CII-ITC Centre of Excellence
for Sustainable Development

Confederation of Indian Industry

19th SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT

17-18 SEPTEMBER 2024 | NEW DELHI

Driving Change for a Sustainability Conscious World

Outcome Report

For more information on the Sustainability Summit please write to:
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Vision

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

Mission

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

Thank You Partners

Contents

Agenda

Day 1, Tuesday, 17 September 2024		
0830-0930 hrs	**Registration**	
0930-1000 hrs	Opening Session	
1000-1045 hrs	Navigating Climate Action and Industry Transition	
1045-1130 hrs	Harmonising National and Global ESG Framework	
1130-1230 hrs	Digitally Enabled Lifecycle Solutions	
Networking Lunch		
1345-1500 hrs	Special Plenary: India's Leadership in Driving a Sustainability Conscious World	
1515-1615 hrs	Nature Conservation and Restoration	
Networking Break		
1630-1730 hrs	Sustainable Fuels: Paving the Way for a Greener Future	Business Case for Circular Economy
1730-1900 hrs	Building Sustainable and Resilient Value Chains	
Networking Dinner		
Side Events	Closed Door Roundtables India Plastics Pact: Third Annual Conference	
	Eco Edge Certificate Felicitation Ceremony	

Day 2, Wednesday, 18 September 2024		
1000-1115 hrs	Building Climate Resilience for Indian Industry	
Networking Break		
1130-1230 hrs	Water: The Essence of Life	Financing for Transition
1230-1330 hrs	Mainstreaming MSMEs for Sustainable Future	
Networking Lunch		
1430-1530 hrs	Social Inclusion: Building Trust and Fostering Equity	Product Sustainability: A Key to Responsible Business
1530-1630 hrs	Trailblazers in Sustainability	
1630-1700 hrs	Valedictory Session: Envisioning a Sustainable Future	
Side Events	Special Breakfast Session: Women in Sustainability	
	Series: Pathways to Clean Air	
	First Eco Edge Annual Stakeholder Meet	

Executive Summary

In the last decade, India has emerged as a global leader in fostering a sustainability-conscious world by leveraging unique interventions and campaigns, led by stakeholders around the world. Significant contributions through global collaborations such as the Global Biofuel Alliance, International Solar Alliance (ISA) and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) have positioned India as a rapidly developing nation with long-term commitments to a sustainable future.

The 19th Sustainability Summit, held in New Delhi on 17-18 September, brought forward the critical topic of 'Driving Change for a Sustainability Conscious World' and explored ways to make the world more sustainable. The Summit saw deliberations on tangible actions in driving sustainable change and implementing sustainability strategies, through innovation, development and collaboration. Through panel engagements and high-level plenary sessions, the Summit saw deliberations on tracks like Climate Action, Nature Positive Action, ESG, Responsible Actions, Technology & Innovation.

One of the key messages that emerged from this year's deliberations is to make sustainability a global movement and drive it as a culture. Another critical aspect that emerged is the need for countries to have a balanced approach to the three sustainability concerns: ecology, economy and equity, in their long-term goals and strategies.

The insightful deliberations happened over 2 high-level plenaries and 14 panel discussions focused on creating an enabling ecosystem that drives change for a sustainability-conscious world. The session focused on topics like Navigating Climate Action and Industry Transition, Harmonising National and Global ESG Framework, Digitally Enabled Lifecycle Solutions, Nature Conservation and Restoration, Sustainable Fuels, Circular Economy, Resilient Value Chains, Climate Resilience for Indian Industry, Water, Financing for Transition, Mainstreaming MSMEs for Sustainable Future, Social Inclusion, Product Sustainability, and Trailblazers in Sustainability.

The Chief Guest of the Summit - *Shri Bhupender Yadav, Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India* while delivering his keynote address said that the core idea of sustainability is how to utilize resources. He emphasised that energy is the foundation of the development model being followed globally and there is no going back from this path.

The other dignitaries among the 75 speakers at Summit include Mr Shombi Sharp, UN Resident Coordinator India; Shri Rohit Kansal, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India; Dr Sanjay Kumar Shukla (IFS), Member Secretary, Central Zoo Authority; Mr Sanjiv Puri, President, Confederation of Indian Industry and Chairman & Managing Director, ITC Ltd; Ms Tina Sejersgård Fanø, Executive Vice President, Planetary Health Biosolutions, Novonesis; Ms Inge Huijbrechts, Chief Sustainability and Security Officer, Radisson Hotel Group (RHG); Mr Ananda Bhoumik, Managing Director & Chief Analytical Officer, India Ratings & Research - A Fitch Group Company; Mr Ravichandran Purushothaman, President, Danfoss India; Ms Usha Subramaniam, Country President, Grundfos Pumps India Pvt Ltd; Mr Manish Chourasia, Chief Operating Officer, Corporate & Cleantech Finance, Tata Capital Ltd; Mr Hafiz Hussin, Vice President, Sustainability, DBS Bank; Mr Prem Singh, Group CHRO, JK Organisation and many more.

The Summit brought together 450 participants from businesses, governments, and institutions, including both thinkers and practitioners. With 160 B2B meetings, the Summit underscored the importance of fostering a culture of sustainability embedded at all levels of society.

Key Takeaways

- **Sustainability is a social goal:** To achieve this goal, stakeholders need to promote awareness of all aspects of sustainability. This includes not only resource efficiency and circularity but also a strong emphasis on climate justice, equity, and inclusivity.
- **Mindful consumption of resources:** All stakeholders have a responsibility towards natural resources and there is a need to shift away from indiscriminate and mindless consumption of resources. Industry can contribute to this by creating efficient circular business models.
- **Partnerships for value chains sustainability:** To ensure sustainability in value chains, sourcing companies must scale through partnerships and mentoring. All stakeholders, along with the Government, need to come together to focus on the sustainability of MSMEs through mentorship and enhanced capacity development.
- **Responsible competitiveness:** Industry needs to build sustainability objectives into corporate strategies through solutions that integrate economic gains and at the same time, create environmental value and contribute towards social capital.
- **Differentiated transition strategies:** While global regulations have brought about new metrics that evaluate sustainability performance of organizations, it has emerged that one size does not fit all. There is a need to factor in geographical conditions, local needs, and regional differentiations in the sustainability strategies of Industry.
- **Making transition economically viable:** To make the transition easier, a lot of resources like technology and infrastructure are required, and it is crucial to make these available. At the same time, there should be the focus on developing economically viable technologies, creating the right incentives and removing obstacles. When technologies are economically viable, private investment will naturally increase and speed up the process.
- **Data driven climate risk assessments and preparedness:** To make informed business decisions and implement climate actions effectively, the industry needs to invest in tools and methods for tracking sustainability metrics in real time.

It's also important to assess climate-related risks not just by looking at past events but by predicting future ones using advanced AI tools. Stakeholders must collaborate to create and apply adaptation strategies at various levels of society to manage the physical risks of climate change.

Highlights

As a part of the role in enabling action and acceleration towards the industry's sustainability journey, the Centre launched the following tools, frameworks, publications and initiatives at the Summit:

- Release of CII Report on Building Climate Resilience for Indian Industry
- Launch of CII's ESG Subscription Service
- Launch of IBBI 2.0
- Release of CII Compendium on 'Leveraging Technology to Maximise CSR Impact'
- Release of Global Dialogues and Symposium Forum on Sustainable Development 'Quorum' by CESD

On the sidelines of the Summit, the following events were held:

- **Exhibition by Startups on Sustainability Solutions:** To create a collective movement toward a greener world, the Summit showcased innovative products and solutions by eight startups who work in the area of environmental sustainability. The objective was to accelerate the adoption of sustainable technologies and practices across industries.
- **India Plastics Pact (IPP): Third Annual Conference -** Spread over six sessions, the Conference saw deliberations on global events related to plastics such as the Global Plastics Treaty and discussions on progress towards the targets of the India Plastics Pact.
- **Closed Door Roundtable Series on Pathways to Clean Air:** The series convened key Industry stakeholders to discuss actionable solutions and strategies for improving air quality across sectors. The discussions aimed at fostering Industry-wide collaboration and innovation, with a focus on three critical areas: private-sector action for clean air, circular economy for agricultural residues and transitioning to zero-emission fleets.
- **Eco Edge Annual Stakeholder Meet:** They tried to understand the challenges faced by value chain companies in integrating sustainability practices and to gather feedback from stakeholders to strengthen the Eco Edge assessment process.
- **Eco Edge Certificate Felicitation:** The felicitation recognized a leading automobile company, and its value chain partners for their outstanding efforts in integrating sustainability into their operations. The Eco Edge programme features three maturity levels of certification: Emerging, Progressive and Trailblazer.
- **Special Breakfast Session on Women in Sustainability:** From Speed Networking to profound conversations that led to both long-term and short-term commitments, accomplished women from various fields gathered to explore the challenges and opportunities for women in sustainability.

Dignitaries' Speak

I would like to focus on environmental sustainability, social sustainability and economic sustainability. In any policy framework, the Government creates a rhythm of all three issues. By balancing these three concerns, countries can move ahead on this topic.

Bhupender Yadav
Minister for Environment
Forest and Climate Change
Government of India

One of India's biggest reasons for optimism is its young population. India has more young minds to tap for solutions than any country has ever had before. The young generation in India is coming up with incredible energy and ideas and innovations to help us unlock some of these wicked challenges that we face.

Shombi Sharp
UN Resident
Coordinator India

While major apparel importing countries are experiencing shifts in sourcing, the dominant trend in textiles remains sustainability. Sustainability is not a challenge, it's an opportunity. The global leadership position for the sustainable producer of the world is still open and it is for India to grab that position.

Rohit Kansal
Additional Secretary
Ministry of Textiles
Government of India

Land loss and land degradation lead to loss of biodiversity. The Central Zoo Authority is working to identify endangered species and return them to the wild to increase their population. Biobanking plays a key role in supporting conservation efforts." The Government of India has several initiatives for nature conservation, such as MISHTI for mangrove conservation and Amrit Dharohar for wetland conservation. The International Big Cat Alliance is an initiative led by India to support big cat conservation efforts globally.

Sanjay Kumar Shukla
Member Secretary
Central Zoo Authority

The three concerns of sustainability, 'environment, economy and equity' are interconnected; a balanced approach to these concerns is the need of the hour.

Sanjiv Puri
President, CII and Chairman &
Managing Director
ITC Ltd.

India has become a significant player in sustainability, catalysed by Government's unique, innovative and path breaking initiatives, programmes and schemes in sustainability.

Chandrajit Banerjee
Director General
Confederation of Indian Industry

MSMEs may be reluctant to invest in sustainable practices, fearing that the associated costs will outweigh potential benefits due to the lack of incentivization. To address this, we must encourage the creation of green financing options specifically designed for MSMEs, making it easier for them to access the capital needed for sustainable investments.

Shreekant Somany
Chairman, CII Centre of Excellence for
Competitiveness for SMEs and CMD
Somany Ceramics Ltd.

We need to consider more nuances when applying for risk assessment frameworks in certain sectors like agriculture, compared to others. Given that exposure to the same parameters can have different impacts on different crops in various phenological stages, threshold levels and ranges for indicators like temperature and wind. It is essential to be more precise based on specific species of crops and the stage of harvest cycle that they are in.

S Sivakumar
Chair, CII Agriculture Council
Group Head - Agri & IT Businesses
and Member, Corporate
Management Committee
ITC Ltd.

For MSMEs, productivity is key. Therefore, we need to understand their capabilities and provide training on best practices, offer guidance and create awareness. Many MSMEs are unaware of available funding programmes, grants or incentives that could support their transition to sustainability, hindering their ability to access crucial resources.

Sunil Desai
Co-Chair
CII Cleaner Air Better Life and MD
Richfield Engineering India Pvt Ltd

While large companies have well-defined sustainability goals, the real challenge lies in integrating sustainability within small and medium enterprises. Embedding sustainability within these businesses, providing guidance and support maybe through a guidebook, is crucial to assist SMEs in achieving their sustainability goals.

Ravichandran Purushothaman
President
Danfoss Industries Pvt Ltd

There needs of collaboration at different levels – with communities, stakeholders, policymakers, and so forth – to get the biotech industry to take off. As an innovation-based company, we will work with local companies and startups to develop new and improved solutions to enable increased profitability in the sector.

Tina Sejersgård Fanø
Executive Vice President
Planetary Health Biosolutions
Novonesis

There has been a 20 per cent decline in the availability of clean water and India's water infrastructure is outdated. The industry is taking the lead in improving water efficiency through recycling plants and reuse programmes, but more needs to be done to address this issue effectively.

Usha Subramaniam
Country President
Grundfos Pumps India Pvt Ltd

Climate mitigation must ensure a just transition. There is a significant gap between the required and available funds for energy transition in India. Mobilizing private capital and leveraging catalytic capital is essential to bridge this gap and achieve climate finance goals. India, as a developing economy with vulnerabilities, needs capital flows to balance economic development and environmental action.

Manish Chourasia
Chief Operating Officer
Corporate & Cleantech Finance
Tata Capital Ltd

Big companies and OEMs should support smaller MSME suppliers by helping them manage their funding sources, working capital and operational capacity. Often, if a small supplier fails, it can disrupt the entire value chain, leading to significant business interruptions. Ensuring their stability is essential for maintaining a resilient value chain.

Ajay Bhatt
Head - Corporate
Product and Sustainability Strategy
Škoda Auto Volkswagen India Pvt Ltd

India has a lot of growth in tier 2 and tier 3 cities, with low awareness on net zero journey. We need to figure out the costs involved in decarbonisation, the certifications and the clean tech innovations required to reach NetZero 2030 targets.

Inge Huijbrechts
Chief Sustainability and Security Officer
Radisson Hotel Group (RHG)

Summit Overview

72 speakers
were part of the Summit

28% Female

12% International

20 partners
supported the Summit

2
high-level plenaries

14
insightful sessions

More than
450 participants

Over 166
B2B meetings

Exhibitions by
8 Startups
displaying Innovative Sustainability Solutions

Eco Edge
Certificate Felicitation

Launches & Releases
during the Summit:

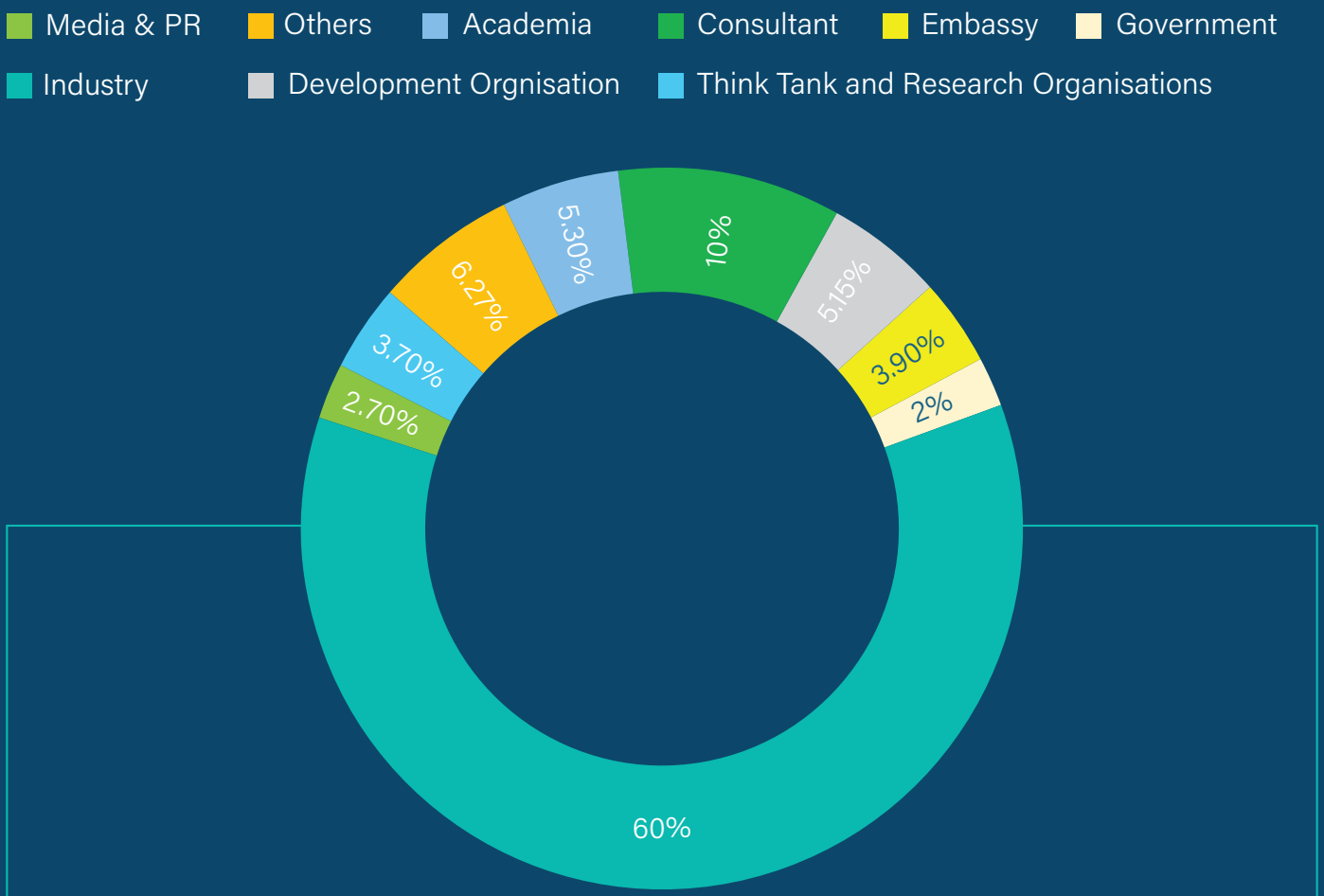
- Release of CII Report on Building Climate Resilience for Indian Industry
- Launch of India Business and Biodiversity Initiative (IBBI) 2.0
- Release of CII Compendium on 'Leveraging Technology to Maximise CSR Impact' Launch of ESG Subscription Service
- Launch of Eco Edge Vendor Engagement Tool
- Launch of Global Dialogues and Symposium Forum on Sustainable Development – 'Quorum by CESD'

Round tables & Side Events

- Special Networking Breakfast Session: Women in Sustainability
- India Plastics Pact (IPP) - Third Annual Conference
- Roundtable Series: Pathways to Clean Air Sustainability
- Eco Edge Annual Stakeholder Meet

Participants Overview

The Summit witnessed more than **450 participants**, out of which **28% were women leaders**, represented stakeholders group such as industry, government, academia, development organisations, associations, embassies, research organisations, consultants, and media. Over **166 B2B meetings** took place during the Summit.



Industry Sectors

Asset Management
Banking & Finance
Chemical
Conglomerate
E-commerce
Energy
Environmental Service
FMCG
Food Processing
Information Technology
Logistics & Supply Chains
Metal & Mining
Oil & Gas
Packaging
Recyclers
Service industry
Steel
Waste Management

Media Coverage

Hindustan Times @100

Put India's contribution to emissions in perspective: Bhupender Yadav

By Jayashree Nandi

Sep 18, 2024 11:31 AM IST

Union environment minister Bhupender Yadav underlined the needs of developing countries in achieving sustainable development should be a critical component of all talks

Union environment minister Bhupender Yadav. (X)

Union environment minister Bhupender Yadav on Wednesday called for putting in perspective India's contribution to emissions, underlining the country should not be viewed as the third or fourth-largest emitter in isolation considering it also accounts for 17% of the world's population. "This puts things in perspective," said Yadav in his

mint E-Paper

Consumption patterns need to change to bolster both economic and ecological growth in India: Minister Bhupendra Yadav

Key actions he suggested include energy conservation, waste management, and a ban on single-use plastics.

Puja Das

Published • 17 Sep 2024, 07:27 PM IST

Bhupendra Yadav, Union minister of environment, forest and climate change.(PTI)

Consumption patterns need to change in India so that the economy can grow without disrupting the environment, said union climate change minister Bhupendra Yadav on Tuesday.

"There is no problem in consuming, but it should be mindful consumption so that India can grow economically and ecologically with a sustainable environment," Yadav said at the CII's 19th Sustainability summit after releasing the 'Building Climate Resilience of the Indian Industry" report.

पर्यावरण, अर्थव्यवस्था और समानता स्थिरता की तीन चिंताएँ हैं : भूपेंद्र यादव

पर्यावरण, अर्थव्यवस्था और समानता स्थिरता की तीन चिंताएँ हैं : भूपेंद्र यादव, पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्री, भारत सरकार भारतीय उद्योग के लिए जलवायु लचीलापन निर्माण पर सीआईआई की रिपोर्ट का विमोचन नई दिल्ली १७ सितंबर २०२४ यह बहुत गर्व की बात है कि हमारे माननीय प्रधान मंत्री श्री नरेंद्र मोदीजी के नेतृत्व में भारत ने पेरिस समझौते के ३ मात्रात्मक एनडीसी लक्ष्यों में से २ को निर्धारित समय से ९ साल पहले हासिल कर लिया है, यह जानकारी भारत सरकार के पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्री श्री भूपेंद्र यादव ने १७ सितंबर २०२४ को नई दिल्ली में भारतीय उद्योग परिसंघ द्वारा आयोजित १९वें स्थिरता शिखर सम्मेलन में बोलते हुए दी। इस विषय पर विस्तार से बताते हुए उन्होंने कहा कि स्थिरता का मूल विचार यह है कि संसाधनों का उपयोग कैसे किया जाए और उन्होंने कहा कि ऊर्जा वैश्विक स्तर पर अपनाए जा रहे विकास मॉडल की नींव है और इस रास्ते से पीछे नहीं हटना है। मंत्री ने कहा कि सभी के लिए सम्मानजनक जीवन प्राप्त करने के लिए ऊर्जा तक पहुंच बुनियादी है और आज बहस उत्सर्जन प्रबंधन पर नहीं बल्कि प्रति व्यक्ति उत्सर्जन की लागत पर होनी चाहिए; इसलिए स्थिरता एक सामाजिक लक्ष्य है। स्थिरता में पर्यावरण, अर्थव्यवस्था और समानता की तीन चिंताएँ शामिल हैं, और सभी सरकारी नीतियों, योजनाओं, कार्यक्रमों और पहलों को इन तीनों के प्रति संतुलित दृष्टिकोण अपनाते हुए तैयार किया जाना चाहिए। जनसांख्यिकी और उपभोग के बदलते स्वरूप के बारे में बात करते हुए, मंत्री ने साझा किया कि बिना सोचे-समझे उपयोग के बजाय सोच-समझकर उपभोग करने की आवश्यकता है। सरकार छात्रों से भोजन बचाओ; पानी बचाओ; ऊर्जा बचाओ; अपशिष्ट से मूल्य; ई-कचरे का प्रबंधन; स्वस्थ जीवन शैली और डीज़ पर पूर्ण प्रतिबंध जैसे प्रमुख विषयों पर डलक्ष्य पर विचार ले रही है। ये विचार स्टार्ट-अप के लिए नए व्यवसाय मॉडल और नवाचारों का बीजारोपण करेंगे। अर्थव्यवस्था की स्थिरता के बारे में बात करते हुए, मंत्री ने साझा किया कि कई अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन नियम पहले ही ईपीआर के माध्यम से उद्योग के साथ साझा किए जा चुके हैं, लेकिन क्षेत्र-विशिष्ट अनुसंधान सहित परिपत्र अर्थव्यवस्था के संबंध में और अधिक काम करने की आवश्यकता है; पुनर्चक्रण योग्य बाजार में वृद्धि, प्रौद्योगिकियों तक पहुंच और कौशल निर्माण। मंत्री ने सीआईआई से इन उभरते क्षेत्रों में अपने काम को और गहन करने का आह्वान किया। विशेष पूर्ण सत्र के दौरान, माननीय मंत्री ने भारतीय उद्योग के लिए जलवायु लचीलापन निर्माण पर सीआईआई रिपोर्ट भी लॉन्च की। रिपोर्ट में भौतिक जलवायु जोखिम आकलन ढांचा शामिल है, जो भारतीय उद्योग को विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में उपयुक्त अनुकूलन कार्यों को प्राथमिकता देने में मदद करने के लिए एक आवश्यक उपकरण है। रिपोर्ट में सरकार के लिए इस तरह की कार्रवाइयों की सिफारिश की गई है: खुली पहुंच वाली जलवायु और चरम मौसम घटना डैशबोर्ड; हरित और जलवायु-लचीले औद्योगिक पार्क और देश में अनुकूलन परियोजना वित्त पोषण में वृद्धि। सीआईआई के अध्यक्ष और आईटीसी लिमिटेड के अध्यक्ष और प्रबंध निदेशक श्री संजीव पुरी ने टिकाऊ प्रथाओं को अपनाने, परिपत्र अर्थव्यवस्था को प्रोत्साहित करने, समय पर नीति जुड़ाव के माध्यम से पर्यावरण समर्थक व्यवहार परिवर्तन को प्रेरित करने के उद्देश्य से अनूठी पहल करने के लिए मंत्री को बधाई दी। भारतीय उद्योग के लिए जलवायु लचीलापन निर्माण पर रिपोर्ट के माध्यम से सीआईआई के शोध कार्य के बारे में साझा करते हुए, उन्होंने सुझाव दिया कि मौजूदा और पिछले डेटा के माध्यम से जोखिम मूल्यांकन की आवश्यकता है; एक परिष्कृत एआई-आधारित उपकरण जो पूर्वानुमान लगा सकता है, और एक सार्वजनिक उपयोगिता जो इस सभी डेटा को कैप्चर करती है और पूर्वानुमानों को साझा करती है। उन्होंने सुझाव दिया कि इसे आम जनता के लिए उपलब्ध कराया जाना चाहिए ताकि विशिष्ट भौगोलिक क्षेत्रों से जुड़े जोखिमों का आकलन और समझ हो सके।ङ्गपर्यावरण स्थिरता के प्रति उपभोक्ता व्यवहार को प्रेरित करने के लिए चेएक्ऽउ के हालिया प्रयासों के बारे में बोलते हुए, उखख के महानिदेशक श्री चंद्रजीत बनर्जी ने कहा कि भारत स्थिरता में एक महत्वपूर्ण खिलाड़ी बन गया है, जिसे सरकार की अद्वितीय, अभिनव और पथ-प्रदर्शक पहलों, कार्यक्रमों और योजनाओं द्वारा उत्प्रेरित किया गया है।ङ्गउखख द्वारा २००६ में स्थिरता शिखर सम्मेलन की शुरुआत की गई थी ताकि वैश्विक विनियमन और नीति सुधारों पर विचार-विमर्श के लिए एक सक्षम मंच बनाया जा सके और स्थिरता के क्षेत्र में अनुकरणीय प्रथाओं और प्रदर्शनों को उजागर किया जा सके। १९वां स्थिरता शिखर सम्मेलन: स्थिरता के प्रति जागरूक दुनिया के लिए परिवर्तन लाना, स्थायी परिवर्तन को आगे बढ़ाने में ठोस कार्यों पर विचार-विमर्श करेगा।

देश

विकासशील देशों को जलवायु लक्ष्य पूरा करने के लिए पांच लाख करोड़ अमेरिकी डॉलर की जरूरत: भूपेंद्र यादव

भाषा 17 September, 2024 05:48 pm IST

इसरो वैज्ञानिक एन. वलारमथी | ट्विटर/@DrPVVenkitakri1

Text Size: A- A+

नयी दिल्ली, 17 सितंबर (भाषा) केंद्रीय पर्यावरण मंत्री भूपेंद्र यादव ने मंगलवार को कहा कि विकासशील देशों को 2030 तक अपने विकास लक्ष्यों को पूरा करने के लिए पांच लाख करोड़ अमेरिकी डॉलर की जरूरत है, और पूर्व में विकसित देशों द्वारा वादा किया गया 100 अरब अमेरिकी डॉलर "बहुत छोटी" राशि है।

भारतीय उद्योग परिसंघ (सीआईआई) द्वारा आयोजित 19वें 'सततता शिखर सम्मेलन' को संबोधित करते हुए उन्होंने कहा कि विकसित देशों, जो ज्यादातर ग्रीन हाउस गैसों के उत्सर्जन के लिए ऐतिहासिक रूप से जिम्मेदार हैं, ने जलवायु परिवर्तन का मुकाबला करने के लिए विकासशील देशों को 100 अरब अमेरिकी डॉलर और प्रौद्योगिकी हस्तांतरण का संकल्प लिया है।

उन्होंने कहा, "लेकिन वे दोनों मोर्चों पर नाकाम हो गए...अब, विकासशील देशों को पांच लाख करोड़ अमेरिकी डॉलर से अधिक की आवश्यकता है। 100 अरब अमेरिकी डॉलर बहुत छोटी रकम है।"

पर्यावरण मंत्री ने कहा कि इथोपिया जैसे गरीब देश यदि विकसित देशों की उपभोग पद्धति को अपनाते हैं, तो वैश्विक मांगों को पूरा करने के लिए सात पृथ्वी के संसाधनों की आवश्यकता होगी।

मंत्री ने यह भी कहा कि भारत में उपभोग की पद्धति अफ्रीकी देशों के समान है, क्योंकि उनकी सतत जीवनशैली है।

उन्होंने कहा कि विकासशील देशों को अपने नागरिकों के लिए सम्मानजनक जीवन सुनिश्चित करने के वास्ते विकास कार्यों को लेकर ऊर्जा की आवश्यकता है।

लोकप्रिय

राजनीतिक 'घुसपैठ' के आरोपों के बीच बिहार में BPSC एस्पिरेंट्स की दोबारा परीक्षा की मांग जारी
नूतन · 31 December, 2024

कोड़े मारना, नंगे पांव चलना — अन्नामलाई दर्द सहने को तैयार हैं क्योंकि मोदी-शाह की तमिलनाडु में प्राथमिकताएं बदल रही हैं
डीके सिंह · 31 December, 2024

'महिलाओं, बच्चों से मारपीट' — हरियाणा के अंबाला और रोहतक में हिंदुत्ववादी संगठनों ने ईसाई प्रेयर रोकी
सुशील मानव · 30 December, 2024

PUNE.NEWS

India achieved 2 out of 3 NDC targets under Paris Agreement: Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav

Neel Shirodkar September 17, 2024

New Delhi, Sep 17 (IANS) India has achieved two out of three quantitative nationally determined contributions (NDCs) targets of the Paris Agreement, nine years ahead of schedule, Union Environment, Forest, and Climate Change Minister Bhupender Yadav announced on Tuesday.

New Delhi, Sep 17 (IANS): India has achieved two out of three quantitative nationally determined contributions (NDCs) targets of the Paris Agreement, nine years ahead of schedule, Union Environment, Forest, and Climate Change Minister Bhupender Yadav announced on Tuesday.

"It is a matter of great pride that India, under the leadership of our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modiji, has achieved 2 out of 3 quantitative NDC targets of the Paris Agreement, 9 years ahead of schedule," he said at his address at the 19th Sustainability Summit organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) here.

Day 1

17 September 2024

Navigating Climate Action and Industry Transition

Chair & Moderator

K. S. Venkatagiri
Executive Director
CII-Godrej Green Business Centre

Panellists

Inge Huijbrechts
Chief Sustainability and Security Officer
Radisson Hotel Group (RHG)

Prabodha Acharya
Group Chief Sustainability Officer
JSW Steel Ltd

James Abraham
Founder and Director
Mynzo Carbon

Industry could be the cause of climate change, but it can also very well be at the solution end of things. Indian industry has come a long way from considering environmental regulations prohibitive to uptake of profit through green operations and for those involved in the green business, things have improved in many spheres over the last three decades. India has graduated from the back to front of the bench in the corporate world. Given the increasing scale of operations for decarbonisation now is pressing. A perspective shift is needed to start looking at climate change as an opportunity.

Challenges

- The business landscape has changed substantially in the last three decades, but now the primary challenge is to understand how greening can be profitable for industry to be at the solutions-end of climate change.
- In the service industry space, RHG has been a sustainability pioneer, so far reducing carbon intensity by 25%, compared to the year 2019 and committed to achieving net-zero by 2050. The biggest roadblock is the Scope 3 emissions in the service sector. The diversity in scale of operations within the value chain pose a problem of varying sophistication of operations, along with varying capacity for greening or decarbonising efforts at their end.
- The supply side of emissions in hard-to-abate sectors, like steel, lacks sufficient science-aligned short-term targets. Although disruptive technology is yet to come, programs that can create incremental changes are yet to be identified and upscaled in a phased and timely manner.
- Collaborations are important and help evolve value-chains. Sufficient cross-industry partnerships with academia and researchers are not available to the Indian business-scape.
- There are enough overarching targets meant for different deadlines but not enough short-term goals. Appropriate monitoring is important to ensure effective implementation of larger targets.

Solutions

- More investment in the volume of renewable energy operations can help increase green buildings and greener operations. The capacity for greener projects exists in India, as demonstrated by breakthrough pilot adopted by RHG, that led to a 100% renewable energy hotel setup in Nashik through captive renewable supply.
- Aspects of trade like CBAM need to be integrated better in planning so it can move away from being a barrier to increasing potential to more aggressively decarbonise.
- Driving change within the hard-to-abate sectors will set the right precedent. E.g.: JSW reversed its renewable use to become 30% thermal and 70% renewable and is investing in programmes that will lead to reduction of an estimated 18 million tonnes of emissions relative to baseline.
- Beyond supply side emissions reduction, customers should also be encouraged to make greener choices to create some demand -side pull.
- Advocating for bolder policies for enabling ambitious decarbonisation goals should be part of the support extended by industry in return for financial incentives. Transition financing itself has a bigger role now than in the future.

- Personalisation of emissions and other climate impacts works for both organisations and people. Creating communities of change fosters a culture of encouragement and ambitions.
- The more visible success is the more people and organisations move towards it- therefore making the demonstration important. A change in the culture and community consciousness towards all aspects of sustainability should be the goal.
- Transformative change in the whole ecosystem is achieved through people and not just by organisations. Overarching goals are important to set the direction, but short-term targets are needed for demonstrating achievable change. Seeing success is necessary for fostering further success.

Apart from the business side of things, changing minds is important to foster a cultural shift in how people look at solutions at hand, not just organisations.

James Abraham
Founder and Director
Mynzo Carbon

We know the importance of remaining within 1.5 degree, but that means 7% every year and 43% reduction by 2030, but we're actually increasing emissions by 1.5% a year.

Prabodha Acharya
Group Chief Sustainability Officer
JSW Steel Ltd

https://youtu.be/_i99BIMei0s

L to R: K. S. Venkatagiri, Executive Director, CII-Godrej Green Business Centre; Inge Huijbrechts, Chief Sustainability and Security Officer, Radisson Hotel Group (RHG); Prabodha Acharya, Group Chief Sustainability Officer, JSW Steel Ltd; James Abraham, Founder and Director, Mynzo Carbon

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Harmonising Global and National ESG Frameworks

Chair & Moderator

Shikhar Jain
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Vignesh Chandrasekar
Chief Financial Officer &
Sustainability Leader
Synthite Industries

Anjalli Kumar
Chief Sustainability Officer
Zomato Limited

Ashok Menon
Director, Sustainability
Asia Pacific
SABIC

The ESG landscape is evolving rapidly.
The concept of sustainability has matured from being considered non-financial a couple of years ago, to now being studied, analyzed and driven by the financial fraternity globally, owing to its exigent financial implications. There are several ESG frameworks that have been in existence for over two decades now, are also evolving, collaborating and unifying to deliver the common underlying essence that the reporting is not a burden but an opportunity for companies. Companies can use this opportunity to showcase the efforts that they have made under this agenda and the benefits that they have derived from those initiatives.

Further, with such shifts being brought around by investors and regulators, the companies should also adapt their internal ESG frameworks to the changing market needs, regulatory needs and customer needs and embrace these developments. The decision of the relative importance that a company should assign to the environmental aspect, the social aspect, the value chain, etc. should, however, be based on the company's business model.

Challenges

- The broader goals and principles of ESG are understood and agreed upon, but industry continues to struggle with which standard should be followed in detail.
- Currently, there is a lack of harmonization between global standard-setting bodies and even among national regulators such as SEBI and RBI.
- Younger and smaller companies face more complex challenges in meeting the expectations set by regulators and standard setters. These challenges include gaps in knowledge, limited resources, and inaccessibility to expertise and data collection systems.
- The availability of ESG data is a challenge many companies face, especially in their value chain, which at times is extremely complex and where the sourcing companies have limited control.
- For companies operating across countries, there are multiple frameworks to follow and there is the challenge of ensuring that there is no duplication of work in terms of reporting.

Solutions

- Philosophically, most ESG standards rely on similar attributes and aim to capture the spirit of a company's actions. However, since every company is unique, the frameworks should not be prescriptive. Instead, they should offer flexibility around what is material for each organization. This approach allows companies to report on disclosures that are important to their stakeholders without the burden of adhering to multiple frameworks.

- At present, regulators are addressing different needs through their respective regulations. For instance, SEBI's framework is influenced by global developments in the ESG space, while RBI focuses on pushing financial institutions to understand climate-related risks, establish systems to mitigate those risks, and support the transition to financing newer and cleaner technologies. However, both nationally and globally, taskforces and organizations are working towards converging these regulations. Progress towards this objective is already visible, such as with the emergence of the IFRS S1 and S2 principles.
- The frameworks are expected to play the role of catalyzing financing, which can help companies develop the right set of expertise and processes that enable the company to achieve its ESG ambitions.
- To prevent companies from being overwhelmed by data requirements, especially within their value chains, ESG frameworks should be viewed as guiding forces. These frameworks help companies identify the essential areas to focus on when working with their value chains.
- It is essential to bring in automation and deploy technologies that allow data collection, data organization and data monitoring over the years and across geographies. This data, when studied in the ESG frameworks format, could also give strategic input that can guide companies to make better business decisions.

ESG Subscription Services with a vision to make every big and small Indian organisation sustainable and a mission to make the ESG journey affordable for all, CESD has developed SaaS based ESG Subscription services and was launched at the 19th Sustainability Summit. This central platform helps companies with some of their immediate ESG requirements and provides strategic inputs & assistance to walk the sustainability path. One of the main highlights of these services is that it offers peer benchmarking analysis to Indian companies from across 22 sectors.

It helps companies:

- Graphically evaluate their company's performance against the industry averages, maximums and minimums, on several ESG quantitative and qualitative indicators.
- Set more informed & better targets for the covered KPIs.
- Identify aspects that need more focus in terms of resources allocation & efforts.
- Identify aspects that show strength and can help build a positive brand.
- Identify aspects that give a competitive edge over the peers and can be tapped to create better marketing strategies.

What gets measured, gets monitored. And what gets monitored gets disclosed. And disclosure will drive actions.

Manish Kumar
Head-ESG & CSR
ICICI Bank Limited

The Global business world and regulatory world is looking at India for solutions because the global fraternity has realized that what works in India, works everywhere.

Shikhar Jain
Executive Director
CII-ITC Centre of Excellence
for Sustainable Development

L to R: Vignesh Chandrasekar, Chief Financial Officer & Sustainability Leader, Synthite Industries; Anjalli Kumar, Chief Sustainability Officer, Zomato Limited; Shikhar Jain, Executive Director, CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development; Manish Kumar, Head-ESG & CSR, ICICI Bank Limited; Ashok Menon, Director, Sustainability Asia Pacific, SABIC; Ananda Bhoumik, Managing Director & Chief Analytical Officer, India Ratings & Research - A Fitch Group Company

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Digitally Enabled Lifecycle Solutions

Chair & Moderator

Manjunath M.D.
Head Service Modernization and
Life Cycle Solutions
Carrier India

Panellists

Dhiraj Wadhwa
Director, Applied Sales &
Overseas Market
Carrier HVAC India

Namrata Rana
Partner and National
Head ESG
KPMG

Ananda Kumaran Sekar
Leader
LCA Global Centre of Excellence
SABIC

The panel discussion centered on digitally enabled lifecycle solutions from an HGSE (Heating, Green, Sustainable, and Efficient) perspective, addressing key issues like the significant role of buildings in energy-related greenhouse gas emissions, which account for 40% globally. The potential of smart buildings to reduce these emissions by up to 30% was emphasized, alongside the HVAC industry's progress in enabling digital communication with IoT platforms. The Paris Agreement's net-zero pathway was a focal point, with 92% of companies following its guidelines. Key outcomes include highlighting digital solutions like AI and IoT for improving energy efficiency and predictive maintenance, which are pivotal for achieving net-zero goals.

Challenges

- Need for stronger policies and frameworks to accelerate sustainability transformation.
- Gaps in the implementation of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) regulations in India.
- Lack of clear standards for Lifecycle Assessments (LCA) and Circular Economy initiatives.
- High initial costs for adopting sustainable and energy-efficient technologies.
- Financial burden of retrofitting buildings and integrating renewable energy sources.
- Limited access to funding and financial incentives for companies aiming to meet net-zero goals.
- The divide between luxury and survival needs, making sustainability less of a priority for many consumers.
- Limited public awareness about the long-term benefits of sustainability initiatives.
- Consumer actions are yet to align with the industry's sustainability ambitions.
- Buildings and HVAC systems contribute 40% of energy-related greenhouse gas emissions.
- Challenges in reducing emissions through large-scale retrofitting of existing infrastructure.
- Urgent need to address carbon emissions to meet global net-zero targets.
- Slow adoption of digital tools like AI, IoT, and blockchain for energy efficiency and predictive maintenance.
- Challenges in data sharing and integration of digital platforms for sustainability reporting and lifecycle management.
- Need for technological innovation to support decarbonization efforts.

Solutions

- The Indian government has introduced Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) regulations, which place accountability on manufacturers for the end-of-life management of their products, aiming to promote recycling and waste reduction.
- National sustainability goals and commitments to international agreements like the Paris Agreement have led to stricter emission targets and regulatory frameworks focused on reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- Efforts are being made to develop policies that encourage the adoption of renewable energy and energy efficiency measures, aligning with the net-zero emissions goal by 2050.

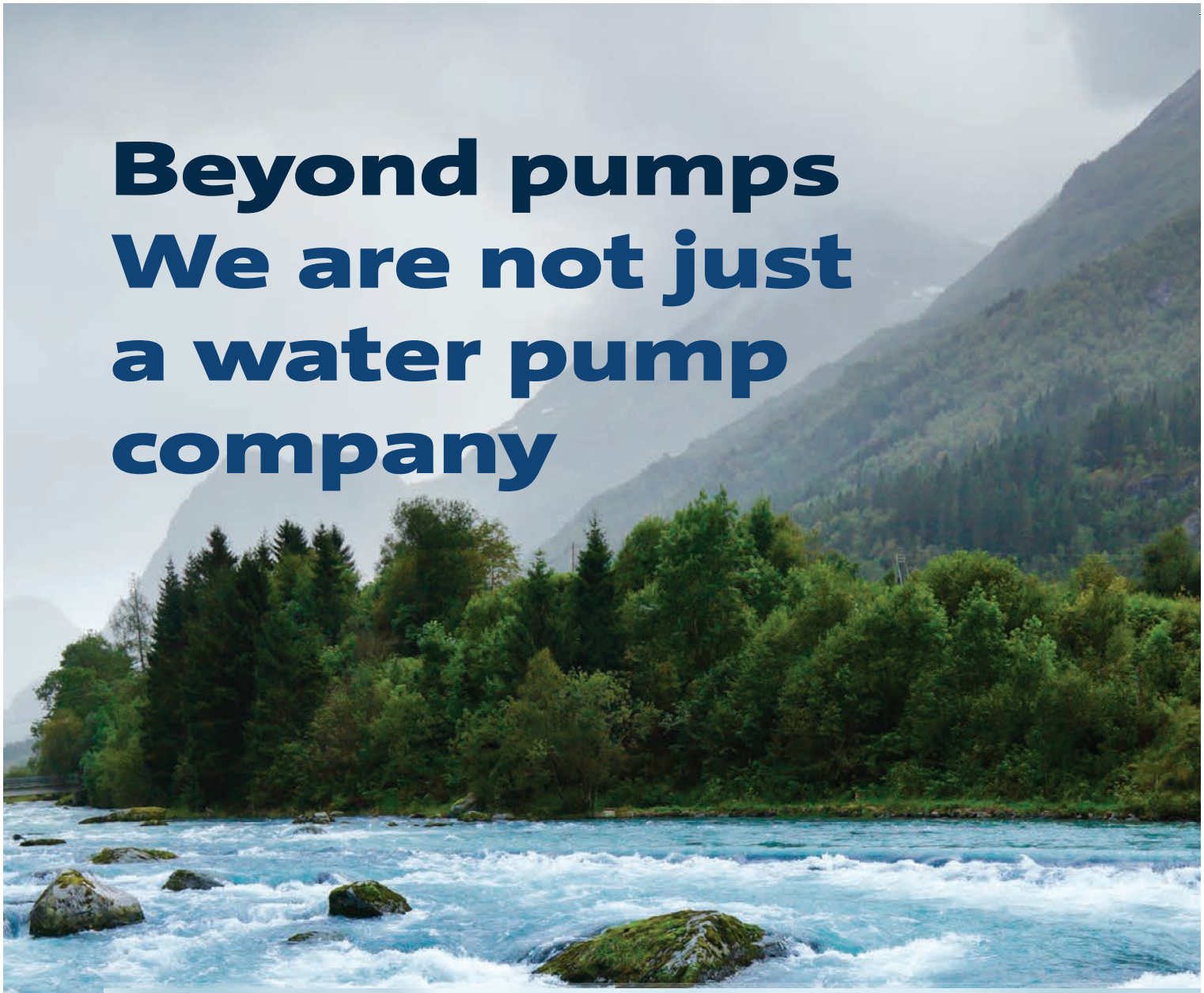
- The HVAC industry is leading efforts to reduce energy consumption in buildings through digital enablement, ensuring seamless integration with IoT platforms to monitor and optimize energy use.
- HVAC companies are working on lifecycle solutions, including AI-driven predictive maintenance and modernization of existing systems to enhance energy efficiency.
- Many companies are adopting net-zero management tools and technologies, aiming to reduce emissions by one gigaton. They are also aligning with Science-Based Targets initiative (SBTi) pathways to achieve net-zero goals.
- Industry players are investing in Circular Economy initiatives and Lifecycle Assessments (LCA) to ensure sustainable product development and waste reduction, contributing to the national sustainability agenda.

Digital solutions, like AI and IoT, are not just tools for energy efficiency; they are enablers for a sustainable future, helping us achieve our net-zero targets faster.

Manjunath M.D.
Head Service Modernization and Life Cycle Solutions
Carrier India

https://youtu.be/gxV_s4PfQuY

L to R: Dhiraj Wadhwa, Director, Applied Sales & Overseas Market, Carrier HVAC India; Manjunath M.D., Head Service Modernization and Life Cycle Solutions, Carrier India; Namrata Rana, Partner and National Head ESG, KPMG; Ananda Kumaran Sekar, Leader, LCA Global Centre of Excellence, SABIC



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Special Plenary: India's Leadership in Driving a Sustainability Conscious World

Chief Guest

Shri Bhupender Yadav
Hon'ble Minister for Environment
Forest & Climate Change
Government of India

Sanjiv Puri
President, Confederation of
Indian Industry and Chairman &
Managing Director
ITC Limited

Chandrajit Banerjee
Director General
Confederation of Indian Industry

L to R: Mr Sanjiv Puri, President, Confederation of Indian Industry and Chairman & Managing Director, ITC Limited; Shri Bhupender Yadav, Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India; Mr Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, Confederation of Indian Industry

Shri Bhupender Yadav, Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India while speaking at the 19th Sustainability Summit stated that core idea of sustainability is how to utilize resources. Clean energy is the foundation of the development model being followed globally and there is no going back from this path. The Minister pointed out that for achieving dignified life for all, access to energy is critical and the debate today should not be on emission management but rather what is the cost of per capita emission; hence Sustainability is a social goal.

The Minister added that Sustainability covers the three concerns of environment, economy and equity, and all Government policies, schemes, programmes and initiatives must be formulated taking a balanced approach towards these three.

Talking about the changing demographic and consumption pattern, the Minister shared that there is a need to transition to mindful consumption instead of mindless utilization. The Government has been taking ideas on LiFE from students on key themes of save food; save water; save energy; waste to worth; manage E-waste; healthy lifestyle and complete ban of SuP. These ideas will seed newer business models and innovations for start-ups.

Talking about sustainability of the economy, the Minister shared that several waste management regulations have already been shared with Industry through EPR but more work in regard to circular economy including sector-specific research, increasing the recyclables market, access for technologies and building skills is required.

Mr Sanjiv Puri, President, CII and Chairman & Managing Director, ITC Limited appreciated the efforts for leading unique initiatives aimed towards driving adoption of sustainable practices; encouraging circular economy; inspiring pro-environment behaviour change and motivating climate change actions, through timely policy reforms; necessary updates in regulatory mandates.

Mr Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII expressed his gratitude to the Minister and said that under his leadership, India has become a force to reckon with for other countries, catalysed by Government's unique, innovative and path breaking initiatives, programmes and schemes in sustainability. He added, It is imperative that all stakeholders come aboard and take collective action to propel India's sustainable and inclusive growth.

CII Report on Building Climate Resilience for Indian Industry

was released by the Hon'ble Minister during the Special Plenary at the 19th Sustainability Summit. The report highlights the role of industry in bringing in private capital, conducting in-depth and site-specific studies that allow for clarity in investments, building resilient infrastructure and its requirements in fulfilling this role. It presents findings from its pilot study and demonstrates the impact of building adaptive capacity as an effective strategy to address overall physical climate risk.

Further, the report recommends actions for policymakers and public institutions and sheds light on the necessity to strengthen existing forecasting capabilities and integrating health and essential services considerations, in resilience and recovery planning to enhance social well-being.

L to R: Sanjiv Puri, President, Confederation of Indian Industry and Chairman & Managing Director, ITC Limited; Shri Bhupender Yadav, Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India; Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, Confederation of Indian Industry

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Nature Conservation and Restoration

Chair & Moderator

Himal Tewari
Director, CHRO
Chief- Sustainability & CSR
Tata Power

Panellists

Sanjay Kumar Shukla (IFS)
Member Secretary
Central Zoo Authority

Ravi Singh
CEO & Secretary General
WWF India

Rinika Grover
Head Sustainability and CSR
Apollo Tyres Ltd

Ecosystem degradation has become one of the most significant environmental threats over the past decades. It is crucial to conserve and restore nature for maintaining biodiversity and combating climate change. The global policy landscape is undergoing significant transformations, particularly in response to escalating environmental challenges. The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) and the Task Force on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) emphasizing the role of businesses in contributing to prevent nature loss and fostering cross-sector collaboration, is gaining traction. It is imperative for businesses to understand the critical importance of identifying and assessing nature-related risks within supply chains, operations, and investment portfolios.

Challenges

- Threat to nature and to species due to land use change, land degradation, climate change and pollution. These threats may lead to species extinction.
- Working in silos for nature conservation will not bring any significant impacts.
- Evaluating organizations' interface with nature at various stages is a huge challenge for businesses.
- There is a huge gap in finances for nature-based solutions.
- Organisations and businesses must have target-based biodiversity commitments to reduce their impact on nature.

Solutions

- The concepts of frozen-banks, bio-banking and ex-situ conservation can play an important role in species conservation which are under threat of extinction. There are many examples of species conservation like Red Panda, Mahseer fish, Snow Leopard, Pangolins, Vultures by adopting these methods.
- Conservation projects often take decades to show results, as seen in projects like the reintroduction of species. The importance of reliable, regular funding and the role of corporations in ensuring financial sustainability for conservation initiatives is the key. Industry or government agencies should engage in multi-decade conservation efforts that would ensure ecosystem restoration and stability.
- Evolving global frameworks such as the TNFD and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and regulations like EUDR help organisations to assess their nature-related risks and dependencies. These frameworks and regulations are enablers for organisations.
- Nature based solutions (NbS) are at the forefront to mitigate the impacts on nature. There is a rising global conversation around NbS. These are alternatives to costly technology-based solutions.
- Conservation and restoration of nature needs robust partnership models. Partnerships between governments, businesses, and local communities in tackling environmental challenges. Public-private partnerships (PPPs) were identified as critical mechanisms for scaling up conservation efforts.

- The Government of India has implemented several impactful initiatives to promote nature conservation. These programs collectively demonstrate India's commitment to preserving natural habitats, protecting endangered species, and promoting sustainable environmental practices. These efforts include:
  - **Mangrove Restoration Initiatives:** Under the "MISHTI" program (Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes), India is actively restoring mangrove ecosystems, which are crucial for coastal protection, biodiversity, and local livelihoods.
  - **Ramsar Wetlands Conservation:** India now boasts 85 Ramsar wetlands, recognized for their international importance in conserving biodiversity and supporting sustainable development.
  - **Project Cheetah:** This international translocation project aims to reintroduce cheetahs into their historical range in India, enhancing biodiversity and restoring ecological balance.
  - **International Big Cat Alliance:** Launched on the 50th anniversary of Project Tiger, this initiative supports global efforts in big cat conservation, fostering collaboration and sharing best practices among countries.

IBBI 2.0 Launch: A Decade of Business Leadership in Biodiversity

The launch of IBBI 2.0 at the 19th Sustainability Summit marks a significant milestone in the journey of fostering business leadership in biodiversity conservation IBBI 2.0 Launch: A Decade of Business Leadership in Biodiversity. Celebrating a decade of progress, this initiative continues to encourage Indian businesses to integrate biodiversity into their operations and decision-making processes.

Sustainable nature conservation is not about putting large amounts of money into an area or an organization or institution. It is about putting a regular amount of flow over a long period of time

Ravi Singh
CEO & Secretary General
WWF India

L to R: Rinika Grover, Head Sustainability and CSR, Apollo Tyres Ltd; Himal Tewari, Director, CHRO, Chief- Sustainability & CSR, Tata Power; Ravi Singh, CEO & Secretary General, WWF India; Sanjay Kumar Shukla (IFS), Member Secretary, Central Zoo Authority


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Sustainable Fuels: Paving the Way for a Greener Future

Chair & Moderator

Roshan Lal Tamak
Executive Director and CEO
DCM Shriram – Sugar Business

Panellists

Tina Sejersgård Fanø
Executive Vice President
Planetary Health Biosolutions
Novonesis

Pranab Ghosh
Head – EHS
Total Energies Biomass
Limited

Arushi Jain
Joint Secretary
Grain Ethanol Manufacturers
Association and
Joint Managing Director
Gulshan Polyols Ltd

The session on "Sustainable Fuels" explored how biofuels and Compressed Biogas (CBG) are pivotal to India's decarbonization journey, particularly with the government's policies like the National Biofuel Policy, SATAT, and the upcoming BioE3 policy. The session discussed the role of public-private partnerships, feedstock supply, and technological advancements needed to scale the biofuel sector.

Panelists highlighted key challenges such as feedstock availability, cost viability, and infrastructure development, while outlining opportunities in rural development, job creation, and energy security. There was a consensus on the need for continuous innovation and collaboration to overcome obstacles and accelerate growth in sustainable fuels.

Challenges

- **Regulatory:** While government policies like SATAT and BioE3 have provided support, regulatory gaps remain in ensuring price stability for biofuels and mandating sustainable practices. For example, pricing mechanisms for CBG are insufficient for rural producers, and regulatory frameworks to promote the usage of organic manure are underdeveloped.
- **Financial:** High production costs due to feedstock limitations and underdeveloped infrastructure are key financial challenges. Ethanol producers face high input costs, particularly with grain prices rising, while biogas plants are burdened by costly technology and inefficient supply chains.
- **Social:** The lack of awareness among farmers regarding the benefits of biofuels and animal feed like Distillers Dried Grains with Soluble (DDGS) is also a challenge. Rural development, particularly educating farmers on sustainable practices, was emphasised as a key social challenge. The need for incentivising farmers to shift to industrial crops like maize is crucial for sustainable feedstock supply.
- **Environmental:** While biofuels offer significant environmental benefits, including reduced greenhouse gas emissions, still there is a need for better management of waste, particularly organic manure from biogas production. Also, the environmental challenges of municipal waste management, where biogas potential remains largely untapped needs to be addressed.
- **Technological:** Technological barriers in biogas production and biofuel refinement were also discussed, particularly the need for collaboration between technology providers and manufacturers. Efficient technology to convert agricultural waste into biofuels is still lacking in India, with most biogas plants operating below capacity due to poor technological design.

Solutions

- The government has implemented several policies to support the biofuel sector, such as SATAT, which promotes biogas production through incentives. The recent BioE3 policy was highlighted as a promising initiative to drive biofuel adoption across sectors, particularly with its emphasis on achieving blending targets. To address financial issues, subsidies for biogas infrastructure (such as pipelines connecting CBG production to city distribution grids) have been introduced, although more assistance is needed for small-scale producers.

- On the industry front, companies are focusing on public-private partnerships and investing in technological innovation. For example, Novonesis is working with local companies and startups to develop new biofuel solutions, while Gulshan Polyols is educating farmers on the economic benefits of maize and DDGS.
- Decentralized biofuel production units are also being proposed to address feedstock collection issues and enhance local economic development.
- There is a need to adopt best practices from mature markets like the U.S. and Europe, where biogas and ethanol industries have achieved high efficiency.
- Collaboration across stakeholders, including government, industry, and technology providers plays a very important role for such transition. This includes developing frameworks to enhance supply chain efficiency, increasing farmer participation, and improving access to finance for small-scale biofuel producers. The focus on circular economy practices, such as the reuse of organic waste for energy, was seen as a key area for future development.

L to R: Arushi Jain, Joint Secretary, Grain Ethanol Manufacturers Association and Joint Managing Director, Gulshan Polyols Ltd; Roshan Lal Tamak, Executive Director and CEO, DCM Shriram – Sugar Business; Tina Sejersgård Fanø, Executive Vice President, Planetary Health Biosolutions, Novonesis; Pranab Ghosh, Head – EHS, Total Energies Biomass Limited

Business Case for Circular Economy

Chair & Moderator

Nandini Kumar
Senior Consultant
CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development

Panellists

Ramnath Vaidyanathan
AVP Godrej Good & Green
Godrej Industries Group

Rahul Nene
Head, Sustainability
Huhtamaki India

Peter Skelton
Strategic Partnerships Manager
WRAP

Antti Herlevi
Counsellor (Trade and Investment)
Embassy of Finland

India's rapid growth is constrained by resource constraints, environmental degradation, and climate change impacts. To address these issues, the circular economy model is gaining momentum among businesses and governments. Additionally, standardized metrics to measure circularity at enterprise, regional, and national levels are crucial. This session highlighted the business case for circularity across sectors such as plastics, food, and construction, emphasizing the need for clear, consistent metrics. The panelists emphasized that:

- Circular economy is not just recycling but a larger concept encompassing multiple aspects such as reducing, reusing, refurbishing, and remanufacturing.
- Circularity enhances resilience and provides a more competitive edge to businesses.
- The most important aspects of a circular economy are product longevity, sustainable design, repairable products, minimum use of raw materials, and consumer responsibility.
- Collaboration is crucial to achieve circularity as it helps to find solutions, as well as know and understand the value chain.

Challenges

- Data on the environmental parameters is limited, inconsistent, and fragmented. There is a need to invest in a shift to integrated and standardized environmental accounts.
- While circularity within a single operation is easier, expanding it across all sectors has challenges with respect to finding partners for collaboration and markets for waste and products generated.
- Many businesses in India are in the initial stages of implementing principles of circular economy and are not able to make use of established circularity metrics such as Circularity Transition Indicators (CTI).
- In a circular economy, products and materials are kept in circulation through processes such as reuse, repair, refurbishment, remanufacture, recycling, etc. However, there is a lack of a structured framework or platform to facilitate the percolation of circular economy business models.
- Implementing circular economy practices in complex value chains involving multiple stakeholders and varying approaches can be difficult.
- Particularly, for plastic packaging, designing packaging to not only be technically recyclable, but also recyclable in practical conditions is challenging, especially in countries such as India, with limited recycling infrastructure.
- Although government has given clear policy direction through extended producer responsibility (EPR) framework in some sectors such as plastics and batteries, there is a lack of an overall policy direction for a circular economy. Accurately determining the value of products and services generated in a circular economy is difficult, especially considering the complex interactions within value chains. The discrepancy between the perceived value and the actual cost of products and services contributes to a mismatch in the global economy. There is a need for standardization methods for the valuation of products and services across all sectors.
- Building a circular economy requires competitors to collaborate, which might be challenging.

Solutions

- Finland was the first country to create a national roadmap for circular economy in 2016. This roadmap focuses more on facilitation and less on regulation. It highlights the best practices and models for companies to adopt, facilitates innovation in circular solutions, and promotes investment and growth.
- Godrej Agrovet's oil palm plantation project procures fresh fruits from farmers, which are then processed in mills to produce palm oil. The common waste and by-products such as palm nut shells, empty fruit bunches and palm fibres are used as boiler fuel, providing them with 99.8% of their energy needs. The residual ash is then repurposed to be used as a fertilizer, achieving almost 100% circularity.
- The India Plastics Pact (IPP), a Confederation of Indian Industry initiative, is an ambitious business-led platform that brings all stakeholders across the plastics value chain together to create a circular economy for plastic packaging in India through common targets and vision. This provides a pre-competitive platform for stakeholders across the plastic packaging value chain to collaborate.
- WRAP is working with global brands, retailers, governments, delivery partners and directly with individuals to reduce food waste and GHG emissions and protect critical water resources. WRAP has helped to develop food and drink voluntary agreements around the world and is now planning to create one in India in partnership with CII.
- Huhtamaki has developed a dedicated programme, BlueLoopTM, to develop and provide 100% recyclable flexible packaging. Huhtamaki has also set up a multilayer packaging recycling plant in Maharashtra, where they are working with the informal sector to enhance their capacity for collecting multilayer packaging, helping to divert such packaging from landfills.

https://youtu.be/a4yU-4O8ETw

L to R: Peter Skelton, Strategic Partnerships Manager, WRAP; Ramnath Vaidyanathan, AVP Godrej Good & Green, Godrej Industries Group; Nandini Kumar, Senior Consultant, CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development; Rahul Nene, Head, Sustainability, Huhtamaki India; Antti Herlevi, Counsellor (Trade and Investment), Embassy of Finland

Building Sustainable and Resilient Value Chains

Chair & Moderator

Ajay Bhatt
Head Corporate
Product and Sustainability Strategy
ŠKODA AUTO

Keynote Address

Shri Rohit Kansal
Additional Secretary, Ministry of Textiles
Government of India

Panellists

K K Sharma
Wholetime Director-EHS
DCM Shriram Limited

Sandeep Raheja
Chief Procurement Officer
Apraava Energy Pvt Ltd

Neha Chauhan
Lead CSR and
Social Performance
Shell

The interconnected world presents value chains with a relentless barrage of challenges. Geopolitical tensions, climate change, and social disruptions like Covid 19 pandemic expose vulnerabilities within networks, demanding a strong and adaptable approach. Integrating sustainable practices strengthens a value chain's ability to withstand disruptions, fostering long-term resilience. Evolving regulations and increasing emphasis on sustainability necessitate adherence to stringent environmental and social standards. In this context, big companies and OEMs should support smaller/MSME suppliers by helping them manage their funding sources, working capital, and operational capacity. Often, if a small supplier fails, it can disrupt the entire value chain, leading to significant business interruptions. Ensuring their stability is essential for maintaining a resilient value chain. Building sustainable and resilient value chains is now essential, not just for business sustainability but also due to regulatory requirements like India's Business Responsibility Sustainability Reporting (BRSR) Core for ESG disclosures of value chains. This requirement is driving increased engagement with the Value Chain Partners (VCPs) to enhance overall business sustainability.

The discussion focused on the need for adaptable business models sourcing companies and value chain partners. Shri Rohit Kansal, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, highlighted the importance of meeting global norms and the business case for sustainability. The emphasis was on the environmental impact of the textile industry and the urgent need for sustainable practices, citing examples of sustainable initiatives from textile clusters like Tirupur and Panipat. The discussion also underscored the importance of establishing global sustainability standards and highlighted the key role of MSMEs in driving these efforts forward.

Škoda Volkswagen shared insights on their engagement with value chain partners highlighting their water-positive, zero-waste initiatives, and S-Rating system. DCM Shriram emphasized that reducing emissions and increasing green energy mix into the whole operations including the VCPs can help to build resilient value chains. Apraava Energy mentioned that they have set SBTi goals targeting a 46% greenhouse gas reduction by 2027. They have also placed a strong emphasis on human rights and health and safety to build sustainable value chains.

The CII Eco Edge program was also highlighted for its role in facilitating non-invasive data collection from suppliers, educating them on sustainability parameters, and analyzing their sustainability performance. The program helps identify areas for improvement and provides certification based on sustainability efforts, contributing to the creation of more sustainable and resilient value chains.

Challenges

- Scaling up infrastructure for electric vehicles (EV) and renewable energy generation, such as onshore wind and solar, requires substantial investment and alignment with national commitments.
- Educating suppliers on the importance of sustainability, emerging regulations and their role in achieving sustainability goals is essential but challenging.
- Integrating circularity into business models, such as reusing waste products is essential but complex to implement across value chains.
- Geopolitical tensions and climate-related events like floods can disrupt value chains, making it difficult to ensure seamless operations.
- In many industries, the value chain accounts for a significant portion of the carbon footprint. For instance, in the automotive sector, the value chain contributes around 17–18% of greenhouse gas emissions.

Solutions

- Conduct life cycle assessment of various products to identify hotspots for action.
- Evaluate scope emissions and develop action plans to reduce them.
- Conduct climate risk assessment and identify ways for value chain partners to contribute to the sustainability journey.
- Conduct supplier risk management, including vital-essential analysis, and implement supplier relationship management to support critical suppliers.
- Explore opportunities to decarbonize the value chain, such as bringing LNG to off-grid industries, investing in renewable energy, and enabling circularity practices across the value chain.
- Invest in innovation and green skills development to support the value chain and the community.
- Engage with suppliers through the CII Eco Edge program to educate, collect data, and rate suppliers on their sustainability efforts.
- Policies and documentation are not enough. There is a need to connect with suppliers on a human level to convey the long-term value of sustainability and resilience.

L to R: Sandeep Raheja, Chief Procurement Officer, Apraava Energy Pvt Ltd: Ajay Bhatt, Head Corporate, Product and Sustainability Strategy, ŠKODA AUTO; Shri Rohit Kansal, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India; K K Sharma, Wholetime Director-EHS, DCM Shriram Limited; Neha Chauhan, Lead CSR and Social Performance, Shell

The Eco Edge Certificate felicitation recognized a leading automobile company and its value chain partners for their outstanding efforts in integrating sustainability into their operations. A total of 50 Value Chain Partners (VCPs) were evaluated under the Eco Edge programme, with 24 companies present at the summit receiving recognition for their sustainability achievements. Of these, 11 companies were awarded the 'Emerging' certificate for making significant initial strides in embedding sustainability, while 13 were honoured with the 'Progressive' certificate for their continuous commitment and progress in integrating sustainable practices.

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Day 2

18 September 2024

Building Climate Resilience for Indian Industry

Chair & Moderator

Karthik Ganesan
Fellow and Director, Strategic Partnership
CEEW

Panellists

S. Sivakumar
Chair, CII Agriculture Council and Group Head - Agri & IT Businesses
Member Corporate Management Committee
ITC Limited

Ashish Chaturvedi
Head - Action for Climate and Environment
UNDP India

Ranjini Mukherjee
Director Research & Knowledge Management
Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)

Amrita Goldar
Senior Fellow
ICRIER

Subrata Chakrabarty
Associate Director
WRI

Sukanta Kumar Sahoo
Deputy General Manager
Dept. of Climate Action and Sustainability
NABARD

Businesses have known how to invest in disaster settings and prepare for transitional risks, however they need to factor-in climate related uncertainties and focus on adaptation planning. Persistent gaps in understanding business risks are attributed to the complexity of probabilistic modelling, contingent loss estimation and insufficient ground truthing. Focusing on acute physical risks is a good starting point for building adaptive capacity and include aspects of resilience. Despite nuances in specific businesses, frameworks, like the Physical Climate Risk Assessment Framework (PCRAF), that inform decision making and can work for different scales of operations, locations and different sectors, will be crucial.

Challenges

- Within the adaptation space, more industry orientation is needed. The CDP annual disclosure report (2021) estimates a cost of Rs. 1434 billion from acute physical climate risk for Indian businesses. Looking into the physical climate risks is very important for managing costs of damage, particularly from floods and cyclones, given limited means.
- Insufficient planning, availability of finance and unreliable or limited data are some of the persistent issues that have a systematic impact. Availability of reliable data in particular is an important challenge, even for big industry players.
- Given the variations in terrain and climates in the country, probabilistic modelling is made more complex, less reliable and overall challenging, particularly without shared databases.
- The immediate focus should be on modelling for extreme weather events and estimating not just damages but losses as well. This will be of particular importance for building resilient infrastructure around power, telecom and other key logistics.
- Prioritising sectors could be based on estimations around vulnerability and exposure to extreme events.
- There is a significant lapse in inter-departmental coordination and finance. This impacts the implementation of effective interventions particularly in sectors like agriculture that have finer threshold levels.

Solutions

- It is essential for Industry to begin evaluating the return on investment (RoI) of their adopted strategies and determine what percentage of their portfolio is contributing to a greener future.
- Public sector investments should focus on reliable and publicly available data for addressing data and modelling issues that includes contextualizing global climate trends and enhancing prediction capabilities. By making all available data public, disaster management plans can be updated and coordinated across various levels of government over time.
- Adaptive capacity issues can be addressed through collaboration among various stakeholders, including governments partnering with institutions such as NABARD, WRI, GIZ, and UNDP. This also involves inter-departmental coordination, public-private partnerships, and business-to-business (B2B) cooperation.

- Vulnerability assessments can help bring out no-regret strategies that can help foster positive impacts across sectors. But for effective site-specific implementation, more research is required for collecting and examining granular data that can lead to better modelling outcomes, through involvement of stakeholders.
- Better understanding of requirements will enhance the availability and dissemination of climate finance with an adaptation focus. Currently, only 11% of climate finance supports adaptation efforts, primarily due to long gestation periods. This percentage needs to increase significantly through more targeted and blended finance approaches.
- Policies like the anticipated National Adaptation Plan (NAP) can help encourage short and long-term resilience planning.

The impact of physical climate risk can be quite acute, so including aspects like exposure and adaptive capacity, that industry can have some control over, is a good first step

Sukanta Kumar Sahoo
Deputy General Manager
Dept. of Climate Action and Sustainability
NABARD

Happy to see a framework emphasising resilience aspects that can have cascading effects for logistic requirements for big and small operations

Ranjini Mukherjee
Director Research & Knowledge Management
Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)

The framework accounts for five indicators that includes adaptive capacity, and the report presents short- and long-term recommendations for major stakeholders, which is appreciated

Subrata Chakrabarty
Associate Director
WRI

https://youtu.be/_7WdabKCX4E

L to R: Subrata Chakrabarty, Associate Director, WRI; Amrita Goldar, Senior Fellow, ICRIER; Ashish Chaturvedi, Head - Action for Climate and Environment, UNDP India; Karthik Ganesan, Fellow and Director, Strategic Partnership, CEEW; S. Sivakumar, Chair, CII Agriculture Council and Group Head - Agri & IT Businesses, Member, Corporate Management Committee, ITC Limited; Ranjini Mukherjee, Director Research & Knowledge Management, Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI); Sukanta Kumar Sahoo, Deputy General Manager, Dept. of Climate Action and Sustainability, NABARD

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Water: The Essence of Life

Chair & Moderator

Usha Subramaniam
Country President
Grundfos India

Panellists

V.K. Madhavan
Chief Executive
Water Aid India

Priya Sankar
Director
Programme and Partnerships
Arghyam

Kapil Narula
Executive Director
CII- Triveni Water Institute

Philip Grinder Pedersen
Program Manager
The Danish Environmental Protection Agency
Ministry of Environment of Denmark

Water is critical for socio-economic development, healthy ecosystems and for human survival itself. The growing stress on water resources is compounded by the impacts of climate change with severe implications for overall sustainable development. The exposure of people and assets to water risks is increasing with the rise in water stress, supply inconsistency, extreme climatic events, less access to safe drinking water and sanitation. The challenge of water scarcity and quality is likely to pose a significant risk to both business and society. To preserve and manage water resources, businesses have progressively recognized and addressed the issue of water crisis, trying to minimize the impacts, ensuring water efficiency, conservation and security.

The session brought together stakeholders to share their learnings and talk about the collective action required for conserving water resources and ensuring water security for all.

Challenges

- With a population that constitutes approximately 18% of the global total, India holds just 4% of the world's water resources, placing it among the most water-stressed nations.
- According to India's Composite Water Management Index 2018, 600 million people in India suffer from acute water scarcity.
- Rapid urbanization, population growth, and climate change are exacerbating water scarcity, particularly in vulnerable regions.
- Additionally, increased water demand across priority economic sectors such as agriculture and industry further strain the existing water resources.
- While philanthropic initiatives can help in identifying the challenges, a large capital for investment in infrastructure and proper distribution systems to ensure water security, still remains a challenge.

Solutions

- To ensure the sustainability of freshwater resources, it is crucial to decouple water consumption from economic growth. A high dependency on a single water source for domestic and industrial purposes increases uncertainty in supply. Strong political will, with a dedicated approach to implementing effective water management strategies, is essential to address the challenges related to water security.
- The role of Philanthropy's in the water sector has evolved from merely identifying issues and generating knowledge to actively investing in infrastructure that facilitates effective system delivery. This transition adopts a more strategic approach, emphasizing sustainable solutions and long-term impact on water management.
- India should make real-time water data available for all water sources, adopting a strategy like Denmark. Such an initiative would enhance water management and decision-making processes, allowing for rapid responses to challenges such as water scarcity and pollution.
- Improved data transparency would facilitate better planning and more effective allocation of water resources across different sectors.
- The industry, in collaboration with non-profit organizations and communities, can play an important role in addressing water-related challenges. Industry expertise, particularly in scaling operations and improving efficiency, can significantly reduce the turnaround time for implementing water management solutions.

Way Forward

- **Leverage the India-Denmark green strategic partnership:** this partnership can help identify innovative methods for improving water distribution across different regions in India, ensuring constant access to water for communities and commercial requirements.
- **Decouple domestic and commercial water use:** decouple water supply for domestic and industrial/commercial purposes to ensure that domestic and commercial needs are met without compromising on each other. Independent initiatives can then be developed to address the specific requirements of commercial and domestic use.
- **Leverage industry expertise:** engage the industry to improve water-use efficiency for domestic purposes to help achieve scalability and sustainability in water management efforts.
- **Implement data management of all water resources:** implement open-access water data systems to facilitate better management and more judicious use of water resources across all sectors.

Source diversification is the key to decoupling water resources from economic growth.

Kapil Narula
Executive Director
CII- Triveni Water Institute

Decentralizing water distribution systems will go a long way in resolving India's water security challenges.

Philip Grinder Pedersen
Program Manager, The Danish Environmental Protection Agency
Ministry of Environment of Denmark

https://youtu.be/aM5xYld4Qes

L to R: Kapil Narula, Executive Director, CII- Triveni Water Institute; V.K. Madhavan, Chief Executive, Water Aid India; Usha Subramaniam, Country President, Grundfos India; Priya Sankar, Director, Programme and Partnerships, Arghyam; Philip Grinder Pedersen, Program Manager, The Danish Environmental Protection Agency, Ministry of Environment of Denmark

Financing for Transition

Chair & Moderator

Manish Chourasia
Chief Operating Officer
Corporate & Cleantech Finance
Tata Capital Limited

Panellists

Dibirath Sen
Managing Director & Head of
Global Banking, North India and
India Lead for Sustainable Finance
HSBC India

Rajesh Miglani
Senior Climate Business Specialist
and Climate Anchor
International Finance Corporation (IFC)

Hafiz Hussin
Vice President, Sustainability
DBS Bank

The session focused on green financing for transitioning to low carbon economy in India, emphasizing the need for a clear taxonomy to define eligible green projects and the role of financial institutions in supporting green initiatives. Key discussions revolved around the challenges and opportunities in sustainable financing, the importance of blended finance, and the need for adaptation financing alongside mitigation projects.

The key points discussed are:

- **Developing a clear taxonomy:**
  Importance of establishing a clear taxonomy in India to define eligible green projects. SMEs can review international taxonomies to align their sustainability initiatives and explore financing options with banks.
- **Financial institutions' perspective:**
  Banks have a dual responsibility to channel capital towards green projects and ensure financial stability. Minimum return hurdles are necessary to protect depositors and maintain market stability.
- **Collaboration for viability:**
  Need for collaboration between ecosystem players to make emerging green sectors viable over time, beyond relying on subsidies.
- **Scale of financing required:**
  Climate action will require between $4 trillion and $6 trillion globally, which is manageable considering global savings. The focus should be on redirecting capital flows toward climate initiatives.
- **India's unique position:**
  India, as the third-largest emitter, has much lower per capita emissions than the global average. India's development model must shift to reduce carbon intensity, with climate adaptation being crucial due to its vulnerability, particularly along the coastline.

Challenges

- **Balancing financial returns and green goals:**
  - Financial institutions face the challenge of balancing the need to generate financial returns with the goal of supporting green projects.
  - Banks must meet regulatory expectations to channel capital towards green projects while ensuring financial market stability and protecting depositors.
- **Gap in collaboration among ecosystem players:**
  - Effective green financing requires collaboration between various stakeholders, including government bodies, financial institutions, and private sector players, which is currently lacking.
  - Relying solely on subsidies is not sustainable; instead, a collaborative approach can help make green sectors more viable over time.
- **Mobilizing private capital:**
  - There is a significant gap between the required and available funds for energy transition in India.
  - Mobilizing private capital and leveraging catalytic capital are essential to bridge this gap and achieve climate finance goals.
- **Limited adaptation financing:**
  - Adaptation financing is currently less prioritized compared to mitigation projects.
  - Developing new metrics to measure climate adaptation and increasing the focus on adaptation financing are crucial to building resilience against climate impacts.

Opportunities

- **Promoting blended finance:**
  - Blended finance, which combines public and private funds, can help reduce transaction risks and attract more investment into green projects.
  - Multilateral development institutions can play a key role in facilitating blended finance arrangements.
- **Leveraging partnerships:**
  - Partnerships between financial institutions and corporate clients can support the value chains of SMEs, providing them with the necessary capital for green initiatives. DBS's partnerships with H&M Group and Reliance Industries to support energy efficiency and renewable energy projects are such examples.
- **Focusing on adaptation financing:**
  - Increasing the focus on adaptation financing can help build resilience against climate impacts.
  - Developing new metrics to measure the effectiveness of adaptation projects can provide better insights and drive more investment into this area.
- **Mindset shift at the board level:**
  - Encouraging a mindset shift at the board level of companies to understand the long-term benefits of sustainable finance instruments.
  - This can help drive more investment into green projects and promote a more sustainable approach to business operations.

https://youtu.be/FUOOpdzYRk8

L to R: Rajesh Miglani, Senior Climate Business Specialist and Climate Anchor, International Finance Corporation (IFC); Dibirath Sen, Managing Director & Head of Global Banking, North India and India Lead for Sustainable Finance, HSBC India; Manish Chourasia, Chief Operating Officer, Corporate & Cleantech Finance, Tata Capital Limited; Hafiz Hussin, Vice President, Sustainability, DBS Bank

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Mainstreaming MSMEs for Sustainable Future

Chair & Moderator

Shreekant Somany
Chairman, CII Centre of Excellence for Competitiveness for SMEs, Chairman & Managing Director
Somany Ceramics Limited

Panellists

Sunil Desai
CII National Council Member (2024-25) and Co-Chair, CII Cleaner Air Better Life & Managing Director
Richfield Engineering India

Tamal Sarkar
Senior Advisor
Foundation of MSME Cluster

Anil Mehrotra
Managing Director
SBL Coatings

Shouvik Sil
Chief General Manager
Rockman Industries

MSMEs play a pivotal role in India's economic landscape contributing significantly to GDP, employment, and exports. In order to create a sustainable future, supporting MSMEs in adopting sustainability practices is essential. Governments, international bodies, and corporations must work together to provide supportive policies, financial incentives, and offer resources in greening the supply chain. It is essential to foster an ecosystem for collaborative efforts in industry clusters by creating a common pool of knowledge and resources.

The CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development supports MSMEs in driving sustainability through capacity-building programmes, simplifying regulatory compliance processes, facilitating market access for sustainable products, baseline ESG performance, fostering collaboration and networking opportunity.

In this context, the session will focus on strategies aimed at encouraging and supporting MSMEs as they transition towards adopting sustainability practices basically through:

- awareness about climate change and the urgent necessity for climate action.
- their journey towards cleaner processes and practices to minimise anthropogenic air pollution and health exposure.
- importance and relevance of ESG in MSMEs, challenges in adopting ESG practices.

Challenges

- **Multiple defaulting standards:** The significant challenge is the presence of multiple defaulting standards, which creates confusion and inconsistency in compliance requirements. This fragmentation makes it difficult for MSMEs to navigate regulations, as varying standards can lead to additional costs and inefficiencies.
- **Complexity of compliance processes:** Many MSMEs lack the resources and expertise to effectively manage these complexities, which can hinder their ability to implement sustainable initiatives.
- **High upfront costs:** Sustainable technologies and practices often require substantial initial investments, which many MSMEs cannot afford without external funding.
- **Risk perception from financial institutions:** Banks and investors may view MSMEs as high-risk due to their size and financial instability, making it difficult for them to secure loans or financial support specifically for sustainability projects.
- **Lack of awareness of financial opportunities:** Many MSMEs are unaware of available funding programs, grants, or incentives that could support their transition to sustainability, hindering their ability to access crucial resources.
- **Challenges in demonstrating ROI:** MSMEs often struggle to prove the potential return on investment for sustainable initiatives, complicating their efforts to secure funding from banks or investors.
- **Incentive structures:** Without clear incentives, MSMEs may be reluctant to invest in sustainability. Advocacy for government support and financial incentives is necessary to drive action.
- **Awareness and education deficit:** Many MSMEs lack knowledge about the benefits of sustainability and ESG practices. Raising awareness through targeted educational campaigns can help bridge this gap.
- **Access to sustainable products:** MSMEs often face challenges in accessing markets for sustainable products. By facilitating connections between MSMEs and larger corporations, market opportunities can be significantly enhanced.

- **Supply chain integration:** Integrating sustainability across the supply chain is challenging, especially when suppliers may not share the same commitments. Collaborative efforts and shared resources can help align goals.
- **Trust and transparency:** Building trust between MSMEs, customers, and stakeholders is essential for successful ESG practices. Fostering transparency through open communication can enhance relationships.
- **Mapping of environmental and social aspects:** 40% of value chains are MSMEs, making it challenging for larger companies to identify and map their environmental and social aspects.
- **Adopting digital technologies:** Many MSMEs are hesitant to adopt digital technologies that can improve sustainability.
- **Measurement and reporting:** Lack of tools to measure and report on sustainability efforts makes it difficult for MSMEs to track progress. Developing standardized metrics and reporting frameworks can provide clarity.

Solutions

- Capacity building programs
  - Training workshops: Organize regular workshops on sustainability practices, ESG standards, and compliance simplification tailored specifically for MSMEs.
  - Mentorship programs: Pair MSMEs with industry leaders or experts to provide guidance on implementing sustainable practices and navigating challenges.
- Simplifying regulatory compliance
  - Regulatory roadmaps: Create clear, simplified guides that outline compliance requirements for sustainability practices in an accessible format for MSMEs.
  - One-stop compliance centres: Establish centres where MSMEs can receive consolidated information and assistance on regulatory compliance, reducing the burden of navigating multiple standards.
- Incentivization mechanisms
  - Financial incentives: Advocate for government grants, subsidies, or tax breaks for MSMEs that adopt sustainable practices, such as renewable energy installations or waste reduction initiatives.
  - Recognition programs: Implement awards or certifications for MSMEs that achieve significant sustainability milestones, enhancing their market reputation.
- Awareness campaigns
  - Public awareness initiatives: Launch campaigns to raise awareness about climate change and the benefits of sustainability, targeted at MSMEs and their stakeholders.
  - ESG repository: Develop an online repository of best practices, case studies, and success stories that MSMEs can reference for inspiration and guidance.
- Support for value chain mapping
  - Tools and resources: Provide tools or software that assist MSMEs in mapping their value chains to identify environmental and social impacts.
  - Collaborative workshops: Facilitate workshops that encourage MSMEs to collaborate and share insights on their value chains, fostering a community of learning.

- **Digital technology integration**
  - Digitization programs: Extend existing CII programs to include modules on energy savings and sustainable practices, focusing on micro industries.
  - "Net Zero Meter": Develop a system to track and publicize energy savings achieved by MSMEs, creating visibility for their efforts.
- **Industry cluster development**
  - Formation of industry clusters: Promote the establishment of industry clusters that focus on sustainability, enabling MSMEs to share resources, knowledge, and best practices.
  - Common resource facilities: Advocate for shared facilities (e.g., water treatment, recycling) that can serve multiple MSMEs within a cluster, reducing costs and increasing efficiency.
- **Government policies and financial support**
  - Advocacy for supportive legislation: There should be focus uniform regulations and supportive policies that facilitate the adoption of sustainable practices across MSMEs.
  - Green bonds and financing options: Encourage the creation of green financing options specifically designed for MSMEs, making it easier for them to access the capital needed for sustainable investments.
- **Collaboration with larger enterprises**
  - Partnership programs: Encourage larger corporations to mentor and collaborate with MSMEs, sharing best practices and resources for sustainability.
  - Supply chain sustainability initiatives: Engage OEMs (Original Equipment Manufacturers) to help MSMEs align with sustainability goals and practices.

By implementing these solutions, stakeholders can effectively support MSMEs in their transition toward more sustainable practices, thereby fostering a more resilient and environmentally friendly business landscape.

L to R: Shouvik Sil, Chief General Manager, Rockman Industries; Tamal Sarkar, Senior Advisor, Foundation of MSME Cluster; Shreekant Somany, Chairman, CII Centre of Excellence for Competitiveness for SMEs, Chairman & Managing Director, Somany Ceramics Limited; Sunil Desai, CII National Council Member (2024-25), and Co-Chair, CII Cleaner Air Better Life & Managing Director, Richfield Engineering India; Anil Mehrotra, Managing Director, SBL Coatings

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Social Inclusion: Building Trust and Fostering Equity

Chair & Moderator

Prem Singh
Group CHRO
JK Organisation

Panellists

Poulami Bhattarcharya
Lead
Women Entrepreneurship Program
Nasscom Foundation

Archana Vyas
PAC Director, Growth
Opportunity and Empowerment
Global Policy and Advocacy
Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

Shivani Kumar
Executive Director
CII-Centre for Women Leadership

The session highlighted the significance of social inclusion, diversity, and equity in achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with over 90% focused on social aspects. It stressed that a supportive workplace culture is crucial for employee well-being and organisational success, as research indicates that inclusion positively affects performance. Gender equity could contribute $12 trillion globally, but current participation rates suggest it may take a century to achieve equality. Programs empowering women in corporations and marginalised communities are vital for sustainable economic growth. Addressing gender biases in leadership reveals that only 1.6% of Fortune 500 leadership roles are held by women, highlighting the need for collaborative initiatives that translate workplace policies into actionable steps. Enhancing access to digital tools and technology for rural women through targeted digital literacy programs will empower them to effectively utilise digital platforms for economic growth. By promoting inclusivity and raising awareness, organisations can empower women and help close the leadership gender gap.

Challenges

- Despite recognizing the economic advantages of gender equity, effectively implementing it in organizational practices demands financial investment and commitment, which is challenging to achieve.
- Women, particularly those from rural and economically disadvantaged backgrounds, face significant financial barriers that hinder their ability to fully participate in entrepreneurship programs and access economic opportunities.
- There is a perception that diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) is merely supplementary to business success, rather than being an integral component essential for embedding social values deeply within organizational cultures.
- Deep-rooted stereotypes and societal biases restrict women's access to opportunities and resources, influencing perceptions about their roles and capabilities in both workforce and entrepreneurial ventures. This societal resistance poses a barrier to gender equity initiatives.
- Many rural women entrepreneurs face significant barriers in accessing digital tools and market opportunities due to the digital gender divide and gaps between rural and urban areas. This limits their participation in economic activities and access to resources.

Solutions

- Embedding diversity and inclusion initiatives into the core organisational culture rather than treating them as compliance measures. This involves training, mentorship programs, and creating an inclusive environment that acknowledges the importance of varied perspectives and backgrounds in contributing to business success.
- Many organisations and governments are launching programs specifically aimed at empowering women entrepreneurs, particularly those from marginalised backgrounds.

- Initiatives are being developed to bridge the digital gender divide and urban-rural gaps by providing women and rural entrepreneurs with access to digital tools and training. Targeted training programs to navigate digital platforms, payment systems, and other technologies are essential for personal and professional growth, helping them use digital tools effectively.
- It is essential to develop and disseminate reports and case studies on best practices for social equity and gender inclusion. This will help to highlight successful strategies to encourage businesses to adopt effective practices.
- Partnerships with local community organisations and ecosystem partners to create a holistic approach to social inclusion. This collaborative effort ensures that interventions are contextually relevant and tailored to the specific needs of marginalised groups, facilitating better access to resources and support.
- There is a need to create women-friendly workspaces. Such proactive approach aims to address biases and create a supportive atmosphere for women in sectors previously deemed non-friendly.
- After 20 years of progress in areas like reducing child mortality and increasing access to education, the momentum towards achieving the SDGs has stalled. This suggests a need for stronger policy frameworks and regulatory support to maintain and advance progress towards SDGs.

CSR Compendium "Leveraging Technology to Maximise CSR Impact" was released during the session at 19th Sustainability Summit. The compendium highlights how companies have utilised technology to enhance the impact of their CSR projects. It showcases best practices, challenges, and opportunities in leveraging technology to create a greater impact for CSR projects. 25 of the most unique and innovative projects in Education, Healthcare, Environment, Skills, Livelihood, Rural Development, and Women Empowerment have been captured in this publication.

https://youtu.be/ZIMD1qO34yU

L to R: Shivani Kumar, Executive Director, CII-Centre for Women Leadership; Poulami Bhattarcharya, Lead- Women Entrepreneurship Program, Nasscom Foundation; Prem Singh, Group CHRO, JK Organisation; Archana Vyas, PAC Director, Growth, Opportunity, and Empowerment, Global Policy and Advocacy, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

Product Sustainability: A Key to Responsible Business

Chair & Moderator

Pankaj Satija
Executive in Charge, FAMD
Tata Steel Mining Limited

Panellists

Kiran Gopale
ACM & Head- Sustainability
Godrej & Boyce Mfg. Co. Ltd
(Interio Division)

Mollshree Garg
India Managing Partner
ERM

Rajesh Singh
Senior Director (Business Development & Consulting Services)
Sphera Solutions

Varun Chopra
Executive Chairman
GEAR India

The session explored the pivotal role of product sustainability in our increasingly eco-conscious world. The panelists highlighted the necessity for businesses to reassess product design, engineering, and lifecycles to reduce resource consumption while ensuring high performance. The discussion highlighted the importance of developing sustainable products that are environmentally friendly, economically viable, and socially responsible. Key topics included the significance of life cycle assessment, the challenges posed by regulatory frameworks, unit economics, the cost of asset acquisition for achieving product sustainability, and the need for greater transparency and accountability in the supply chain.

Challenges

- A primary challenge hindering progress in product sustainability is the lack of standardized regulatory frameworks and rating agencies.
- Achieving product sustainability demands a collaborative effort across various organizational functions, which can be challenging. For example, procurement, design, manufacturing, research and development (R&D), and utility teams all play crucial roles in ensuring that products are designed, produced, and used sustainably.
- Although product design is crucial, concentrating exclusively on it can overlook other vital sustainability factors, such as lifecycle impacts and social considerations.
- There are inconsistencies and inadequacies in product design that often fail to consider the broader implications of the product's lifecycle. For example, products like Nespresso coffee modules or energy-efficient LED bulbs may initially appear sustainable, their recyclability and circularity can be complex and geographically dependent.
- Achieving product sustainability is challenging and necessitates a detailed analysis of product share and revenue. Understanding the financial performance of individual products is crucial for identifying opportunities to enhance sustainability without compromising profitability.
- Transitioning to more sustainable supply chains may involve costs associated with sourcing materials from different suppliers.

Solutions

- Regulations should promote social equity and fairness throughout the product lifecycle, ensuring that workers' rights are protected, and communities are not negatively impacted by manufacturing activities.
- Life cycle assessment (upstream and downstream sustainability assessment of a product) is essential for product sustainability. It provides a credible scientific framework to evaluate and reduce the carbon footprint throughout a product's life.
- It is essential for companies to embrace ‘Green Quotient’ is essential for reducing products carbon emissions, waste recycling and reuse of products.

- LCA automation and data integration can significantly streamline the process of product sustainability evaluation, particularly for complex products with large datasets.
- Transparency is vital for achieving product sustainability. It ensures alignment between producers' claims and consumers' expectations, especially concerning product disclosures.
- A good and green approach is essential for implementing operational changes in manufacturing and product design. It includes code of compliance, code of conduct, customer satisfaction, employee training and engagement, diversity and engagement etc.
- Green labeling and marking can play a significant role in educating consumers about the environmental and social benefits of products.
- Unit economics and the cost of asset acquisition are vital metrics for achieving product sustainability. By optimizing costs and maximizing revenue per unit, companies can ensure that their products are economically viable and sustainable in the long term.
- Investors and regulators are crucial in ensuring product sustainability, creating a level playing field, and incentivizing businesses to adopt sustainable practices.

https://youtu.be/dKGGGBBJjsc

L to R: Varun Chopra, Executive Chairman, GEAR India; Mollshree Garg, India Managing Partner, ERM; Pankaj Satija, Executive in Charge, FAMD, Tata Steel Mining Limited; Kiran Gopale, ACM & Head-Sustainability, Godrej & Boyce Mfg. Co. Ltd (Interio Division); Rajesh Singh, Senior Director (Business Development & Consulting Services), Sphera Solutions

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Trailblazers in Sustainability

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ALPLA India

The world is slowly waking up to the fact that sustainability is no longer just a trend but a necessity. Consumers become more discerning, conscious and curious about the sustainability of goods and services they use. Consequently, it becomes vital for brands to acknowledge this changing consumer behavior and respond to it timely by integrating sustainability measures across operations. Businesses not only have the responsibility to deliver quality products and services but also to consider the environmental and social impacts of their operations.
By integrating sustainability into their core operations, businesses can protect the environment while aligning with the values of today's conscious consumers, achieving both a healthier planet and a stronger bottom line.
However, sustainability requires collective effort. Success hinges on collaboration among businesses, suppliers, and stakeholders to implement sustainable practices that resonate across the entire value chain.

In a company's sustainability journey, supply chain partners play a pivotal role. Regulatory pressures and investor expectations are encouraging businesses to extend their sustainability efforts beyond internal operations. The shift towards renewable and clean energy sources can significantly reduce overall emissions of businesses. Additionally, engaging with suppliers to promote greener products and packaging is becoming a priority, emphasizing the importance of sustainability in product development.

It was emphasized during the session that a comprehensive sustainability roadmap is anchored on the key pillars such as decarbonization, circularity, diversity, equity, and inclusion. There is a necessity of achieving carbon neutrality for Scope 1 and 2 emissions by 2030, leveraging a data-driven approach alongside a consolidated SAP platform. Notable initiatives include collaborating with suppliers to reduce upstream emissions, implementing recycling strategies, and creating a knowledge-sharing community through employee resource groups to bridge generational divides.

Challenges

- Managing sustainability across complex supply chains poses significant challenges for companies. A considerable portion of emissions is attributed to Scope 3, making it challenging for companies to control and mitigate impacts outside their direct operations.
- For companies aiming to achieve net-zero emissions, the challenge lies in translating sustainability initiatives into concrete product offerings and effectively communicating these efforts to consumers. Tools like Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) can help, but highlighting sustainability KPIs remains a hurdle.
- Many companies face difficulties in gathering, managing, and analyzing data related to their sustainability initiatives. This hampers their ability to accurately measure progress, identify areas for improvement, and make informed decisions.
- Striking a balance between profitability and sustainability can be challenging for companies, leading to potential conflicts between short-term financial goals and long-term environmental commitments.
- Companies in sectors like laundry and textiles inherently consume significant amounts of energy, water, and raw materials, contributing to environmental degradation.
- The presence of a multi-generational workforce, with younger employees outnumbering their older counterparts who possess essential domain knowledge, presents significant challenges for companies in effectively transferring critical expertise.
- The lack of consumer awareness regarding the environmental impact of their choices makes it difficult for companies to foster sustainable behaviors. Educating consumers about the benefits of sustainable products is essential for driving demand and encouraging responsible consumption.

Solutions

- Companies need to invest in integrated data management systems which facilitate real-time tracking of sustainability metrics across their operations. Enhanced transparency aids informed decision-making and allows businesses to effectively measure their progress.
- It is essential for companies to explore circular business models to reduce waste and enhance resource reuse. This approach includes launching pilot projects aimed at recycling products, developing innovative materials, and initiating programs to reclaim old products.
- Establishing collaborative partnerships with suppliers is essential to ensure that sustainability efforts are consistent throughout the supply chain, leading to more significant overall impact.
- It is vital for companies to implement comprehensive management strategies, like training and stakeholder engagement, to facilitate smooth transitions to sustainable practices within their operations.
- Companies should invest in marketing and educational campaigns to inform consumers about the environmental impact of their choices. By promoting sustainable products, they can increase demand for eco-friendly options and encourage sustainable consumer behaviours.
- Digitizing operations to track and manage Scope 3 emissions is critical for companies aiming to reduce their overall carbon footprint.
- Businesses can invest in marketing and educational campaigns to inform consumers about the environmental impact of their choices and promote sustainable products, driving greater demand for eco-friendly options.

https://youtu.be/rnUtF34hwFs

L to R: Ravichandran Purushothaman, President, Danfoss India; Anisha Mukherjee, Head of Procurement and Sustainability Lead, Lindstrom; Madhulika Sharma, Vice President and Chief Sustainability Officer, ITC Limited; Kanika Pal, South Asia Sustainability Director, Unilever; Utsav Dixit, Head of Sustainability and Strategic Engagement, ALPLA India

Lindström

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Valedictory Session: Envisioning a Sustainable Future

Welcome

Seema Arora
Deputy Director General
Confederation of Indian Industry

Special Address

Shombi Sharp
UN Resident Coordinator India

The 19th Sustainability Summit, themed "Driving Change for a Sustainability Conscious World," showcased innovative ideas for creating a more sustainable future. Over two days, the Summit emphasized actionable strategies for sustainable change through innovation, development, and collaboration.

Participants engaged in panel discussions and high-level plenary sessions, focusing on key areas such as Climate Action, Nature Positive Action, ESG, Responsible Actions, and Technology & Innovation.

The Summit witnessed more than 450 participants and facilitated over 160 B2B meetings and 8 Startups Showcased Innovative Sustainability Solutions & Products. Around 75 thought leaders from various industry sectors, government, institutions, and academia shared their insights. The Summit featured 14 sessions across five thematic tracks, with 12% of speakers being international and 29% being women.

As a part of the role in enabling action and acceleration towards the industry's sustainability journey, the Centre launched the following tools, frameworks, publications and initiatives at the Summit: CII Report on Building Climate Resilience for Indian Industry; CII's ESG Subscription Service; Release of CII Compendium on Leveraging Technology to Maximise CSR Impact; Global Dialogues and Symposium Forum on Sustainable Development - Quorum by CESD; India Business and Biodiversity Initiative (IBBI) 2.0 and Eco Edge Online Assessment Tool.

The additional events that occurred during the two days of the Summit include: Series of 3 Roundtable Organized on 'Pathways to Clean Air'; Third India Plastic Pact's Annual Conference; Eco Edge Annual Stakeholder Meet; Special Networking Session for Women in Sustainability

17 Value Chain Partners Felicitated with Eco Edge Certificate during the Summit.

Some of the key takeaways that emerged from this year's deliberations are

- To foster a culture of sustainability at all levels—individual, community, organizational, national, and global—to make sustainability a genuine and impactful movement.
- Sustainability must become a fundamental part of our culture to drive meaningful change. To emphasis on the necessity of integrating sustainability into everyday practices to truly operationalize it. Without embedding sustainable practices into daily routines and organizational culture, the transition to a low-carbon future cannot be effectively achieved.
- It is essential to prioritise mindful utilization over mindless consumption. The need for businesses is to create efficient and circular business models that promote sustainable, equitable economic growth. This approach ensures that everyone has access to a dignified lifestyle, reinforcing sustainability as a crucial social goal.
- Emphasizing the principle of materiality and rejecting a 'one size fits all' approach is essential. Companies transitioning to sustainable practices must tailor their strategies to specific contexts, as a uniform approach can hinder both efficiency and effectiveness.

- To ensure sustainability in value chains, sourcing companies must scale through partnerships and mentoring. All stakeholders, along with the Government, need to come together to focus on the sustainability of MSMEs through mentorship and enhanced capacity development.
- Industry needs to build sustainability objectives into corporate strategies through solutions that integrate economic gains and at the same time, create environmental value and contribute towards social capital.
- For making informed business decisions, effective implementation of climate actions, enhanced transparency and facilitating real-time tracking across operations, Industry needs to invest in tools and methodologies. At the same time, there is need to assess climate related risks not merely through the lens of what has happened but also, what could happen, that is, forecasting through investment in sophisticated AI based tools.
- Stakeholders need to come together to design and implement adaptation strategies at multiple levels of society to manage the physical risks of climate change.

Release of Global Dialogues and Symposium Forum on Sustainable Development – 'Quorum' by CESD

Through the virtual engagement forum, CESD aims to facilitate conversations and open dialogue with global leaders to understand their outlook, share their own views and suggestions on pertinent topics to connect the dots and contribute to the dialogue for a sustainable future.

https://youtu.be/xiv0jsW5uPs

L to R: Seema Arora, Deputy Director General, Confederation of Indian Industry; Shombi Sharp, UN Resident Coordinator India

Side Events & Roundtables

First Annual Stakeholder Meet

The CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development (CESD) hosted the First Eco Edge Annual Stakeholder Meet at the 19th Sustainability Summit on September 18, 2024, in New Delhi.
The event saw the participation of 28 representatives from sourcing companies, value chain partners, and financial institutions. Its primary objective was to understand the challenges faced by value chain companies in integrating sustainability practices and to gather feedback from stakeholders to strengthen the Eco Edge assessment process.

Key Takeaways

- There is a strong need to build the capacity of value chain companies on the evolving landscape of sustainability to align them with the expectations of sourcing companies, investors, and regulatory requirements.
- The cost of commercial capital needs to be reduced for value chain companies to implement sustainability initiatives. Sourcing companies can play a role in helping value chain partners secure financing.
- Establishing sectoral coalitions comprising stakeholders from sourcing companies, value chains, financial institutions, and industry associations can help develop standardized frameworks for value chain companies to report their sustainability data, thereby reducing audit fatigue.
- Reliable sustainability data, provided through the Eco Edge tool, will be essential for investment decisions and will help suppliers build credibility among investors
- The Eco Edge tool can be extended further down to tier 2 and tier 3 value chain companies to create a multiplier effect on sustainability practices.
- The tool can be compatible with existing and emerging national and international mandates on value chain sustainability. It can also be interoperable with other certification programs to ensure seamless integration.

First Eco-Edge Annual Stakeholder Meet

Third Annual Conference: India Plastics Pact

The third edition of the India Plastics Pact's Annual Conference was held as a side event at CII's 19th Sustainability Summit. The Annual Conference was divided into six sessions covering global events related to plastics, such as the Global Plastics Treaty, and more detailed discussions on progress towards the targets of the India Plastics Pact.

The Pact signatories discussed common challenges they faced in moving towards the targets, especially regarding switching from multilayer flexible plastic packaging to monolayer flexible plastic packaging.

Some of the other issues discussed include the incorporation of recycled content in plastic packaging and initiatives taken by brands to implement reuse and refill-based models to deliver their products to consumers and supply chain partners, among others. Participants also acknowledged the need for bold steps and strengthened collaboration, recognizing that no single entity or stakeholder could address challenges.

Third Annual Conference: India Plastics Pact

Special Networking Breakfast Session: Women in Sustainability

The CII Centre for Women Leadership hosted an informal, interactive and highly informative networking session on Day 2 of the CII 19th Sustainability Summit, for Women in Sustainability.

From "Speed Networking" to in-depth conversations that ended in long-term or short-term commitments, successful women from across fields came together to discuss the challenges and opportunities for Women in Sustainability. Having answered questions like "What are the biggest challenges faced by women in the sustainability sector?", "What can companies do to advance women's leadership in the sustainability sector?" and "What can you do to promote women's participation and growth in the sector?", the participants joined the Community of Practice for Women in Sustainability.

Ideas and insights from the participating women were invited on the biggest things that need to be looked at, from both, a sustainability lens, as well as from a women leadership lens. The 'Community of Practice for Women in Sustainability Sector' was launched, and participants were urged to be a part of this cohort.

To join the Community of Practice for Women in Sustainability, visit: https://womenleadershipcenter.in/registration/Community-of-Practice

Special Networking Breakfast Session: Women in Sustainability

Roundtable Series on Pathways to Clean Air

During the summit, a three-part Pathways to Clean Air Roundtable Series was organized under the leadership of the India CEO Forum for Clean Air. The series convened key Industry stakeholders to discuss actionable solutions and strategies for improving air quality across sectors. The discussions aimed at fostering Industry-wide collaboration and innovation, with a focus on three critical areas: private-sector action for clean air, circular economy for agricultural residues and transitioning to zero-emission fleets.

Roundtable I: Pathways to Private Sector Action for Clean Air deliberated on CII's business risk-benefit framework for air pollution.

Roundtable II: Pathways to a Circular Economy for Agricultural Residues explored innovative solutions to recycle agricultural residues.

Roundtable III: Pathways to Zero-Emission Fleets discussed the adoption of clean fuel vehicles in India's delivery sector.

Roundtable Series on Pathways to Clean Air

Collage of the Summit


ECO EDGE


A2P ENERGY SOLUTION PRIVATE LIMITED


Roundtable Series
Pathways to Clean Air

CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development

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

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