

Report Launch - Comprehensive GHG Inventory and Low Carbon Development Pathway for the Sugar Mills and Rolling Mills in Bihar



Report launch held at Patna, November 29, 2023

In an event organised by the Development Alternatives (DA) in partnership with the Bihar State Pollution Control Board (BSPCB) and Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation (SSEF), two pivotal reports were unveiled in Patna on November 29, 2023. These reports, titled "Low Carbon Pathway for Sugar Mills in Bihar" and "Low Carbon Pathway for Re-Rolling Mills in Bihar," are integral components of the broader initiative, 'Climate Resilient and Low Carbon Development Pathway for Bihar.'

The Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change of Bihar – Tej Pratap Yadav, graced the occasion and addressed critical concerns tied to climate change, notably floods and droughts affecting the State. He passionately called upon the youth to unite in their commitment to building a more sustainable future for Bihar and the nation at large. The Minister urged citizens to actively participate in environmentally friendly practices, emphasising initiatives such as tree planting and reducing reliance on fossil fuels. The Minister also highlighted the need and urgency of such initiatives for a greener future of the State.

The comprehensive study conducted under the 'Low Carbon Pathway Development for the Industrial and Construction Sectors of Bihar' project encompasses the primary polluting industries in the State, including the Brick Sector, Cement Plants, Calcined Pet Coke, Re-Rolling Mills, Distilleries, Rice Mills, and the Sugar Sector. The released reports, which focus on the Rolling Mills and Sugar Mills sectors, provide valuable insights into the State's industrial carbon footprint.

Ms. Bandana Preyashi (IAS), Secretary of the Department of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change for Bihar, expressed gratitude for the essential study. She underscored the need to assess Greenhouse Gas emissions for effective long-term planning, especially in the pursuit of achieving Net Zero.

Dr. D.K. Shukla, Chairman of Bihar State Pollution Control Board (BSPCB), delivered a keynote address applauding the collaborative efforts of partner organisations — BSPCB, DA, and SSEF — for their focus on GHG emissions from the State's industrial sector. Dr. Shukla highlighted the significance of assessing Scope I, Scope II, and Scope III emissions in these sectors to formulate targeted strategies for mitigation. Additionally, he addressed issues related to soil degradation and water pollution in the State.

Shri S. Chandrasekar, IFS, Member Secretary of BSPCB, positioned the initiative as a crucial, long-term solution to achieve net-zero emissions. He emphasised ongoing efforts in greening Bihar's clay brick sector and promoting the fly ash brick sector as integral components of this initiative, along with the efforts undertaken to assess GHG emissions from the industry sectors.

Dr. Arun Kumar, Emeritus President of DA, provided insights to the participants, elucidating the necessity and significance of such a comprehensive study. He underscored the critical role of a Greenhouse Gas (GHG) inventory in formulating effective strategies for attaining carbon neutrality. Dr. Kumar pointed out the near carbon-neutral status of the Sugar Mills in the State and suggested potential pathways for the sector to achieve carbon neutrality. These included enhancing efficiency while increasing production, augmenting Ethanol production, and implementing Methane recovery from spent wash/press mud.

In his address, Dr. Sachin Kumar, Director of Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation (SSEF), underscored the imperative of curbing carbon emissions across diverse sectors while emphasising the importance of capacity building for both workers and industry owners. He thanked DA and BSPCB for their persistent efforts toward fostering a greener economy and recognised Bihar as a trailblazer among states for undertaking robust initiatives to assess and mitigate carbon emissions.

During the event, Dr. Soumen Maity, Vice President of DA, presented the study's findings. The greenhouse gas emissions inventory for Bihar's sugar industry indicated an annual release of 57,021.3 tons of CO₂e, with sugar mills contributing surplus green electricity to the local grid, resulting in a net GHG emissions of 12,500 tons of CO₂e per annum. Additionally, operational re-rolling mills were estimated to emit a total of 3,81,440 tons of CO₂e annually as of the 2021-22 period.

Dr. Naveen Kumar, Scientist, BSPCB, extended his appreciation to the distinguished guests, partner organisations, and representatives from various departments and industries for their active participation. He specifically acknowledged the significant contributions of DA and SSEF, emphasising their crucial role in successfully executing the initiative. Dr. Kumar concluded the program by affirming that through unified efforts and sustained collaboration, meaningful progress can be achieved in mitigating the impact of climate change and fostering a sustainable future for Bihar.

This pioneering initiative reflects Bihar's commitment to environmental stewardship and low-carbon development, showcasing the State's dedication to creating a greener and more sustainable future.