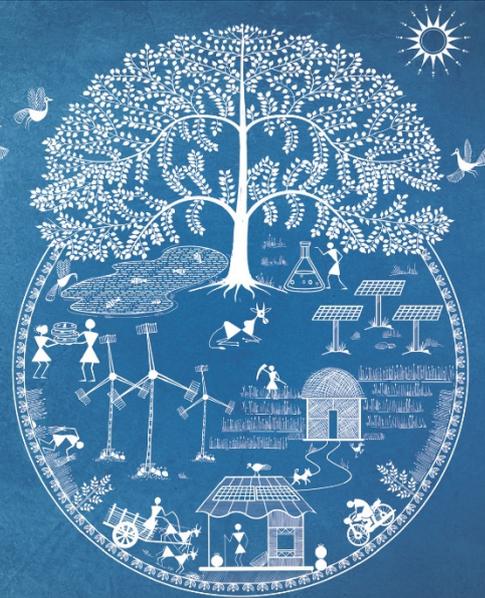




WORLD SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT 2023

MAINSTREAMING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE FOR COLLECTIVE ACTION

February 22-24, 2023
New Delhi



Title: Transition Towards Circular Economy in the Plastic Sector

Date: 23rd February 2023

Time: 11:30-13:00

Venue: Casuarina, India Habitat Centre

Background

One of the major innovations of the past century has been the introduction and wide adoption of plastics for several day-to-day applications that previously relied on traditional materials like metal, glass, or cotton. Plastics have revolutionized almost all sectors for reasons like resistance to environmental degradation, affordability and accessibility, and are produced with a wide variety of material properties that allow adaptation to many different applications.

Plastic is so convenient that its unchecked application across all sectors in the economy has made it indispensable in our daily lives. However there are reasons to worry because plastics have notable impacts on the ecology. Such threats are more often than not, owing to irresponsible attitudes of consumers while disposing of plastics at their end of life. The scenario of mismanaged plastics is further complicated by the inadequate capacity in the system for managing them leading to water and soil pollution. There has been serious thinking particularly among the policy makers to ensure that these products are produced, consumed and disposed more responsibly. It is in recognition of these problems, the global community has come together to address the problem of plastic pollution. India too is not behind in this front; therefore while hosting the **2018 World Environment Day** occasion, India announced **'Beat Plastic Pollution'** as the theme for the event, indicating the country's commitment towards reducing plastic usage and waste. The Australian government is supporting India in some key initiatives taken up by Indian institutions towards a circular plastic economy.

The **India Australia Industrial and Research Collaboration for Reducing Plastic Waste** is an initiative in that direction which is funded by Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO). Six organizations from the two countries (TERI, CSIR-NEERI, DA from India; and UNSW, UTS and CSIRO from Australia) have come together with the ambition to enable innovation across the plastic supply chain through research and industry collaboration. The three year research exercise lays a foundation

through metric and data development, technological interventions across different stages of the value chain, identification of opportunities across different sectors and among different stakeholders like policy, industry and community and on ground demonstration of projects for a circular economy transition. The final aim is to create a roadmap, by engaging with industry and government stakeholders to drive change in the plastic supply chain and demonstrate on ground innovation through a series of demonstration projects. The aim is to bring out a comprehensive guidebook for dealing with the plastic value chain, for policy makers in India for their upcoming decisions nationally and while negotiating the upcoming Global Plastics Treaty.

Expected Outcome from the Thematic Track

The track aims to bring stakeholders across a unified platform, to provide their perspectives and expectations with the hope of integration in the upcoming roadmap. An understanding of ground truth and the prevalent scenario of plastic waste management in India is expected to be disclosed. The track will bring new insights on sustainable measures or unique solutions that need to be taken considering the identified gaps and opportunities in literature and initiatives.

Guiding Questions

1. What are the pressing challenges brands face in implementing Extended Producer Responsibility?
2. What materials can be promoted as alternate and sustainable packaging solutions?
3. What are the existing gaps around adoption of state-of-the art technologies for plastics recycling?
4. How can policy, process and technological good practices be shared for their accelerated adoption?

About the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS)

The World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) is the annual flagship Track II initiative organized by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). Instituted in 2001, the Summit series has a legacy of over two decades for making 'sustainable development' a globally shared goal. The only independently convened international Summit on sustainable development and environment, based in the Global South, WSDS strives to provide long-term solutions for the benefit of global communities by assembling the world's most enlightened leaders and thinkers on a single platform. The 22nd edition of the annual flagship event is being held from 22-24 February 2023 in New Delhi. The Summit deliberations will focus on the umbrella theme: Mainstreaming Sustainable Development and Climate Resilience for Collective Action.