



Greening the Brick Sector in Bihar

Development Alternatives (DA) partnered with Bihar State Pollution Control Board (BSPCB) to organise a workshop on “Greening the Brick Sector in Bihar” on 29th June 2018 in Patna, Bihar. The workshop focused on the environmental impacts of the brick sector and the potential to mitigate these impacts. It mainly focused on fly ash based MSMEs, as bricks are one of the most important inputs to the construction sector, and the fly ash brick technology is an eco-friendly one. The workshop received immense participation from key government officials of Bihar, key industry association leaders, civil society organisations and academia. Dr. Ashok Ghosh (Chairman, BSPCB) raised the concern of top soil loss due to traditional brick making practices, which is further adversely affecting the production of grains in Bihar. Dr. K. Vijayalaksmi (Vice President, DA) presented on the ‘Mitigation Action in Construction Sector’. Another presentation was made by Vaibhav Rathi (Manager, DA) on the ‘Status of Fly Ash Brick Industry in Bihar’. The discussion followed by this stressed on how the use and promotion of the fly ash technique is crucial, as currently only 14% of the 4-11 crore tonnes of fly ash produced is being utilised. The objective of this workshop was to reflect on the principles and approaches for transitioning the construction sector in Bihar towards a more green and inclusive sector.