





Annual Report 2020



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To catalyse innovative ideas and solutions, in India, and globally, to enable business, and its stakeholders, in sustainable value creation.

Be a global leader, in thought and action, to drive transformation, towards sustainable development.

Messages



Mr Sanjiv Puri Chairman, Advisory Council, CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development and Chairman & Managing Director, ITC Ltd

The Centre has been in existence for more than 15 years now. During this period, it has emerged as a strong and all-inclusive ecosystem player by partnering industry, government, and civil society to address critical sustainability challenges. It is now poised to take the next big step with the formation of a Working Group of committed CEOs to accelerate climate action by Indian industry in close collaboration with CII councils and sectoral committees

The remorseless spread of the COVID-19 virus over the past year has caused an unimaginable crisis across the globe. Never before, in recent history, have we encountered a challenge of this dimension that has so profoundly touched almost every human on this planet. Today, therefore, it is even more essential that businesses, as significant economic organs of society, act with compassion to mitigate hardships in the short run and embed societal value creation, particularly livelihood generation, in their strategies to rebuild the future.

Even before the pandemic, the world was in the throes of a sustainability crisis with increasing frequency of extreme weather events, climate change induced vulnerabilities, poverty, hunger and the mammoth challenge of creating gainful livelihoods for millions of youth. Climate change had been flagged as the top 5 long-term risks in the Global Risk Report 2020 of the World Economic Forum. Even as this grim scenario unfolded, the pandemic aggravated the situation by causing havoc to livelihoods across nations, making it the most critical sustainability issue today.

Going forward, the twin challenges of climate change and livelihoods will require businesses to explore new paradigms of growth. These future-ready growth models will need to synergise competitiveness with action plans to move towards a carbon-neutral eco-system and also generate sustainable livelihoods. Indeed, in enlightened stakeholder interest and to build a robust enterprise of tomorrow, businesses will need to proactively embed sustainability and inclusiveness in their core strategy and play a transformative role in securing the future of generations to come.

It is here that the CII-ITC Centre of Excellence's role assumes great importance in driving sustainable and inclusive development pathways. Accordingly, the Centre repurposed its portfolio during the year to focus on mitigation and adaptation measures to combat climate change and promote greater resilience. The Centre is also developing research and guidance on low carbon pathways, systems transformation and circular economy to ensure that new investments do not lock us in a high carbon future. Equally critical has been its work in helping companies to identify

human rights risks and conducting human rights due diligence to align themselves to the United Nations Guiding Principles (UNGPs), NGRBC and BRR.

The one redeeming feature, amongst all the despair caused by the pandemic, was the remarkable evidence of nature healing herself, albeit for a brief period, during the initial phase of the lockdown. The changes were palpable - cleaner air and water, flourishing biodiversity, reduced waste generation and, of course, reduction in GHG emissions. This highlights the fact that, with concerted action, environmental degradation can indeed be addressed. To ensure that we build on these gains, the Centre laid greater focus on air pollution, waste management, plastics use reduction, resource efficiency and industry's impact on nature during the year.

The Centre's work on ESG with companies has been equally significant, with ESG consulting and advisory on internal controls and framework and ESG Disclosures based on indices such as DJSI, MSCI, TCFD, CDP given sharper emphasis. A new training and capacity building programme on ESG Framework and Metrics was also introduced during the year.

The Centre has been in existence for more than 15 years now. During this period, it has emerged as a strong and all-inclusive ecosystem player by partnering industry, government, and civil society to address critical sustainability challenges. It is now poised to take the next big step with the formation of a Working Group of committed CEOs to accelerate climate action by Indian industry in close collaboration with CII councils and sectoral committees. A Declaration followed by a Vision document on climate and sustainability, and a platform to link these initiatives with NDCs will, I am sure, spur collective action on a large scale. There is thus little doubt in my mind that the Centre will be instrumental in raising our shared ambition to make significant contributions to the efforts of the Indian government to promote sustainable and equitable growth in the country.

I hope you will find our second Annual Report useful and informative



Mr Chandrajit Banerjee

Director General

Confederation of Indian Industry

The Centre developed the Plastics-use Protocol: Verification and Certification (1.0) which was reviewed by five independent experts from industry and research organisations. This was rolled out and adopted by around 15 company sites, with more than 70 site locations in progress, and promises to be a useful guidance document. More advanced versions will now be undertaken. We believe that this is the first of its kind in India

Though its Centres of Excellence, CII has embarked on a mission to promote sustainable growth of Indian Industry across sectors, and environmental sustainability has consistently been a thematic pillar over the years. During 2020, the theme of Mother Nature has been a critical plank of its overall theme of 'Building India for a New World: Lives, Livelihood, Growth'. As underscored by the Covid-19 pandemic, there is a direct link between the natural world and healthcare outcomes, highlighting the role of protecting and restoring nature in preventing future pandemics.

The CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development (CESD) has aligned its initiatives to the theme of Mother Nature and repurposed its portfolio to make this context even more relevant in the pandemic. Taking this focus forward with industry members, and covering all important macro challenges such as air pollution and plastics, among others, the Centre found innovative ways to work in various formats virtually and adapt and greatly transform its approach.

An important track during the year was conclusive scientific studies to help industry stay on course for addressing long-term challenges such as climate change, circular economy, biodiversity conservation, plastics-use, air pollution, human rights, etc. Some notable studies of the year covered the automotive sector, impact of climate change on the spice sector and the Circular Plastics Strategy Document.

During this unprecedented year, CESD adapted training programmes to help address systematic sustainable changes by combining synergetic topics. With respect to advisory services, site assessments for Awards and work with farmers on air pollution, all activities were carried out online. Being online increased interaction triple fold in terms of people participating, while bringing in efficiencies and increasing productivity.

Several new online training programmes were launched in 2020 and some especially in the context of businesses and Covid-19 for responsible business conduct and workplace management. Other important programmes included ESG Framework & Metrics, Advanced Course on Climate Change

and CII-IBBI Certified Training on Valuing Business & Nature Relationship.

Despite the pandemic and its constraints, an important achievement was made by the Centre in response to the growing challenge posed by plastic waste management the world over. The Centre developed the Plastics-use Protocol: Verification and Certification (1.0) which was reviewed by five independent experts from industry and research organisations. This was rolled out and adopted by around 15 company sites, with more than 70 site locations in progress, and promises to be a useful guidance document. More advanced versions will now be undertaken. We believe that this is the first of its kind in India.

The Centre continued to engage with the Government on important issues with respect to Plastics, National Action Plan on Human Rights, and Corporate Reporting Frameworks as well as Air Pollution. Its insights, inputs and evidence have been reflected in policy decisions.

Collaboration is of utmost importance for the successful implementation of all our initiatives and involvement of relevant and significant stakeholders comprises a large part of the Centre's endeavours. CESD's partnerships with international organisations played an important role in the year gone by. Among other projects, a significant one is an Indian Business Position Paper showcasing Indian Industry commitments and recommendations towards the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework that has been submitted to the UN Convention on Biodiversity (CBD). The paper presents the commitments of Indian businesses towards achieving the CBD's 2050 Vision of "Living in Harmony with Nature" and strengthening the development of the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. This was developed in partnership with WWF and GIZ, through multi stakeholder consultations. The Centre also continued to collaborate actively with UNEP and UNDP with respect to its work on plastics and biodiversity.

I invite you to gain insights about the Centre's sustainability vision through this Annual Report, which documents the CESD journey through 2020.



Climate Change

Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency

Biodiversity and Nature

Resilient Business and Society



Climate Change

Along with inventorising greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions for small and large companies alike, carbon sequestration studies and setting science-based targets is undertaken

The Centre has been supporting Indian Industry to combat climate change and build climate resilience via various endeavours. Along with inventorising greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions for small and large companies alike, carbon sequestration studies, setting science-based targets, working with supply chains for reducing their GHG impacts, the Centre also conducts sector-wise sensitization and awareness sessions on global climate policies and specifically, challenges facing India.





- GHG Accounting
- Internal Carbon Pricing
- Developing Science-based Targets
- Carbon Sequestration
- Climate risk assessment and managment

- MSMEs
- Spice & Agriculture
- Mines & Minerals
- Automobile

Climate Action Programme (CAP) 2.0°

CAP 2.0° aims at raising the bar on corporate climate action and building climate resilience of Indian businesses

Instituted by the Centre with support from DSM India Private Limited in 2018, CAP 2.0° aims at raising the bar on corporate climate action and building climate resilience of Indian businesses. Each corporate applicant is assessed using the Climate Maturity Model in terms of both, the transition to low-carbon technologies, processes, and business models, as well as the identification and management of risks posed by climate change on business operations.

CAP 2.0° in 2019-2020





36 Large Corporate Participants



20 Assessors Trained



150 MSMEs Trained



5 Companies Recognised

Infosys received the CAP 2.0° Resilient award from the Service Sector. CAP 2.0° Oriented awards were presented to JSW Steel - Dolvi Plant, ACC Limited and TATA Steel in the Energy, Mining and Heavy Manufacturing Sectors while Delhi International Airport Limited from the Infrastructure Sector received the CAP 20° Oriented award. The virtual ceremony was attended by 500 participants and included distinguished CEOs, Jury and CAP 2.0° Assessors.

Winners of CAP 2.00















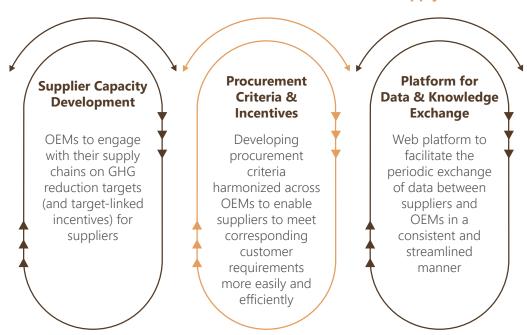
Publication

Promoting Sustainable Corporate Procurement Practices in India's Manufacturing Sector: Baseline Study for the Automobile Sector

- Awareness level of climate risk and NDCs is low among the automobile sector suppliers
- Only 4% of tier 1 and 3% of tier 2 companies calculate and maintain an inventory of GHG emissions.
 None of the tier 3 companies were aware of GHG inventory



Recommendations for OEMs to Address Climate Risk in Supply Chain



Discussion Paper: Inclusive and Green Transformation of Manufacturing Sector in India

A large number of industries in India have started working towards implementation of Green Manufacturing because of heightened concerns around increase in pollution, depletion of natural resources and global warming. The emergence of new technologies, digitalization, ZED scheme, innovative banking and energy-efficient production ensures a better future for our manufacturing sector. Waste minimization, water conservation and use of renewable energyresources are the key areas which needs to be focused upon. Businesses across all industries are incorporating sustainability into their business model, nurturing the development of sustainable manufacturing.

However, there lies a huge opportunity with the MSMEs, that have not yet ventured much into this concept. The World Economic Forum (WEF) has ranked India at 30th position on a global manufacturing index, which indicates India has room for improvement across the drivers of production. Human capital and sustainable resources are the two key challenges for

India. The country needs to raise the capabilities of its relatively young and fast-growing labour force.

Aim of discussion paper to be brought out by the Centre is to develop a policy brief based on the appraisal of the key macro drivers for development of the manufacturing economy and employment creation in India to identify and assess high impact opportunities to initiate the transition towards inclusive, green economy.



Interventions for Green Transition



Lever of Changes

- Greening of industry: Improving water, energy and material efficiency
- Decarbonizing industrial energy use: Increasing renewables and exploring alternative technologies such as hydrogen fuel and Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage
- "New" green industry: Marketing sustainable and green products through demand side pressures by standards & labels, certifications and green procurement

- Market demand: Opportunity to raise demand in a manner that can assist in a long-term transition towards green manufacturing.
- Industry and technology: Expand the application of existing green technologies and adapt to newer modes of operation to lead the green transformation.
- **Finance:** Access to finance for all scales and modes of operation.
- Labour: With the transition to green manufacturing, the type of jobs in the economy might transform and it is important to make the transition in a just and inclusive manner

CII Climate Change Council

Three working groups to create awareness on climate change risk and developing recommendations for policy interventions

The Centre is the secretariat to the Climate Change Council, a high-level industry body convened by CII to spearhead climate policy advocacy and supporting Indian businesses in adapting to climate change risks.

In 2020 three working groups were established under council to create sectoral awareness on climate change risk and developing recommendation for policy interventions. The working groups comprised of industry professionals, sector experts and research institutions.

Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)

Carbon Border ▶ Working group's purpose was to understand and address Europe's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism and its impacts on Indian industry

> Business consultation was undertaken to document the awareness level of Indian businesses on the mechanism to map challenges and opportunities

Alliance for **▷ Sustainable Agriculture** (ASA)

ASA proposes more integrated approaches to the closely linked challenges of productivity, development and climate change adaptation/mitigation, and food security, to enable India to identify options with maximum benefits and those where trade-offs need management

Climate Change **Impacts on** Finance and Insurance Sector

- The working group assesses the gaps and challenges with respect to understanding of climate related risks in the insurance and finance sectors
- The study was undertaken with 10 businesses in the sector to map the challenges and actions areas to integrate climate change risk investments

Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency

Resource Efficiency and Climate Change: a scoping study for the Indian context. which has been widely circulated and also sent to the UN's International Resource Panel

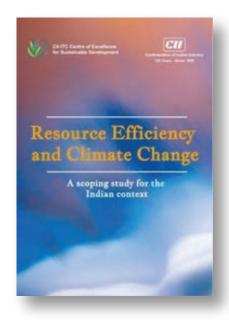
The Centre took on the task of studying the reductions in greenhouse gas emissions possible through improvements in material-use efficiency through the product's life cycle. This task was begun in 2019 with the hosting of a workshop at the World Resources Forum Conference. Geneva. Using feedback from that workshop, the Centre carried out a scoping study to identify priority sectors of the Indian economy for an in-depth analysis.

The results of the scoping study were published in a document, Resource Efficiency and Climate Change: a scoping study for the Indian context, which has been widely circulated and also sent to the UN's International Resource Panel. The sectors which were identified through the scoping exercise were agriculture, brick-making, cement, iron & steel and freight transport. The report provides a detailed methodology for the prioritization.

The Centre concluded its contribution to the European Union's Resource Efficiency Initiative via a report on land degradation with respect to topsoil extraction and river sand mining for brick-making and construction, respectively. Phase I of the project ended in December 2020: the Centre will continue as a consortium partner

engaged in activities on resource efficiency and circular economy, as the project enters Phase II in January 2021, for three more years.

Webinars to acquaint participants with the basic principles of circular economy were held in June and October with examples from the plastics and manufacturing sectors included, for the private sector. The webinars resulted in interest from participants in exploring opportunities for implementing circular economy principles in their respective operations.



Biodiversity and Nature

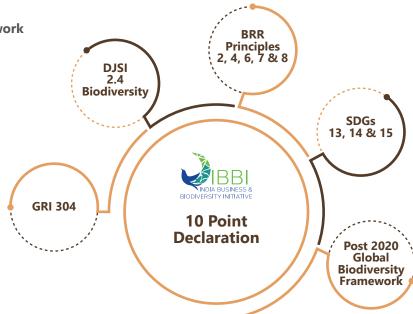
Guidance document that integrates the biodiversity and natural capital aspects of widely used corporate disclosures like GRI, IR, DJSI, BRR The Centre has developed several tools which help companies to understand the impacts and dependencies of their projects, better communicate results of assessments and help them mainstream biodiversity in their business operations as well as value chains. IBBI tools address International standards and other important requirements during the assessment.

IBBI Working Groups

Working Group on Revised Reporting Framework

IBBI business members are committed to the IBBI 10-Point Declaration which lays a roadmap for businesses to map their inter-linkages with B&ES, identify the risks and opportunities and adapt a strong action plan for sustainable management across the value chain.

IBBI business signatories collectively evolved a reporting framework and guidance document that integrates the biodiversity and natural capital aspects of widely used corporate disclosures like GRI, IR, DJSI, BRR. The framework is also inter-linked to the goals and targets of SDGs and Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.



Outcomes

IBBI Guidance document for Biodiversity Disclosures

Guidance document has been developed to guide businesses in developing disclosure reports on biodiversity and natural capital with effective communication and standardised data reflecting positive outcomes.

• IBBI Reporting Cycle 3

Based on the new reporting framework 22 IBBI business signatories have submitted their disclosures for biodiversity and natural capital.



Air Pollution Mitigation Toolkit for MSMEs

IBBI members, through a working group deliberated on considering activities for adoption of biodiversity management for environment protection, pollution control and mitigation through a cluster approach.

Taking this consideration forward, IBBI in collaboration with Vidarbha Industry Association (VIA) and Clean Air Asia (CAA) worked to develop a toolkit for MSMEs to support in combating air pollution & contribute towards successful implementation of the Nagpur Air Action. An online survey was conducted across different sectors operating in the Vidarbha Industrial cluster and key challenges of air pollution were identified. This was followed up by a telephonic consultation with member companies to seek inputs for the Toolkit.

A toolkit was developed to combat air pollution across the MSMEs including guidelines to address air pollution, Nature-based Solutions for adoption and timely monitoring of the framework. The toolkit included a roadmap for addressing air pollution.

Seven Steps to Address Air Pollution by MSMEs



Mapping air Pollution Drivers in MSMEs



Nature-based Solution



Monitoring Performance



Technological Solutions



Partnership and Collaboration



Awareness Creation



Documenting Best Practices

India Business and Biodiversity Initiative

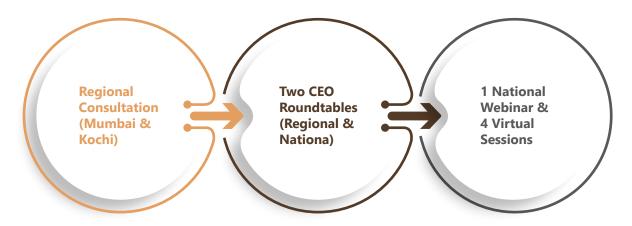
- Initiated by Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and Hosted by the Centre since 2014
- A business led initiative with an objective to mainstream biodiversity in Indian Businesses,led by Mr. Kavinder Singh, MD & CEO, Mahindra Holidays & Resorts India Limited
- Signatories- 40 Businesses and 13 stakeholder organisations from various institutions and development organisations
- Only national initiative that represents Indian Businesses on biodiversity at the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- Executive member of CBD's Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity (GPBB)
- Member of CBD's Informal Advisory Group on Mainstreaming Biodiversity



Activities

Indian Industry Engagement on Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

The Centre in collaboration with WWF India and GIZ organised a series of consultations on the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework to engage Indian businesses to identify commitments to strengthen the framework and provide feedback.



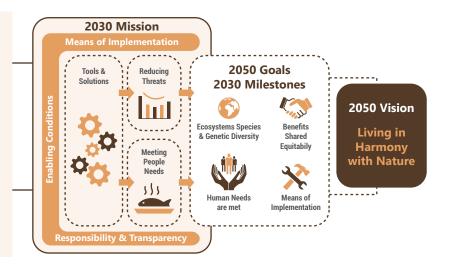
Around 300 participants, from leading national and global Indian businesses, NGOs & Development Organisations, Academia, and government from various sectors attended the consultations





Outcomes

The inputs received through these consultations have been consolidated into an Indian Business Position Paper showcasing Indian Industry commitments and recommendations towards Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. The paper presents the commitments of Indian businesses towards achieving the CBD's 2050 Vision of "Living in Harmony with Nature" and strengthening the development of the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.



Highlights of the paper

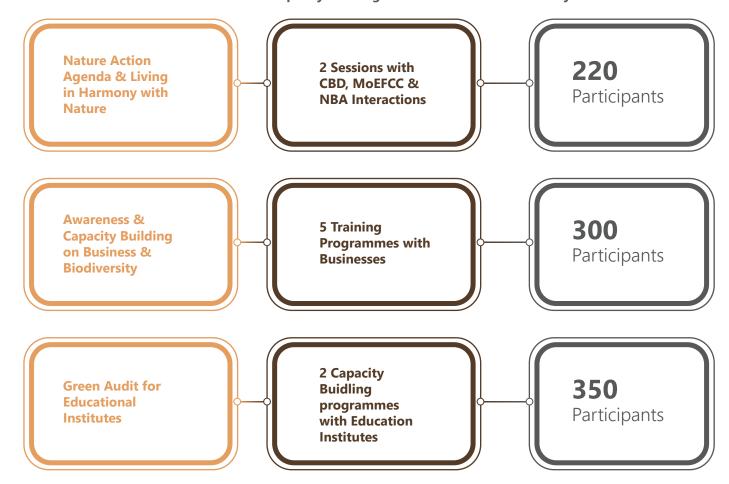
Indian businesses prioritised the top four commitments based on a roadmap for biodiversity conservation, reversing nature loss and living in harmony with nature:

- Mainstreaming Post- 2020 targets to reduce the footprint on nature and promote biodiversity conservation across the value chain by 2025
- Avoid or limit disturbances of natural spaces and promote No Net Loss or Net Positive approach at all operations by 2030
- Partner with local authorities and communities for sustainable consumption and production
- Take initiatives for monetary and non monetary benefit sharing with local stakeholders and tribal communities

Businesses also reflected on certain aspects of the draft framework in context of the Indian perspective. Feedback on the Post 2020 GBF:

- Include specific biodiversity quantifying metrics for monitoring and measuring performance towards achieving the targets
- Prioritise targets for immediate action towards restoration of degraded and ecologically fragile habitats and species
- Adopt targets for biodiversity aligning with climate change and land degradation
- Promote traceability to reduce illegal wildlife trade and limit the over extraction/ exploitation of wild species

Virtual Sessions: Awareness Creation & Capacity Building for Businesses on Biodiversity





Adani Transmission Limited (ATL) is steadfast in its pursuit of energizing and empowering the remotest corners of India by connecting sources of generation to consumption centers. As a commitment towards being IBBI signatory, we have adopted the No Net Loss approach for biodiversity conservation and sustainable management. This approach supports us in achieving ATL's priority ESG objectives, which are also in line with UN Sustainable Development Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production, and SDG 15: Life on Land. At ATL we share consciousness to respect and promote global biodiversity across our businesses and stakeholders.

Mr Anil Sardana

MD & CEO, Adani Transmission



There is a global climate emergency and corporates consensus to align with the Paris agreement. Adani Green Energy Limited (AGEL) has taken an ambitious target of renewable energy-capacity addition of 25 GW by 2025 and supports in meeting India's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC). We are also aligning our actions towards the SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy, SDG 13: Climate Action and SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth. Being a signatory to IBBI, we recognize biodiversity as a promising tool for Climate Change Mitigation. Integrating biodiversity value into business decision-making, helps us to build stronger and SMART action plan to achieve Net Positive Impact.

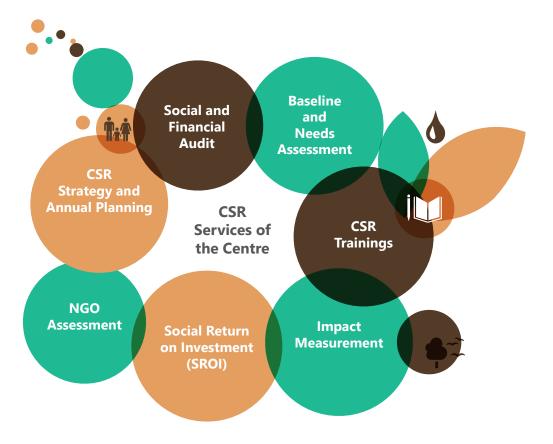
Mr Vneet S. Jaain

MD & CEO, Adani Green Energy Ltd.

Resilient Business and Society

CSR projects, measure impact of CSR activities, value of social capital created (SROI), and recognise excellence in CSR

The Centre helps companies create more impact through better CSR plans. CESD works with companies to develop CSR strategies aligned to organisational vision and business strategies, develop projects that serve aspirations and real needs of communities, monitoring and evaluation of CSR projects, measure impact of CSR activities, value social capital created (SROI), and recognise excellence in CSR.



Action Areas

Online Training: 5-Day Series on CSR

Covid-19 has changed the mode of CSR trainings from open to online trainings. Three batches of 5-Day Online Series on CSR were organised with the aim to build capacity of CSR professionals on different aspects of CSR so that they can enhance effectiveness of the social development initiatives of their companies by implementing the learnings. External speakers were invited to bring different perspectives on project conceptualisation, execution and impact creation. 44 eminent speakers were invited from government, corporates and the NGO sector who shared their experiences in 2-hour sessions through a presentation mode and short movies of their initiatives and described the challenges and nuances of good CSR projects.

The training programmes covered various topics such as CSR Legislation, project implementation, due diligence of implementing partners, partnership and collaboration, CSR communication, impact assessment and SROI. After the initial session, topics like SDGs, CSR audit, reporting, government schemes and fundraising were also covered.



120 Participants from India and Overseas



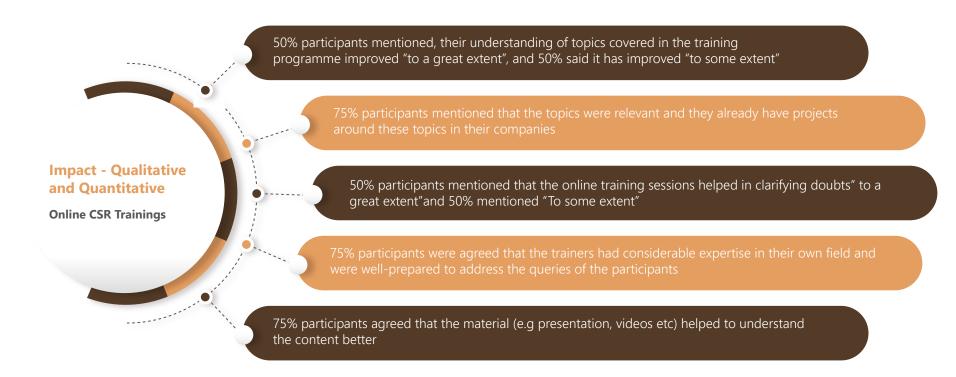
50% Men

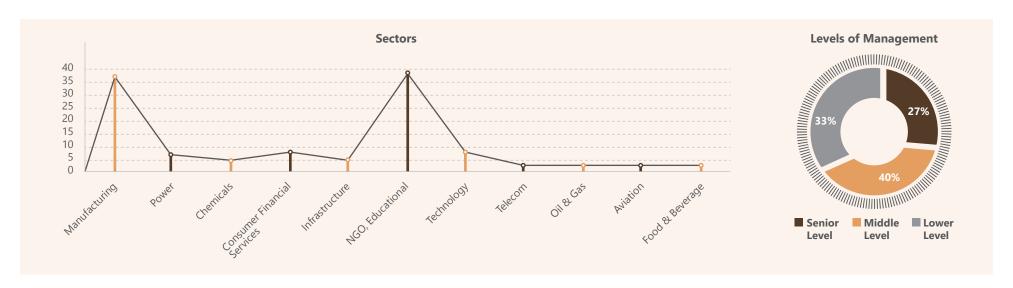


50% Women

Industry participants were from diverse functions ranging from CSR, sustainability, finance, company secretary, environment, to corporate communication, legal and human resources, representing Cummins, JSW, Skoda, Asian Paints. Tata Projects, Aditya Birla, Tata Hitachi, Microsoft, Bajaj electricals, Tata Steel, Eicher, Mahindra Susten, TVS Motors, DCM, Minda, Godrej, WNS Global, SBI and many more. Online trainings have received very good feedback from the participants as well as their respective departments, and colleagues have already been nominated for upcoming training programmes.

A few more sessions are planned in 2021 wherein focus would be to take participants to the project sites virtually and facilitate interaction with project beneficiaries and the project team so that they get a holistic view with respect to project challenges and implementation modes.





Testimonials



I am very happy to attend this online series. I have gained and learned a lot and hope to use the same in my working life. Thank you all trainers

Mr Manoj Kumar Mohanta

Lead CSR, Arya Group Foundation



Thank you very much CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development, for a very enriching experience covered over 5 sessions some of the best CSR practices were shared

Mr Sanket Shah

Deputy General Manager-Environment, Health, Safety, MG Motor India Pvt Ltd



That was indeed a very informative session and great to learn about practical experiences from the speakers from various industries

Mr Praneeth Remedi

Assistant Manager-CSR, Bharti Foundation



Thank you for the well organised training programme

Mr Ajay Gopalkrishnapillai

Railway Fleet Safety Officer, Etihad Rail DB Operations LLC



Great Insights and learnings. Thanks to the speakers & organisers

Mr Kabir Kadian

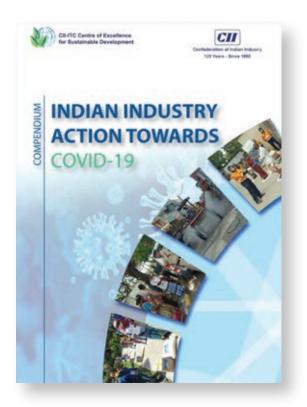
Director & Founder, Solegrow Consulting Pvt Ltd

CSR Compendium: Indian Industry Action Towards Covid-19

The CSR compendium provides insights on how organisations in India took up the challenge to help communities, migrant workers and healthcare providers through their CSR activities during Covid-19. Case studies presented in the compendium highlight the incredible work done ranging from manufacturing of sanitisers, PPEs and ventilators, creating livelihood opportunities, online education/ learning platforms for students, organising community kitchens, providing cooked food and dry ration, raising funds to support NGOs, awareness drives for communities, capacity building of healthcare providers, donation of essential drugs, upgradation of rural healthcare and so on. The Centre also conducted a survey to understand how organisations intend to carry out their CSR initiatives in the post COVID scenario. The survey covers insights on how COVID has changed the CSR intervention areas by companies, their CSR spends, operational strategies to implement and manage CSR interventions etc.

The CSR Compendium was launched by Shri Gyaneshwar Kumar Singh, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs in a virtual ceremony on 29 September 2020. It was attended by 100 participants from corporate, government, academia, and NGO sector.

The next edition of CSR Compendium will be launched in 2021 and focus on thematic areas of Health, Education and Technology.

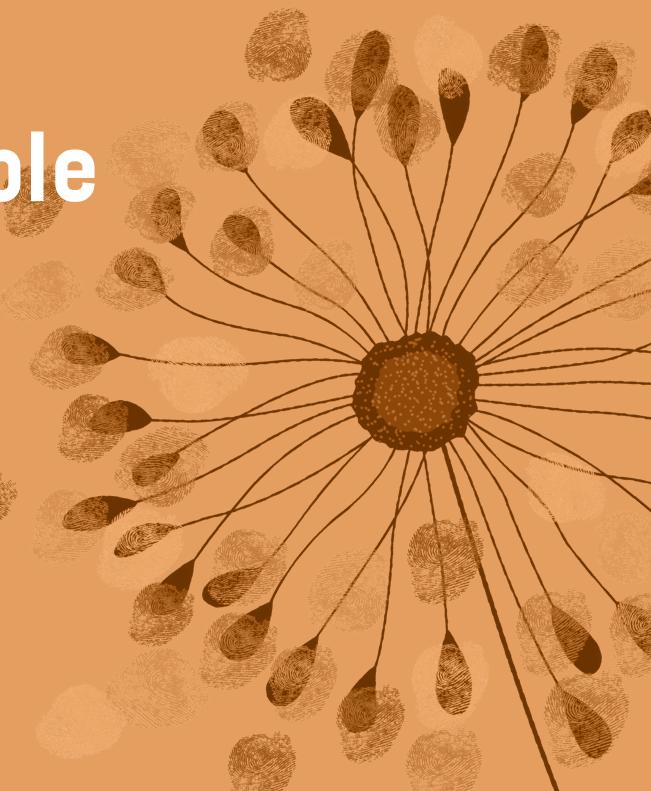




Cleaner Air-Better Life

The Un-plastic Collective

Business for Human Rights





In urban areas, the Centre is partnering with various institutions including California Air Resources Board. Madhya Pradesh Pollution Control Board and Indian Institute of technology- Delhi to develop a robust framework for data-driven and participatory approach on air quality management pan Indore Metropolitan Region

Cleaner Air-Better Life (CABL) is a National Initiative which is anchored at the Centre and acts a knowledge platform to various stakeholders on air pollution. It does so by engaging with changemakers, businesses, communities, government bodies and technical experts to identify actionable solutions to key challenges facing cleaner air at the national as well as sub-national level.

Action Areas

CABL evaluated field interventions for improved crop residue management (ICRM) and documented key evidence for replication of these interventions across North Western States. Farmers are adopting sustainable agricultural practices due to-

- Lower cost of farming operations(as a combined effect of Central Sector Subsidies and shared-economy model for new tools). This is especially relevant to small farmers
- Lesser number of tool runs needed under conservational or zero-tillage regimes substantially reduce the time, labour, and fuel inputs into agriculture. This is especially relevant for farmers with large landholding
- Long-term soil health and productivity benefits to most farmers: higher average crop yield (wheat) under ICRM practices

Partial burning due to reliance on old paddy variety and relatively high costs of straw collection for ex-situ management were also highlighted as key ongoing challenges. The key findings from hundred villages of Punjab and Haryana in 2019-20 are summarised in Figure 1.

CABL evaluated actionable solutions for waste-to-wealth from crop residue. Actionable solutions were identified and verified with extensive field visits, consultations with enterprises and technical experts from Bureau of Indian Standard, NTPC Ltd, Indian Oil etc. and members at the Industry Panel on Air Pollution. The key findings from this study, on actionable solutions in 2021, are highlighted in Figure 2.

The major effort in urban areas is to demonstrate regional airshed management and planning approach. The Centre partnering with various institutions including California Air Resources Board, Madhya Pradesh Pollution Control Board and Indian Institute of technology- Delhi to develop a robust framework for data-driven and participatory approach on air quality management pan Indore Metropolitan Region. After having prepared the draft plan for this project in consultation with various stakeholder in Indore, the Centre organised a stakeholder dialogue in December 2020 to engage partners agencies and local stakeholders in Indore. Suggestions were received from stakeholders including local businesses, MPPCB and members of civil society towards immediate action steps for this project.

Outreach and Impacts

- Organised 10 public dialogues in 2020 with 35 key speakers including clean air champions, air quality experts and top business leaders in India for showcasing action and leadership on clean air in the post-pandemic era. These dialogues brought national/global experts, policy makers and industry leaders together to deliberate some of the key challenges for air quality in India.CABL reached out directly to more than 1000 participants across industry, academia, and civil society in India. In addition, the number of direct followers of CABL's social media page nearly doubled in this period from 300 to 750
- Received direct inputs from 2,000 farming households though paperless digital data and held focussed group discussions with 600 farmers at village level in Punjab and Haryana to understand their feedback and suggestion for crop residue management

CABL partnered and engaged with global and national experts from prominent institutions including Clean Air Fund, California Air Resources Board,NITI Aayog, Bloomberg philanthropies, Lung Care Foundation,Indian Institute of Technologies(Delhi, Kanpur), Bureau of Indian Standards, State Agriculture Universities (Punjab and Haryana) and German Agribusiness.

India CEO Forum for Clean Air

'India CEO Forum for Clean Air' is a major initiative under the National initiative: Cleaner Air Better Life to provide collective leadership to Industrial sectors in India for emission reduction and scale sustainable delivery models which address air pollution at the source. The issues of air pollution, which is a major social and economic challenge facing India, has gained significant traction among Indian businesses and membership base of the forum increased from 22 to 50 businesses in this one year. Forum members are not only supporting highly collaborative projects on ground (Delhi National Capital Region, Punjab, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh), they also provide strategic guidance to entrepreneurs to scale sustainable business models as per local needs. The India CEO Forum held its first conference on 20 January 2021 showcasing various good practices from industry

members for the benefit of other industries. The Forum's eight-point declaration for clean air, encapsulating the framework for responsible businesses and enhanced collaboration between society, government and industry was released at this event by Mr Nitin Prasad (Chairman, CII National Initiative: Cleaner Air Better Life) in the presence of officials from the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change.



The Quality of air in our country is deteriorating by the day. The increased incidences of breathing disorders in society, particularly in children, is a testament to this harsh truth. Improving the ambient air quality is a shared social responsibility. All of us need to step up and start taking action. We owe our children clean air and blue skies.

The India CEO Forum for Clean Air provides the ideal platform for pooling industry resources for high impact projects under CSR. I my peers to join the Forum and help in making a difference.

Ms Rhea Singhal

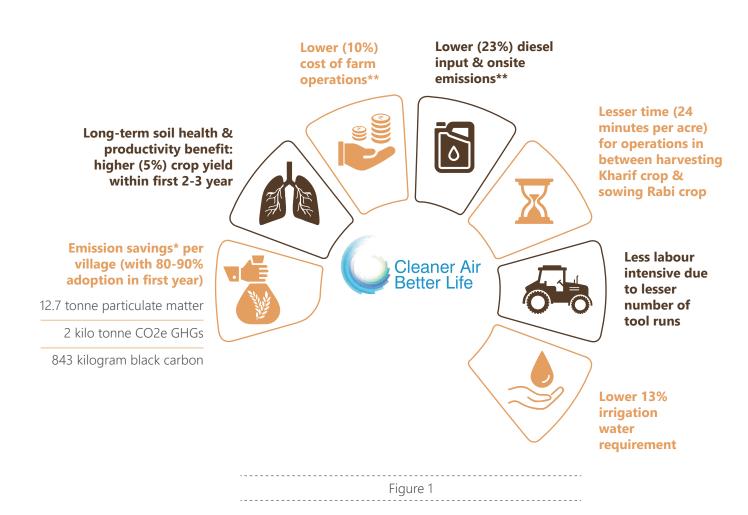
Member, India CEO Forum for Clean Air



Poor air quality affects everyone without discrimination. We need to make sure that economic growth is achieved while maintaining and even improving the quality of our air. It is time for businesses to take proactive measures to sustain the quality of the air we breathe in.

Mr S P Shukla

Member, India CEO Forum for Clean Air



Farmer-centric Approach of Crop Residue Management Programme

- · Outreach to rural communities for cleaner air and healthier soils
- Promotion of sustainable agriculture involving direct reuse of rice straw i.e. retaining or incorporating in the field while sowing the next crop
- · Participatory planning and monitoring involving local leaders & progressive farmers
- Share-economy model of needed farm tools with Farmer Co-ops/ FPOs
- · Capacity building of farmers with State Departments of Agriculture (Punjab and Haryana) and Scientists/ experts from State Agricultural Universities, Krishi Vigyan Kendras and Indian Agricultural Research Institute
- Farm advisory & paper-less digital data collection by field volunteers

Figure 2



Actionable Solutions for Waste-to-Wealth from Rice Straw in North Western States

Co-firing in coal power plants



Rs 1,581 Cr





Co-firing in Industrial boilers



Rs 1,581 Cr





Actionable in 2021

Straw aggregator





Aggregator can save farmers INR 1,985 per acre in baling or collection charges

Straw Collection at field

Farmers usually, rent balers from machinery providers and valing is offered as a service to clear the field. Under this model, ex-situ management costs farmers 48-67% higher than conventional method with crop residue vurning, making it unaffordable to most farmers

On third farmer who do not find in-situ management feasible or affordable due to specific farm-level challenges or agro-climatic conditions

> Assuming 100% product offtake and assured supply of rice straw at landed price of INR 1500 per tonne

Dairy farming: cattle feed



Rs 5,778 Cr



36%



Clean Energy: bio-CNG



Rs 20,163 Cr





Pulp & packaging solutions



Rs 3,250 Cr



>100%



27,857

Agrocrete blocks



Rs 5,836 Cr





1,73,333

Construction panels



Rs 3,224 Cr



6,448



Investment



Green jobs

Allied Agriculture



Composting



Publications

1. Impacts and learnings of crop residue program

The report "Impacts and learnings of crop residue programme" was launched by Mr Nitin Prasad, Chairman, Cleaner Air-Better Life at air pollution plenary session held at the at 15th Sustainability Summit on 09 Sep 2020. This report brings the evidence of change from 102 villages of Punjab and Haryana intervened, where these impacts and learnings were assessed from September 2019 to June 2020. These findings highlight that a fundamental behaviour shift is possible at a large scale if actionable and affordable solutions are made available on time.



(https://sustainabledevelopment.in/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/CRM_Report-1.pdf)

2. Actionable solutions for waste-to-wealth from crop residue

The report "Actionable solutions for waste-to-wealth from crop residue " was launched by Mr. Tejpreet Singh, Co-Chairman, Cleaner Air-Better Life at the conference by India CEO Forum on Clean Air on 20 January 2021. This report culminates effort from the past year (2019) to understand the nuts and bolts of the ex-situ management of paddy straw. Selected ex-situ solutions were analysed which were found to be actionable on ground, environmentally sound and economically viable for all stakeholders across the biomass management ecosystem. Based on analysis of various delivery models across the entire supply chain, key recommendations were being made for scaling these solutions across North Western States



(https://sustainabledevelopment.in/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/ Clean-Green-_16-FEB.pdf)



A Circular Economy Plastics Strategy for *India*, describing this approach and recommending a leapfrogging for India to a circular economy for plastics was the output from these workshops

The Un-plastic Collective, an initiative co-partnered by WWF-India and United Nations Environment Programme, continues to make progress: the first meeting of its Advisory Committee under the chairmanship of Mr Jamshyd Godrej, was held in the last quarter of the year.

In India, plastic waste management is an issue of concern. Apart from the environmental externalities of discarded plastic, the large quantities of material in over-filled urban landfills represent unrealised economic value

In order to identify scalable, practical approaches to reducing the use of plastic and/or ways to manage plastic waste, the Centre held a series of workshops in 2019; the workshops aimed to understand national issues, and help in developing an India-specific approach with respect to plastics use and management. A better assessment of on-ground technologies, gaps and practices could lay the foundation for a national strategy/approach for managing plastics use and waste. A report, A Circular Economy **Plastics Strategy for India**, describing this approach and

recommending a leapfrogging for India to a circular economy for plastics was the output from these workshops. The report outlines a four-tiered strategy for India at all stages of a product's life cycle that addresses current gaps, and allows unlocking the economic value of the plastic.

Based on this report, the Centre hosted a side event during the World Circular Economy Forum Conference held in



September 2020. That event attracted 50 participants and had speakers from research organisations, the private sector, and NGOs in UK, Europe and Australia. In July, an event on sustainable packaging was organized, Sustainable Packaging 2.0, under the aegis of the UPC at which experts from Europe and Australia and from India's private sector, spoke in a webinar with an audience drawn from industry, consultants, academia and civil society organisations. Discussions at the event were summarised and published digitally.

The Un-plastic Collective's partners entered into talks with a UK-based organization aimed at leading a systematized and voluntary target-based plastics pact for India in the private sector; implementation is expected to begin in 2021-22.





Organising training programmes and sensitizing workshops for member companies to identify human rights risks and conducting human rights due diligence

The Centre has been actively working on Business and Human Rights portfolio since the past few years. In these years it has undertaken initiatives and programmes to build capacity of member organisations. From organising training and sensitizing workshops for member companies to identifying human rights risks and conducting human rights due diligence, CESD has served organisations regardless of size and value chain complexities in aligning themselves with the United Nations Guiding Principles (UNGPs), NGRBC and BRR. Additionally, CESD has been a part of developing publications which enhance the understanding of companies of the local business and human rights landscape.

Activities

Classroom Training on Business and Human Rights: In February 2020, the Centre conducted a one-day training programme in Mumbai to create basic awareness on business and human rights. The training covered importance of human rights from a business lens, integration of human rights across different functions of organisations, United Nation Guiding Principles and related principles of NGRBC which address human rights. The training was attended by 15 participants from different industry sectors.

Masterclass on Business and Human Rights: Impacts due to Covid-19-

CESD conducted a virtual two-day masterclass on 29-30 April focusing on the broader topic of how businesses can impact human rights, a human rights-based approach to businesses, impacts of Covid-19 on human rights and various worldwide guidance and frameworks available with respect to responsible business conduct.

Virtual Dialogue with Industry on Business and Human Rights:

Organised on 17 July 2020, the virtual dialogue was aimed at understanding the challenges that industry is facing in the current crisis that cropped up because of Covid-19. Experts opined on how the new normal would be like and how industry had to adjust to the status quo asserted in the post Covid-19 era. The dialogue broadly revolved around the issues related to involuntary labour and workplace health & safety, which hold supreme importance in the current crisis. Different companies affected by the migration crisis and how this could be handled in a better way along with supply-chain issues pertaining to the crisis situation formed a part of this dialogue.

Policy Advocacy

National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights (NAP)

CESD is actively supporting the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), through advocacy, industry engagements and lending a voice to overall drafting of the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights (NAP). The Centre has gathered industry inputs on the outline of NAP shared by the Ministry and is also gathering feedback on the template of NAP which is based on the three-pillars of UNGPs, drafted by MCA. The recommendations that have been given on the outline and content are based on industry inputs received on the outline of NAP and the Centre's internal expertise on human rights, general and issue-specific.

Draft Advisory by NHRC to Uphold Human Rights by Employers

Keeping in mind challenges faced by business entities during the Covid-19 lockdowns, NHRC brought forward some suggestions for the employers and urged them to uphold human rights of their employees/workers. The advisory intended to serve as an orientation for business leaders to help them integrate the human rights the human rights approach into their decision-making process and communications, in the context of Covid-19 crisis management. It aims to raise awareness among businesses and to advocate that human rights due diligence is important.

Publication

The report, **Integrating Sustainability in Indian Supply Chains,** in collaboration with Sedex, demonstrates, through concrete evidence, the macro and micro-level challenges faced by organisations in pursuit of making supply chains responsible and sustainable.

Protecting Business Growth and Human Rights-A comparative paper on the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights in India and Germany with India's existing regulations | Knowledge Series 1

Both India and Germany are committed to human rights through country-specific diverse initiatives, policies, legal frameworks and regulations. As member states of the United Nations Human Rights Council, both countries have committed towards National Action Plans on Business and Human Rights (NAP).

Implementation around the NAP is different for both countries as Germany adopted NAP in 2016 and India is at the drafting stage. Despite being at drafting stage of NAP, actions around Business and Human Rights are visible through other related policies and disclosure frameworks in India. This publication aims to compare NAPs of the two countries, including other policy instruments and frameworks which Indian businesses are aligned with, to respect, protect and remedy issues around human rights.





Excellence in Sustainable Business

Sustainability Awards

15 years of recognising sustainable businesses, CII-ITC Sustainability Awards has become a symbol of credibility and pride for companies

Instituted in 2006, the CII-ITC Sustainability Awards sets out to recognise and reward excellence in companies which are seeking ways to be more sustainable and inclusive in their activities. The Awards are a part of the continued efforts of Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development to create awareness on sustainability practices and to create capacities in business.

In more than 15 years of recognising sustainable businesses, CII-ITC Sustainability Awards has become a symbol of credibility and pride for companies. Cumulatively, 989 applied of which 326 were recognised. Limited number of applications are accepted to maintain strong competition and high standards of excellence.

Methodology

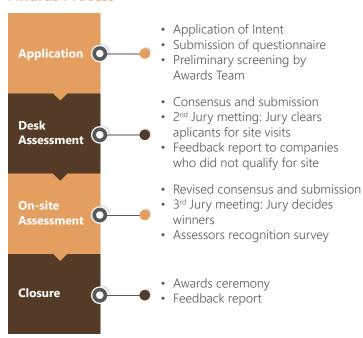
CII-ITC Sustainability Awards are the only third-party assured Awards in terms of technology, governance, methodology and process. Uniquely based on EFQM Excellence Framework, the Awards are designed for those who strive effortlessly to make sustainability their business.

Companies can apply for the Corporate Excellence category or domain category (Environment Management, Biodiversity, Corporate Social Responsibility). Each year, the participating companies undergo a rigorous evaluation process that includes preliminary screening, desk analysis and on-site assessment by a team of CII-certified sustainability assessors, who spent approximately 1,000 man-hours per application over a period of six months. The process is validated and supported by a pre-eminent jury which meets after each stage, to ascertain the qualification of the companies to the next round.





Awards Process



Major Events

Awards Ceremony: Winners are recognised at a presentation Ceremony. The ceremony not only recognises the participant companies but also, the assessors who diligently participate and contribute their expertise, throughout the Awards cycle. The ceremony is attended by some of the most illustrious and distinguished Jury, CEOs, and Assessors who come to receive the Awards under various categories. This year being different, the Awards ceremony was done virtually.

Impact Stories

Winners Booklet: Winners Booklet, demonstrates the systems and practices embedded in the functions of the winner companies. By providing a brief on each winner company, it compiles the practices which led to their recognition, highlighting the innovations introduced and benefits derived.

Awards Yearbook: Awards Yearbook is released to illustrate the best practices in different domains, to be circulated and adopted across the industry. It maps on the overall performance of the companies in various aspects and attributes and demonstrates the recommended processes and practices from all the companies, winners and non-winners, to be adopted for improvement.

Feedback Report: Detailed Feedback report is provided to each company that applies for Awards. It is handed out in two phases: after desk assessment to the disqualified and after site assessment to both winners and non-winners. The feedback report highlights the strengths and the opportunities to excel based on the assessment conducted by the CII-certified Sustainability Assessors. These reports help the company to improve the sustainability performance year-on-year.



The 15th Sustainability Summit, with the theme of Action Agenda for the Next Decade, was designed to bring to fore deliberations and thought leadership on shaping the coming decade by incorporating learnings from Covid-19 and reflecting on our past actions

Sustainability Summit, the annual flagship event, was launched in 2006 to raise the bar of dialogue, practice and performance of sustainable business. Since its inception, the Sustainability Summit has become the melting pot of thought and action leaders particularly from business and governments in the country.

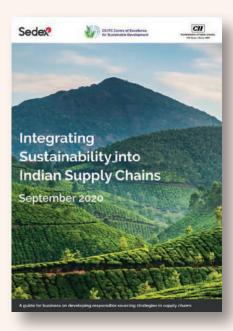
The Summit brings businesses, governments, and civil society (thinkers and practitioners) together to convert deliberations into action and is considered as a valued sustainability event across the world. It has provided a platform to forge partnerships to competitiveness and strategies to inclusive growth, by over 4800 participants and 600 thought-and-action leaders.

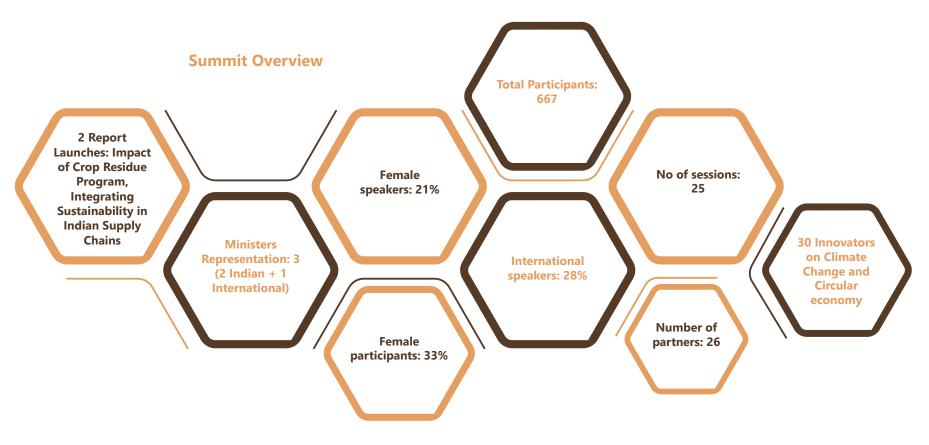
The year 2020 was a landmark year as it would set the direction for much of our planet's future. As parts of the world emerged from the Covid-19 pandemic, it was important to understand the complex interrelation between people, planet, and climate change. Technology, systems thinking, and innovative methods can enable decision makers to act in a holistic way and chart a sustainable course for the next decade

The 15th Sustainability Summit, with the theme of Action Agenda for the Next Decade, was designed to bring to fore such deliberations and thought leadership on shaping the coming decade by incorporating learnings from Covid-19 and reflecting on our past actions. Encompassing conversations around how technology and innovative methods can enable actions and change in the next decade, the 3-day flagship event hosted eminent national and international speakers who shared their diverse perspectives and domain knowledge at this platform.

Publication

Two reports were released during the Summit. The report, Integrating Sustainability in Indian Supply Chains, in collaboration with Sedex, demonstrates, through concrete evidence, the macro and micro-level challenges faced by organisations in pursuit of making supply chains responsible and sustainable. The Report on Impacts and Learning from the Crop Residue Management Program launched under the Cleaner Air-Better Life (CABL) initiative presents the findings of impact assessment conducted to assess the overall impacts and learnings of Crop Residue Management (CRM) Programme in 2019-20 with an objective to scale cost-effective and actionable solutions with farming communities.





In run-up to the 15th Sustainability Summit, CESD organised a **Virtual Conference on Supply Chain Sustainability: Resurgence Post Covid-19**, on 22nd May 2020. The conference was focused on the current situation of supply chains, impact of Covid-19 on their geographical spread, how businesses were evolving from the global pandemic, and the contingency plans for business continuity. The conference also touched upon social responsibilities of government & businesses during these testing times, and way forward towards low carbon supply chains in the automobile sector. There were 2 global speakers, 15 national speakers and 133 participants.

To keep the flow going, a few follow up sessions were also organised post the Summit-

Around 100 participants attended the Workshop on Fostering Clean Air between India & Sweden that was organised on 29th October, in collaboration with Business Sweden Council where Swedish companies presented technologies that can help in combating air pollution.

A virtual session on **Integrating CSR and SDGs for Building Back Better** was also organised at the National CSR Summit 2020 on 16th December attended by 50 participants.

Quotes



"In addition to being partners in the International Solar Alliance, India & UAE are firm advocates of climate action & sustainability"

H.E. Dr Abdullah Belhaif Al NuaimiMinister of Climate Change & Environment,
UAE



"With climate change becoming more real, it is imperative to develop efficient technology in utilization of scarce resources to target zero emissions"

Mr Piyush Goyal Minister of Railways & Commerce & Industry



"India is walking the talk on climate change. Our efforts on research innovation & visionary policies pave way for Self-reliant India."

Mr Prakash Javadekar Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Minister of Information and Broadcasting and Minister of Heavy Industries



"Ensuring sustainability in market economy demands sensitization of all players & intermediaries against unsustainable practices"

Mr Suresh Prabhu India's Sherpa to the G20 & G7, Member of Parliament



"We need to encourage & incentivize the use of sustainable sources of transport, virtual conferences & transit-oriented development"

Mr Durga Shankar MishraSecretary,
Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs



The National Committee on Environment with the Centre as a secretariat spearheads policy advocacy by focusing on the important and relevant issues pertaining to environmental protection

National Committee on Environment 2020-21

The Centre charts change by working closely with Government on policy issues, interfacing with thought leaders, and enhancing efficiency, competitiveness and business opportunities for industry through a range of specialized services and strategic global linkages. With an objective to catalyze innovative ideas and develop sustainable solutions with respect to various environmental issues, the CII National Committee on Environment with CESD as a secretariat spearheads policy advocacy by focusing on important and relevant issues pertaining to environmental protection. The committee is represented by leading Indian Industry representatives and executes its work through different working groups.

EPR Implementation, as per Plastic Waste Management Rules

Draft Guidelines on EPR: With an objective to bring in role clarity for all concerned stakeholders and to ensure effective implementation of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) as mandated under Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2018, the Centre partnered with MoEFCC and conducted workshops with concerned stakeholders. Basis the deliberations, a draft Framework on EPR implementation was developed and submitted to the ministry for its consideration. Basis the Centre's continuous efforts, in June 2020, the MoEFCC notified, draft on National Guidelines for EPR. Most of the recommendations of CESD were considered in the draft guideline document, providing sustainable solutions to the problem of plastic waste management.

Draft EIA Notification, 2020

During the unprecedented Covid-19 crisis, rigorous follow ups on concerns of industry with MoEFCC led to issuance of following OMs/ Notifications:

- OM dated 14 September 2020 on Conduct of Public Hearing through a virtual platform during Covid-19 Pandemic
- OM dated 18 November 2020 on streamlining the process of granting Environmental Clearances
- OM dated 27 Nov 2020 on Extension of Environment Clearances for six months after date of expiry during FY 20-21
- OM dated 30 December 2020 on streamlining the process of granting Environmental Clearances and rationalization of essential data & additional details sought
- Notification S.O. No. 221 dated 18 January 2021 for consideration of Tors & EC valid for the period from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021

These OMs served as great relief to Industry trying to revive post the Covid-19 lockdown

State Level Policy Advocacy on Plastic Waste Management

Multiple definitions of SUPs and associated bans imposed on certain categories of plastics: In the absence of unified definition of SUPs, different state authorities have been defining it as per their convenience. Further, basis these definitions, the states have been imposing bans on certain categories of plastics without finding their sustainable alternatives. The Centre has been continually discussing the issue with different state authorities and as a result certain relief has been provided to industry with regards to lifting of ban on certain items and inclusion of the same under EPR implementation. However, there is still strong need for a unified definition of SUP and the Centre is in touch with concerned authorities, providing all possible support.

Andaman & Nicobar

Industries were required to submit quarterly reports in compliance with the EPR implementation w.r.t incoming plastic packaged products along with the receipts of plastic waste transported back to the mainland. However, such information regarding incoming plastic data (product wise) is not required by Central level or State level authorities. Further, the law also focuses on the amount of plastic waste brought into the market and the quantum being collected back post-consumer usage. Therefore, the authorities were requested to consider incoming as well as outgoing plastic data on the basis of quarterly quantities as opposed to product-wise incoming and outgoing plastics figures, which was duly accepted by the A&N authorities. This ensured effective monitoring of implementation of the EPR in the Union Territory and compliance by industries.

Representation in various National and State level Committees

At the National level, the Centre is continually representing Industry through the following committees constituted by MoEFCC

- National Committee on Comprehensive Environmental Pollution Index (CEPI)
- National Committee on Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS)

Similarly, CESD is also a part of the following committees constituted by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) for providing technical inputs as well as the concerns of industry with regards to implementation of various environmental standards

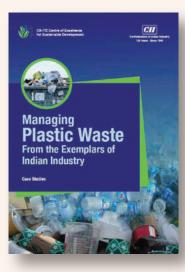
- Committee on Revisiting CEPI Protocol & categorisation of Industry
- Committee on draft COINDS for Indian Pesticides Industry
- Revisiting the criteria and guidelines for categorization of industrial sectors into red, orange, green and white categories

Publication

EPR Implementation for Plastic Waste Management

In the year 2020, the Centre published a compendium of best practices for EPR implementation for plastic waste by leading Indian brands. The publication features detailed descriptions of various initiatives taken by brands varying in location, service type, partners and brand's willingness to build a Culture of Plastic Waste Free society.

Powered partners for the publication: ITC, HUL, TCPL, PVMI, Mondelez, TCL, DIL, PepsiCo.



Training and Advisory

Management Systems

In today's business environment, where organisations are beginning to realize the importance of finding the right balance between financial, social, and environmental priorities, a carefully orchestrated Sustainability Services Matrix is vital for long-term success. It is most effective when aligned and integrated with existing strategic initiatives and coordinated with an intelligent approach to the related risks and rewards.

The Centre helps clients to successfully manage Environmental performance and ESG (Environment, Social and Corporate Governance disclosures. The team has the experience and domain knowledge in several industries to assist companies in embedding corporate responsibility into business activities wherever they operate. The Centre supports efforts to deliver long-term sustainable value to the company and its stakeholders. In addition, the Centre's professional teams can help with best practice mapping; assess business-related risks and opportunities; and help to develop sound and responsible corporate systems and policies.

Implementing Changes

Process Improvement

Management Systems

Sup-free Certification

Corporate Reporting

Virtual Training Programmes

Organisational Effectiveness

Diagnostics

The team has the experience and domain knowledge in several industries to assist companies in embedding corporate responsibility into business activities wherever they operate

Diagnostics

Diagnostics is considered an optimum tool to enable organisations to identify areas for improvements (gaps) risks and priorities. The Centre uses leading international guidelines and other standards for gap analysis in order to provide each company with the most appropriate analysis.

Process Improvement

The Centre helps public & private sector companies build capabilities required to achieve operational excellence across their entire value chain, and design broad- based programmes that drive sustainable improvements.

- Operations performance through assessments and recommendations
- Standard process improvement on Energy, Environment, Waste, Safety Performance
- Operations excellence capability development and dashboard tracking performance

Implementing Changes

The Centre helps companies to implement solutions required to achieve operational excellence across their entire value chain.

The services include:

 Implementing Global Standards- ISO 14001, ISO 18001, ISO 50001, ISO 20400, ISO 31000

- Strategic handholding of Project teams on Sustainability performance improvement
- Implementing sectoral Standards- Aluminium Stewardship, Cement Sustainability
- Optimizing the use of natural resources and make supply chains more efficient

Organisational Effectiveness

The Centre helps companies to embed sustainability principles in the core of their strategy, operations and culture to make sustainability a source of ongoing and increasing value

- Develop a sustainability & ESG strategy
- Organize for success in sustainability: Improve ESG scores and ratings, align, impact metrics and incentives, leadership alignment and support



1455+ Professionals Trained



25+ Clients Serviced



125+ Audit Man-days Invested (Virtual Audits)

Case Study

Sustainability in Supply Chain - Hero MotoCorp

The company believes in environmental protection and preservation as one of its core values. Aligned with this, the company started engaging with the Centre in 2007 to ensure that environmental management practices are not just practiced within their own premises but are also practiced by their suppliers. In order to put this thinking into practice, CESD and Hero MotoCorp came up with The Green Supply Chain Management initiative. It targets two ends of the supply chain: suppliers as well as dealers through the Green Partner Development Program (GPDP).

The company has been running these two programmes for 13 years. So far, this programme has engaged 186 suppliers. Key objectives of the programmes are:

- De-risking the supply chain by knowledge sharing and expanding the environmental practices among supply chain partners
- Creating a collaborative approach to conserve and protect the environment to meet societal commitments
- Better business sustainability and improved vision for the challenges ahead

In terms of tangible benefits accrued at the supplier end, which the company measures and monitors periodically, these are seen in the

areas of electricity, water, and waste savings. Intangible benefits are numerous, including:

- Improved systems identified through GPDP approach
- Enhanced legal knowledge
- Organised methodology of process mapping, instead of a kaizen approach

- Better clarity in relation to waste (overconsumption of resources) and loss (efficiency loss, distribution loss, chemical wastage, oil leakage etc.)
- Water, energy and waste mass balance and identification of gaps
- Better understanding of all environmental aspects in various processes

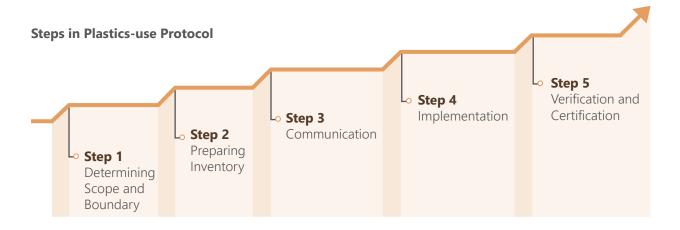




Rolled out and adopted by around 15 company sites (70+ site locations are in progress) so far the Plastic-use Protocol promises to be a useful guidance document Despite the pandemic and its constraints, an important achievement was made by the Centre, in response to the growing challenge posed by plastic waste management world over. Many companies/businesses pledged bans or reductions in their use of plastic and approached CESD for guidance and recognition in implementing these bans and reductions in plastic use (specifically, single-use plastic). Experts at CESD developed the Plastics-use Protocol: Verification and Certification (1.0) reviewed by five independent experts from industry and research organisations; this was

rolled out and adopted by around 15 company sites (70+ site locations are in progress) so far and promises to be a useful guidance document. More advanced versions will now be worked upon.

The Protocol sets out steps that are to be followed allowing an organisation to move beyond regulatory requirements by committing to plastic waste reduction (via reduce, reuse and replace) and reporting of plastic consumption. Currently, the scope of certificate under the Protocol is limited to SuP.



Progress of Plastics-use Protocol 1.0



A series of webinars, with over 200 participants, about the Protocol was organised across April, May and June to reach out to businesses and other organisations. A first cut is now being piloted by several companies (GMR, at Delhi Airport; Jayanthi Spices; J K Tyres and Industries; Hindalco; Adani Transmission, are some examples) after which it will be refined and its scope expanded.

Impact of pilot phase of Plastics-use Protocol 1.0

- ~500-700 professionals provided awareness training
- 5 organisations assisted in phasing out SuP
- Phasing out of SuP in 6 organisations underway
- Increased awareness about central and state regulations on plastic/plastic waste management
- Integration of plastics as one of the aspects in the IMS of companies
- Entry of plastic management/plastic waste management regulations in legal compliance register of companies

Testimonials

Thank you for such an informative course. It was one of the best courses and very well executed and explained.

> Ms Pooja Talekar United Way Mumbai

It was an excellent and productive session over all to learn about SDR preparation in accordance with GRI universal framework emphasize on global common language for preparing non-financial information.

LogappaNithyanandan Anand

Case Study

Indian Products Private Limited

Indian Products Private Limited has pioneered the cause to curb consumption of SuP by piloting the Plastics-use Protocol 1.0 developed by CESD at their plant. Indian Products Private Limited has ensured that their plant located at Kinathukadavu, Tamil Nadu is SuP free within project boundary and scope in line with Central government regulations on plastic waste, State government regulations on plastic waste and other identified SuP during course of Gap assessment.

Comprehensive awareness trainings were given. Gap analysis was done with respect to SuP, regular interactions and verification was carried out while implementing Plastics-use Protocol 1.0 and finally after compliance, certificate was awarded to Indian Products Private Limited in December 2020 for being free from following SuP for the duration from 01.01.2019 to 07.12.2020.

- Plastic carry bag
- Plastic-coated carry bag
- Plastic sheets used for food wrapping
- Plastic sheets used for spreading on dining table
- Plastic-coated paper plates
- Plastic-coated paper cups
- Plastic-coated teacups (wax-coated)
- Plastic tumblers
- Water pouches and packets
- Plastic straws
- Plastic flags
- Cutlery (forks, knives, spoons, and chopsticks)
- Expanded polystyrene food containers, beverage containers and cups
- Plastic stirrers

Testimonial



Being a part of the food industry, we own a large part of the responsibility when it comes to the endless consumption of single-use plastic. At Jayanti, this was always a part of our everyday business culture, but we understood the need to formalize and standardize this process into our policies.

Cll's initiative to facilitate a conversation around this growing problem is paramount. They have helped us create a detailed plan to monitor and remove the use of single-use plastic, which we were then able to introduce and execute into parts of our organization.

Despite the lockdown due to the pandemic, the team at CII was able to seamlessly conduct their audit virtually with our team on the ground. We are happy to have worked with the team at CII and we look forward to seeing more collaborative effort in our community towards a more sustainable future.

Mr Milan Shah

Managing Director, Jayanti Herbs & Spice



As climate change, water scarcity, social inequity and environmental degradation became more apparent especially during the pandemic, the financial implications of these non-financial issues received increasing attention from stakeholders

In the last year, management teams have had to regroup to respond to the most severe public health and economic situation many of them have ever faced. Immediate consequences aside, the pandemic called into question how companies prepare for black swan risks, which are harder to predict, measure, and prioritize. In addition to ensuring they can buoy themselves in the near term, senior management were expected to weigh the needs of a variety of stakeholders in their response plans and effectively execute enterprise risk management amid the crisis.

Furthermore, it became imperative for many companies to understand how ESG and sustainability initiatives influence the overall continuity of business.

Organisations suddenly were struck with a stakeholder capitalism movement, striving to move beyond an operating model that purely focuses on maximising shareholder value, to focus on making a positive contribution to society. As climate change, water scarcity, social inequity and environmental degradation became more apparent especially during the pandemic, the financial implications of these non-financial issues received increasing attention from stakeholders. Companies geared up to respond to these expectations while creating shared value in the short, medium and long term.

Through advisory services the Centre helped organisations understand and identify material issues that have the most impact on their businesses, serving as a foundation to create a business-driven sustainability strategy. The Centre assisted in the development of performance monitoring and evaluation frameworks, designed and implemented robust sustainability models and provesses for collecting and reporting information over market disclosures.

Services

Strategy Development: goal and target setting, ESG frameworks, stakeholder engagement and benchmarking against best practices Risk Assessments: materiality assessment, risk interconnectedness mapping and issue clustering, stakeholder mapping and engagement Issue identification, prioritization and management such as climate change risk, community resilience, ESG screening, natural capital, megatrends, environmental impacts and social issues Developing communication against reporting frameworks: GRI <IR>, SASB, SDG, Business Report and Sustainability Report(BRSR)

Case Study

SBI Mutual Funds

The Centre advised SBI Funds Management Pvt. Ltd. on adaption to Integrated Reporting framework and guided them in preparation of their Integrated Report as per IIRC's International Integrated Reporting Framework. The exercise started with the development of a checklist to help identify and assess the gaps between SBI FM's corporate reporting practices and the International Integrated Reporting Council's (IIRC) guidance on preparing an integrated report. The subsequent steps included identification of material issues based on their ability to affect value creation, evaluating their importance, and then prioritizing them on their relative importance. The Centre also advised the team on

drafting and designing of specific sections as per the requirements of the <IR> framework.

The assignment concluded with a disclosure benchmarking analysis which was done post publication, to have a comparative analysis of SBI FM's reporting on <IR> related indicators/parameters against it's peer companies during the reporting period. The entire exercise on "Integrated Reporting", in addition to creating requisite changes to SBI FM's corporate reporting practice, would also help in embedding the process of integrated thinking across different functional units within the organisation.

Advising SBI Funds Management in their Integrated Reporting journey! FY 2018-19 FY 2019-20 Gap Analysis IR Orientation Materiality Assessment Development Benchamrking

Testimonial



CII-ITC CESD has been our knowledge partner in the making of the Integrated Report of SBI Funds Management Private Limited (SBIFM) for FY2020. Their contribution in planning and framing the report and taking our suggestions to consolidate the qualitative aspect of our business was very well conducted. SBIFM's Integrated Report highlighted the value creation process under each defined input and output capital focussing our efforts on the Sustainable Development Goals. This report stands as a benchmark to highlight our strengths and contribution from various verticals of the Company.

Mr Mahesh A. Chhabria

Vice President (Special Projects)
SBI Funds Management Private Limited

Case Study

Adani Ports & SEZ Limited

Adani Ports & SEZ Limited is an Indian listed company in the Transportation Infrastructure sector. It manages and operates 10 ports across the eastern, western and southern Indian coast. The business divisions include owning an integrated logistics and SEZ business.

Objectives

APSEZ is one of the Indian companies eligible for inclusion in the Dow Jones Sustainability Indices' DJSI Emerging Markets index. Responding to the DJSI questionnaire was a challenge for APSEZ, considering that the different companies within the APSEZ sector group are all at different stages of their sustainability journeys.

Actions

The team at CESD worked with several APSEZ functional teams, identifying relevant information for responding to the DJSI questionnaire, strengthening the answers, and identifying opportunities to create further business and social value. The internal ESG Benchmarking analysis was used as a benchmark exercise to identify strengths and weaknesses of the company.

Outcomes

- In its first public assessment by DJSI in 2019, APSEZ achieved the score of 39. The following year, the Centre helped APSEZ to further improve its score, allowing it to be admitted in the DJSI Emerging Markets Index with a score of 64, becoming both the fourteenth in the highly competitive global transportation and transportation infrastructure sector and one of the eleven Indian companies to do so. The increase in APSEZ's score was the highest ever achieved in a single year by a client of CESD.
- As part of a stringent DJSI rating process, all responses by APSEZ were substantiated
 with internal documentation and real-life examples and audited by an independent
 third party to verify the accuracy of the information provided.
- APSEZ used CESD's ESG Analysis to guide its efforts and strategy towards the sustainability criteria that are most material to its industry. In addition to the internal benefits of taking part, it has also used its inclusion in the indices to gain external recognition as a sustainability leader.

Policy Advocacy

- In keeping with global developments and domestic changes, Ministry of Corporate Affair's (MCA) National Voluntary Guidelines (NVGs) were upgraded and updated as the National Guidelines for Responsible Business Conduct (NGRBC) in 2019. Securities and Exchange Board of India Business Responsibility Report (SEBI-BRR) disclosure mechanism which originated from the NVGs needed a revision as per NGRBC. A Committee on Business Responsibility was constituted by MCA for this purpose. The Centre was a part of the Committee's consultation process to upgrade the BRR to Business Responsibility and Sustainability Report (BRSR). To keep the ESG focus across corporate reporting, MCA and SEBI's pro-active approach is commendable in developing an India-centric sustainability guideline and reporting framework. The Centre has been an active supporter of SEBI's initiatives, and has been involved in multiple consultations. Drawing on the Centre's experience of working with diverse sectors and with various international organisations/stakeholders, recommendations were made on the BRSR for SEBI's consideration
- The Centre's engagement with working group on ESG, a part of the National Council on Corporate Governance, is an important platform to formulate strategies to enhance awareness on ESG integration. Industry leaders deliberated on key actions to build synergies across various non-financial reporting requirements. The 'S' in ESG was the focal point in the discussions

- In Aug' 2020, the Centre co-hosted the India Focus Group roundtable discussion along with the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) for the first ever revision to the International <IR> Framework. The event was attended by fifty-five participants including Investors, Corporates, Consultants, Researchers, Advisors, Standard setters, and other senior leaders from academia. key recommendations were made for the revision of the <IR> framework on areas of purpose, business model considerations, connectivity of information and the concept of integrated thinking
- The Centre, as a part of the working group on Integrated Reporting under the National Council on Financial Reporting, during the year, gave key inputs on alignment of Integrated Reporting with the Ind AS Financial Accounting Standards. The group has also discussed the progress on key issues surrounding Integrated Reporting framework e.g., development of Sector wise standard performance indicators for facilitating ease of comparability across companies. Integrated Reporting framework provides significant benefits to investors and stakeholders, since the framework requires companies to articulate long-term value creation using the six capitals and explaining the business model in a structured manner. thereby giving comprehensive and holistic view of the organization



I believe the Centre is playing a pivotal role in capacity building for corporates by providing the much-needed support in implementation of ESG framework. This comes in at a time when ESG investing is gaining momentum across the world and hence becomes very relevant for Indian corporates. Improvement in quality of disclosures is a win-win for all stakeholders. I have participated in a few Roundtables and Webinars organized for Corporates and find the approach very focused and engaging.

Ms Priya Subbaraman

Chief Regulatory Officer, National Stock Exchange of India Limited (NSE)



Digital and virtual learning programmes were already understood as a good strategy before Covid-19 struck. which is why a digital platform-GEKO was launched in the early months of 2020

As businesses around the world were impacted due to the novel coronavirus, training services emerged as one of the first and hardest-hit activities in the early months of the year.

However, capability building can't be put on hold for a very long time in this dynamic world, even as companies move rapidly to put employee safety first. To continue enabling and delivering value-creating efforts, the Centre undertook several tactical steps to adapt to new ways of programme delivery, and to establish and expand virtual live learning. Digital and virtual learning programmes were already understood as a good strategy before Covid-19 struck, which is why a digital platform-GEKO was launched in early months of 2020.

In the year gone by, there was a marked increase in virtual learning programmes, which many participants embraced readily owing the ease of access from anywhere across the world.

The Centre successfully launched many new training programmes and transitioned to a virtual learning mode with respect to almost all of the current training portfolio.

New Online Sessions Conducted in 2020

Human Rights Impacts During Covid-19: Masterclass on Responsible Business Conduct

Covid-19 has impacted us equally: across geographies, all businesses, and all human beings. Categories such as work majorly done by migrant workers or blue collared jobs have been impacted severely during these times. While some industry sectors are finding new ways of working, several sectors are recalibrating their business models and supply chains. This 2-day session (2 hours per day) referred to the unseen human rights risks in business value chains and the reflections on global frameworks such as UNGPs and NGRBC, the Centre's advisory on human rights and National Action Plan.

Preparing Workplace Post Covid 19

This one-day webinar provided awareness to EHS professionals involved in re-opening the workplace post lockdown on precautionary measures, safe-quards, hygiene issues, thermal check, breaking the workforce to shifts, sanitising between shifts, health monitoring, social distancing, screening systems, health care benefits and better living conditions required for adherence to OHS norms at the workplace.

Awareness Session on Waste Management, Treatment and Disposal Post Covid 19

This one-day online session discussed the measures to be adopted for segregation, handling, treatment and final disposal of different types of bio-hazard waste generated due to preventive measures being adopted by institutions while restarting operations post Covid-19. Key takeaways include understanding of handling and managing general solid waste, guidelines on storage, treatment, and disposal of Covid waste, guidance on operation of sewage treatment plants.

ESG Framework & Metrics

This 3-day training session is split into three modules-Module-1 covers key elements of ESG, history of ESG, modes of ESG; Module-2 on ESG metrics covers key ESG Indicators, Environmental Concerns and Trends, Social Concerns and Trends and Governance Concerns and Trends, Module-3 on ESG Framework, why is an ESG framework necessary and practical steps to include ESG framework for decision making.

CII-Certified Internal Auditor EHSMS Training

This 3-day online session covers introduction to EHSMS as per ISO 14001:2015 and ISO 45001:2018; changes in the requirements of 14001:2015, ISO 45001:2018 and their impact from auditing perspective; understanding life cycle perspective, role of leadership, organisational context and risk

assessment as per ISO 14001:2015; preparation of audit programme and framework for managing internal/external audit.

CII-Certified Internal Auditor Training on Energy Management Systems

This 3-day online course helps participants to equip with the basics of EnMS audit, plan, scope & criteria identification, design, establish, implement, maintain, and conduct internal audit for EnMS. Participants will also get an insight of the energy review, energy performance indicators (EnPls), energy baseline (EnBs), energy management action plans (EnMAPs), energy objectives & targets (EnO&T) and key energy regulations and compliances related to energy efficiency and conservation.

Awareness Session on EHSMS

This awareness session introduces the participants to EHSMS as per ISO 14001: 2015 and ISO 45001: 2018 and takes through changes in the requirements of ISO 14001: 2015, ISO 45001: 2018 and their impact from auditing perspective. It also covers understanding life cycle perspective, role of leadership, organizational context and risk assessment as per ISO 14001: 2015.

Awareness Session on Energy Management Systems

This one-day session includes design and development of energy management systems

based on leadership driven PDCA approach as per ISO 50001: 2018; energy basics, introduction to EnMS auditing and EnMS requirements; familiarizing the participants with various aspects and basics of EnMS as per ISO 50001: 2018; auditing energy review, baseline and energy performance indicators; auditing objectives, targets and energy management action plans; auditing design, procurement and trainings of EnMS system; auditing planning techniques, operational control and documents and record control; training professional to effectively manage the EnMS legislation and related issues.

Awareness Session on Energy Management Systems

Effective energy management is an indispensable aspect of all successful organisations. GHG accounting is the need of the hour for corporates to showcase their commitment and effectively implement the mitigation action plans. Training helps to achieve better savings, immediate improvements, along with capability to implement the systems and face the audits. Energy and environment management systems can help you cut your energy costs and reduce your environmental impact. In line with both requirements energy and environment, the Centre launched an advanced course with a practical approach. The courses are designed to help understand and implement an energy and environment management systems.

Advanced Course on Climate Change

This online course is bifurcated into 4 modules conducted in 4 days, having 4 hours of class each day, divided into comfortable slots. Exercises and case studies along with interaction like physical classes help to clear doubts. The course covers, overview of climate change, global and national climate action guidelines/plans/schemes, GHG Inventorization, setting science-based targets, internal carbon price, implementation of TCFD recommendation, carbon sequestration and carbon neutrality.

CII-IBBI Certified Training on Valuing Business & Nature Relationship

For the sustainable development of economy and businesses it is crucial to consider nature in decision-making. This requires incorporating 'Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services' (B&ES) across sectors and value chains. It is important to understand the inter-linkages of various activities with B&ES; map the associated risks; assess the impact of B&ES and develop specific targets and goals for mitigation of risks and achieving positive impact on Nature.

This training provides the opportunity to enhance awareness and build capacity on B&ES and support businesses to monitor and manage the risks. The course provides hands-on training on tools for

mapping, self-assessing and developing appropriate action plans for avoidance, mitigation and reduction of nature loss and climate change.

Training on Sustainability Reporting

This certified programme accelerates the adoption of Sustainability reporting skills of senior executives. Delivered in 4 modules, it covers introduction to GRI standards and disclosures in a global context; cracking materiality assessment and stakeholder concern; GRI standards and its cross alignment with other ESG reporting frameworks and developing Sustainability Report as per GRI standards and best cases.

CII-Certified Training on SHE Statutory Compliance

Complying with Safety, Health and Environment (SHE) regulations and requirements can significantly help an organisation in applying the principles of good management. This online master class focuses on regulatory framework on SHE, various types of occupational hazards, risk assessment and OH&S legislation like Factory Act. Besides, the course provides the learner with a basic knowledge of effective SHE-management plan within organisations.

Regular Trainings Conducted

Corporate Risk Management:intertwined with ISO 31000and ISO 37001

NBQP Accredited Lead Auditor EnMS Training

NBQP Accredited Lead Auditor EHSMS Training

NABET Accredited Training of SHE (Safety, health and Environment) Statutory Compliance

Waste Management Rules (and their amendments) Training

GHG Emission Reduction Accounting Training

CAP 2.0 ° Assessor Training

Integrated Reporting Training

GRI-certified Training on Sustainability Reporting

Sustainability Assessor Training



54 Training Programmes



1200 **Participants**

Nodal Ministries and Partner Organisations

































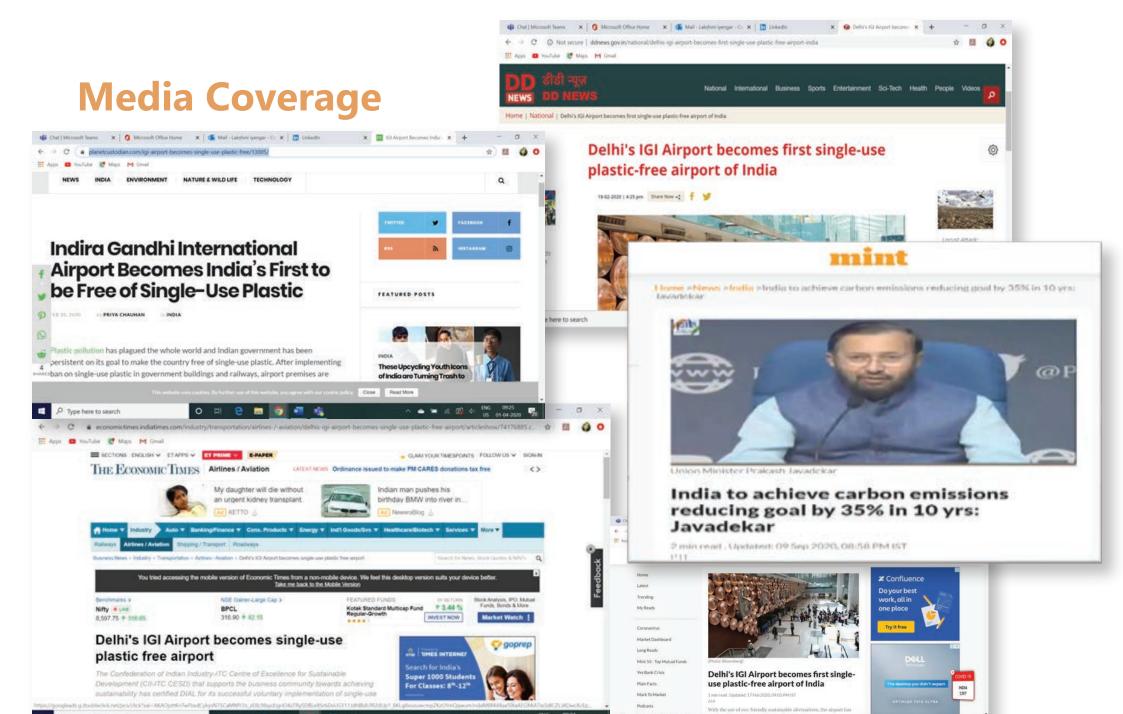


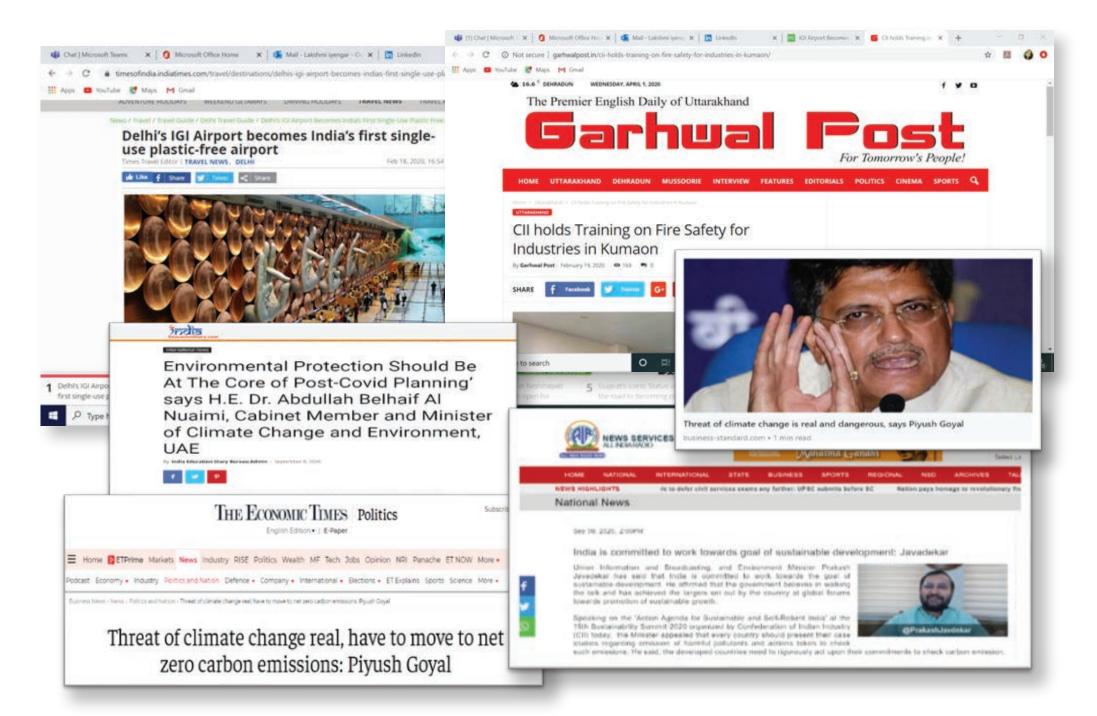












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Mr Ravi Singh Secretary General and CEO WWF India



Ms Vaishali Sinha
Director
ReNew Power
Ventures Pvt. Ltd.

About the Centre

CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development (CESD)

is one of CII's 9 centres of excellence. The Centre 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. Its 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.

The Centre leverages its role of all-inclusive ecosystem player, partnering industry, government, and civil society. It has been a pioneer of Climate Change, environment management systems, biodiversity mapping, sustainability reporting, integrated reporting, and social & natural capital valuation in India, thus upgrading business in India to sustainable competitiveness. With two locations in India, the Centre operates across the country and has also been active in parts of South and South-East 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.

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