

Proceedings Document

Green Enterprise Mela - Bihar



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Hotel Chanakya, Patna, Bihar

Organised by:

Development Alternatives

&

Indian Micro Enterprises Development Foundation



Green Enterprise Mela

The Green Enterprise Mela provided a platform and brought together various stakeholders from the government and private sectors to create dialogue to promote fly ash bricks (FAB) in Bihar. The mela was structured with the following sessions:

- Inaugural session with a welcome address from Dr. Naveen Kumar, Assistant Scientific Officer, Bihar State Pollution Control Board (BSPCB)
- Fly Ash Availability and Procurement
- Fly Ash Bricks: Manufacturing Process and Alternatives to Sand
- Financing an Enterprise
- Fly Ash Manufacturing Technology
- Fly Ash Bricks: How to market and where to sell
- Relevance of Quality of Building Material
- Support Services for New Entrepreneurs and Existing Manufacturers
- Open Discussion

The discussions and dialogue focussed on concepts and the practical applicability of fly ash bricks, enterprise development, and fly ash (a waste) as a raw material that can contribute towards transitioning to a resource resilient India. The event witnessed participation from 111 participants from diverse groups including existing and potential fly ash entrepreneurs, regulators and policy makers, civil society, technology providers, builders and contractors, banks and fly ash associations. Many of the eminent speakers expressed their deep concern regarding fly ash utilization and the immediate need for developing a supportive ecosystem to promote fly ash bricks in Bihar. The speakers were confident that the prime objective of promoting fly ash bricks in Bihar can be achieved through transformative action on technological, economic, regulatory and behavioural changes.

Sharp and thought-provoking speeches/ deliberations were made by the speakers at the Green Enterprise Mela. The speakers included:

- Dr. Naveen Kumar, Assistant Scientific Officer, BSPCB
- Mr. Pankaj Kumar, Additional General Manager, National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC)
- Dr. Soumen Maity, Assistant Vice President, Development Alternatives Group
- Mr. Ravindra Prasad, Director- Technical, Department of Industries, Government of Bihar
- Dr. Aparna Dhawan, Joint Director, National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB)

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- Mr. Markanday Shahi, Manager (Project & Design), Bihar Medical Services & Infrastructure Corporation Ltd.
- Mr. Rajesh Kumar Sinha, Assistant General Manager (SMEBU-I), State Bank of India
- Mr. R. K. Thakur, Joint Director, Department of Industries, Government of Bihar
- Mr. Rajesh Bhatt, Managing Director, Sahjanand Flyash Bricks Plant Pvt. Ltd.
- Mr. Subodh Narayan Singh, President, B-FABIA
- Mr. Chandra Shekhar, President, B-FAVIS
- Mr. Subroto Roy, Chief General Manager, TARA

Inaugural Session

The inaugural session began with an introductory remark by Dr. Naveen Kumar, BSPCB. He set the context by highlighting the need for cleaner technologies and the relevance to have a 'neutral technology', which saves both energy and other material resources.

Highlights of the Discussions at the Green Enterprise Mela

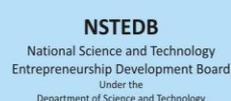
The half day event focused on the supportive ecosystem required for scaling-up and sustaining fly ash brick enterprises in Bihar. It focused on extensive list of parameters influencing demand and supply of fly ash bricks. All the deliberations that were made during this event could be categorized into three broad heads:

- Resource Security - Efficiency and Sufficiency
- Scope for Innovative Solutions/ Alternative Technologies
- Policy Support and Suggestive Policy Action
- Other Suggestive Actions

Resource Security - Efficiency and Sufficiency

- Currently fly ash bricks are usually produced in Bihar with the following composition of raw materials: **Cement – 10%; Fly ash – 50%; Sand – 40%**. However, lack of sand availability for fly ash brick manufacturing is now becoming a concern in Bihar.
- The government projects are getting 5000 CFT of sand, while no such provisions have been made for the fly ash bricks manufacturing industry where sand is an important raw material. The lack of raw material is directly impacting the sustainability of FAB industry and therefore such provision should also be made for the FAB industry.

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Scope for Innovative Solutions/ Alternative Technologies

- There are alternative methods of producing fly ash bricks which will reduce the dependency on sand for this industry. Alternative methods can include substituting sand with bottom ash. Reducing sand would require addition of lime, gypsum and additives to the mix along with fly ash etc.
- An actual mapping of alternative resources and economic feasibility of these alternative methods to produce fly ash bricks in Bihar needs to be assessed.

Policy Support and Suggestive Policy Action

- Department of Industry has setup a single window clearance system to set an enterprise in Bihar- swc.bihar.gov.in. New entrepreneurs should make use of this.
- Currently, even being a white category industry certain fiscal benefits such as 100% reimbursement of IGST etc. are provided only to priority sectors in Bihar. Fly ash brick industry could therefore be considered as main stream industry by the government of Bihar considering its vast socio economic and environmental benefit to the state.
- Coordination needed with Department of Industries to encourage use of fly ash bricks in Bihar. As per the gazette notification, state government departments should use fly ash bricks mandatorily, however, it is not being used either due to lack of information on actual availability of these bricks or due to poor quality available. Therefore registration of fly ash brick manufacturing enterprises with GeM (Government e-Market) will help overcome the barrier of lack of information on the fly ash brick availability and utilization.
- Further, a grievance redressal system for addressing complaints on non-compliance of using fly ash bricks wherever mandated to be used could be set up. This will then ensure the fly ash brick utilization
- Lack of Schedule of Rates (SoR) in the Bills of Quantity (BoQ) of the government contracts has led to poor quality supply of fly ash bricks in general and poor supply of fly ash bricks in particular. Therefore, SoR should be incorporated in the BoQ of the government projects which are mandated to use fly ash bricks.
- Banks need to enforce the implementation of notification no. SO2804(E) dated 3rd November 2009 for ensuring the usage of fly ash bricks while sanctioning housing loan.
- Loans sanctioned to the fly ash enterprises can be restructured. In the prevailing scenario with the rising sand crisis, unsustainable economic activity of the enterprises are pushing them towards NPAs, however, restructuring of the loans could help avoid that situation.

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Other Suggestive Actions

- Fly ash bricks to be promoted and awareness about fly ash bricks at block/local level should be generated to encourage demand for these bricks from the private sector as this demand will contribute to run a sustainable economic activity/ business.
- Fly ash brick associations should be in constant touch with the respective government departments in order to promote fly ash bricks.

Conclusion

The response towards the mela was overwhelming with government representatives, policy makers, banks and fly ash entrepreneurs actively participating in the sessions. The concerns of fly ash brick making industry which were relatively lesser known to the masses were explained in a simple manner with business examples suggesting the applicability of these concepts to daily operations. A key highlight of the event was the understanding that the issue at hand is not just about material security of supply, but rather the impact that this consumption has on the rest of the ecosystem.

Next Steps in our journey to a Green Economy transition in India

Our GE journey will continue with series of initiatives in this direction.

We invite you to become a part of this journey alternatively through our website **Mapping Alternative Perspectives: South Asia (www.map-sa.net)** and help create a positive movement towards better people and planet outcomes in our country through dialogue creation and knowledge sharing.

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