of consistent policies and standards has hindered the scaling of clean technologies, making it difficult to measure their economic feasibility and deploy them nationwide.
- The current regulatory framework is outdated and only covers traditional forms of industrial air pollution.
- Quantifying the investments and returns associated with improving air quality has been a challenge.
- Managing and mitigating air pollution requires significant capital expenditures and collaboration among all stakeholders.
- Green and renewable technologies have yet to gain significant traction.

Solutions

- Expanding tangible solutions to address energy security and emission reduction goals at a larger scale.
- Opportunities arise for stakeholders due to government policies promoting fuel blending, electric mobility, and the emerging hydrogen ecosystem.
- The development of affordable technologies and models for managing and mitigating air pollution, along with sustainable value chains and crop residue management, can have significant economic and holistic benefits at a larger scale.
- The policy framework for air quality needs to be re-evaluated and integrated with socio-economic factors to enable scaling of solutions.

CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development

CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development is a not-for-profit, industry-led institution that helps business become sustainable organisations. It is on a mission to catalyse innovative ideas and solutions, in India, and globally, to enable business, and its stakeholders, in sustainable value creation. It's knowledge, action and recognition activities enable companies to be future ready, improve footprints profiles, and advocate policymakers and legislators to improve standards of sustainable business through domestic and global policy interventions.

CESD leverages its role of all-inclusive ecosystem player, partnering industry, government, and civil society. It has been a pioneer of environment management systems, biodiversity mapping, sustainability reporting, integrated reporting, and social & natural capital valuation in India, thus upgrading business in India to sustainable competitiveness.

CESD operates across the country and has also been active in parts of South and Southeast Asia, Middle East, and Africa. It has held institutional partnerships and memberships of the United Nations Global Compact, Global Reporting Initiative, International Integrated Reporting Council, Carbon Disclosure Project, development agencies of Canada, the USA, the UK, and Germany.

CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development

Thapar House, 2nd Floor, 124, Janpath New Delhi

3rd Floor, Andhra Association, 24/25 Institutional Area Lodhi Road, New Delhi 110003

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