

# WORLD SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT 2022

**TOWARDS A RESILIENT PLANET:  
ENSURING A SUSTAINABLE AND EQUITABLE FUTURE**

February 16-18, 2022 (Virtual)



## **‘Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs): Regulatory and Policy Implications for India**

16<sup>th</sup> February 2022 (Wednesday), 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. (IST) | Duration: 90 minutes

### About the World Sustainable Development Summit

The World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) is the annual flagship Track II initiative of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). Instituted in 2001 as Delhi Sustainable Development Summit, in 2021, the Summit series marked 20 years in its journey of making ‘sustainable development’ a globally shared goal. Over the past two decades, the Summit platform has pioneered conversations by bringing together governments, scholars, corporates, youth groups, thought leaders, and civil society representatives from across the world.

The present state of planetary health and humanitarian crises calls for revisiting the agenda around global action and equity. The 21<sup>st</sup> edition of the WSDS is being held under the umbrella theme of ‘Towards a Resilient Planet: Ensuring a Sustainable and Equitable Future’ from 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> February 2022 in a virtual format.

### Background

The research and discourse of "endocrine-disrupting chemicals" (EDCs) and their human exposure have gained traction in recent years. EDCs is a group of chemical compounds that may interfere with the endocrine system in humans and animals. Many of these chemicals are widely used in pesticides, herbicides, industrial chemicals and plasticizers, which are present in the environment and has made way into food, drinking water, household goods, and personal care products. According to the International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS)/United Nations

Environment Programme (UNEP) (2012), about 800 chemicals have been identified or suspected to interfere with the hormone system, yet a small percentage of these have been tested for endocrine disrupting effects in living organisms. The economic impacts of EDCs are considerable, with an estimated economic cost of annual health impacts of €163 billion in the EU and \$340 billion in the US. However, this is likely an underestimate since they are based on methods that analyse just a small portion of EDCs and their associated health impacts from exposure.

Given the immense scientific evidence of EDCs adversely impacting human health and the financial implications of inaction, stringent regulation and management are critical. While the EU and some other nations have taken promising steps toward protective regulation on EDCs, existing regulatory efforts and policies to protect and decrease human exposure to most EDCs are largely insufficient. The Government of India has put forth several regulatory measures to protect the environment and human health from the risks posed by chemical pollution. Notable among these, are the development of the Chemical (Management & Safety) Rules (CMSR) and its reference to EDCs, the adoption of globally binding environmental protection measures such as the Stockholm Convention (SC), and the development of an SC National Implementation Plan (NIP). Yet, the adoption and implementation of these regulatory framework in India is in its infancy.

This thematic track titled ‘Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs): Regulatory and Policy Implications for India’ is organized at an opportune policy juncture at the World Sustainable Development Summit 2022, which is hosted by The Energy Resources Institute (TERI), New Delhi. A study titled Endocrine Disruptors in Indian Food: minimizing children exposure and fostering a safer space for agriculture and food market (EDIFY) has been conducted by Norwegian Institute for Water Research (NIVA), TERI, Mu Gamma Consultants Pvt Ltd (MGC), SRM Institute of Science & Technology (SRMIST), Toxics Link, and Bharat Learn. The objective of the EDIFY project was to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the exposure of the Indian population to EDCs, identify risk reduction and management options to reduce exposure to EDCs, and strengthen the knowledge- base for development of policies for sustainable action. This thematic track event aims to share the findings of the research study under the above project and discuss the future directions and opportunities for further collaborative research and policy relevance.

#### Key questions

1. How do the study findings inform policy action for developing a roadmap for India on food safety?
2. What are the most critical data gaps and research needs that continue to exacerbate unresolved issues on EDCs?
3. What are the policy implications of the findings of research on EDCs for India?