

## Stakeholder Consultation Meetings in Bihar

Development Alternatives Group organised two stakeholder consultation meetings in association with Bihar State Pollution Control Board (BSPCB) with support from Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation (SSCF) on GHG Emissions Inventory and Action Plan for the Sugar Sector and Rolling Mills in Bihar. Speaking first about the meeting on GHG Emissions Inventory and Action Plan for the Sugar sector in Bihar, it was organised on 4 November, 2022 in association with BSPCB and with the support from Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation.

This meeting was chaired by the Hon'ble Member Secretary, S. Chandrasekar. At the forum, representatives from all sugar mills in the state, Bihar Industry Association, Sugar Mill Association, Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation, Department of Industry, UNEP, WRI, and other relevant stakeholders were present.

The participants at the meeting were explained the study's objective, being that the state of Bihar is conducting a first-of-its-kind study to facilitate the state in reaching its goal of carbon neutrality by the year 2070. But this ambitious plan can only take shape if one has primary data to work with, as it would narrow the gaps and assist in creating a roadmap for the state. Such was also evident from what Sri. S. Chandrasekar stressed on, "What is measured can be managed". With the help of solid, tangible data, collection and analysis would help make informed policy decisions and would help mitigate climate change from the industry sector collectively. Also present was Shri Vivek Ranjan Maitrey, IAS Director, Food Processing, Department of Industries, Government of Bihar who stressed on how crucial such a form of analysis is, as it enables one to have environment-friendly sustainable growth, which is the need of the hour.

The approach to developing the greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory for the Sugar Sector in Bihar draws upon the delineation of Scope 1, Scope 2 and Scope 3 emissions, as outlined in the GHG Protocol, and all fundamental IPCC guidelines were followed to minimise data divergence. During the presentation by Development Alternatives, a few of the aspects which were considered during the study were the transportation of raw material to the mill (sugarcane), the manufacturing process of sugarcane being crushed and the final product being sugar/ethanol, and the dispatching of their units enabling them to generate power within the mills' premises. All the sugar mills in Bihar have a cogeneration facility in their units, allowing them to generate energy within the mills' premises. Bagasse, derived as a by-product of sugarcane, is used as a fuel source to generate power at the facilities. As per the IPCC guidelines, bagasse produces zero emissions when used as a fuel, curtailing the emissions from this sector. However, the press mud (residue from the filtration of sugarcane juice) formed a significant chunk of emissions from this sector.

After the detailed presentation, the stakeholders from the various sugar mills provided their valuable feedback. For instance, while calculating GHG emissions, it was suggested the transportation distance of sugarcane procurement from the farmers should be reduced to 30 KM. They also expressed grievances about insufficient raw material in Bihar, which in turn lowers the mills' crushing season. Water stagnation due to heavy rainfall also deeply hampers the profitability of such entities in the state.

Shri Vivek Ranjan Maitrey stated that 80-85% of emissions result from press mud at the sugar mills, and that the focus should be on how to limit it. Dr Soumen Maity willingly agreed and drew the



Attendees at the Stakeholder Consultation Meeting on GHG Emissions Inventory and Action Plan for the Sugar Sector in Bihar

participant's attention on how the press mud must not be treated as waste; instead, profitable ways should be found to deal with it efficiently, ultimately enabling the transition to become carbon negative.

Speaking about the second meeting on GHG Emissions Inventory and Action Plan for the Rolling Mills in Bihar, it was organised on 21 November, 2022 under the chairmanship of Dr Ashok Kumar Ghosh, Chairman, BSPCB. At the forum, representatives from a few of the rolling mills in the state, Bihar Industry Area Development Authority, Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation, World Resources Institute (WRI), Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI), Shri Santosh Kumar Sinha, Executive Director, Bihar Industrial Area Development Authority (BIADA) & other relevant stakeholders were present.



Attendees at the Stakeholder Consultation Meeting on GHG Emissions Inventory and Action Plan for the Rolling Mills in Bihar

The forum aimed to develop a strategic approach to reach the Carbon Neutrality goal and analyse the emissions caused by the rolling mills in Bihar. For this, a study was conducted based on the primary data collected by the Development Alternatives team, which led to the calculations of the emissions from the rolling mill sector in Bihar. A few of the aspects considered for the study were the transportation of raw materials to the mill, the manufacturing process of this raw material in order to produce other mild steel products, and its final dispatching to the market.

During discussions, various points were highlighted about economically viable resources for the rolling mill industry. A suggestion, solar panel implementation came up. This would harvest electricity, which can then be sold back to the grid, and benefits can be earned by the entrepreneurs. Member Secretary, BSPCB added, "Once the PNG/CNG pipeline reaches any industrial area in Bihar, within six months all industries will be required to shift from coal to the mentioned alternative fuels". To which various rolling mill owners interjected. They stressed how a few technologies would not be viable, and the industries will come crashing down due to the growing inflation.

At the end of the meeting, Dr Soumen Maity, Vice President, Development Alternatives thanked all the rolling mill owners; BSPCB, especially the Chairman, Dr Ashok Kumar Ghosh; Member Secretary Shri S. Chandrasekar; UNEP, Shakti Sustainable Foundation; and Dr Naveen Kumar, Scientist, for providing the space and encouragement to conduct this study.