



Reduction of environmental threats and increase of exportability of Bangladeshi leather products

The Challenge

The project SWITCH Re-tie aims at the provision of employment and income-opportunities in environmentally sustainable SMEs in the leather sector in Bangladesh.

Leather tanneries in Bangladesh trigger all three categories of waste: wastewater, solid waste and air emissions. However, wastewater and solid wastes are by far the most important environmental challenge. Water consumption is unnecessarily high due to little enforced water resource control and free access to water. Also chemicals, energy and other inputs are being consumed at a too high rate.

The incentive for SMEs to produce in a cleaner way is therefore the increased exportability of their products and a cost reduction due to a reduction of inputs.

The Path to Improvements

The Specific Objective - SMEs of the leather industry will work economically and ecologically more successful - shall be achieved through:

- Training and coaching of 15 national experts and factory staff for SCP matters;
- Implementation of cleaner production facilitated by those experts and sector units;
- Practical demonstration of OHS, CSR with documentation/ dissemination through guides & videos
- Institutionalisation of Outreach: Establishment of ca. 15 – 18 sector units, each unit comprises up to 25 entrepreneurs/enterprises lead by one facilitator
- Capacity building of Business Membership Organisations (BMOs) in the leather sector for the promotion of SCP matters at policy level by respective BMOs (CP Business Agenda);
- Influencing the CP relevant physical infrastructure of the new industrial site for the leather industry in Savar.



The Project and its Impact

The Action **Re-Tie Bangladesh** aims at enabling local leather-based industry to sustain conversion of locally available raw hides and skins into exportable products, either directly as genuine leather or as derived finished product.

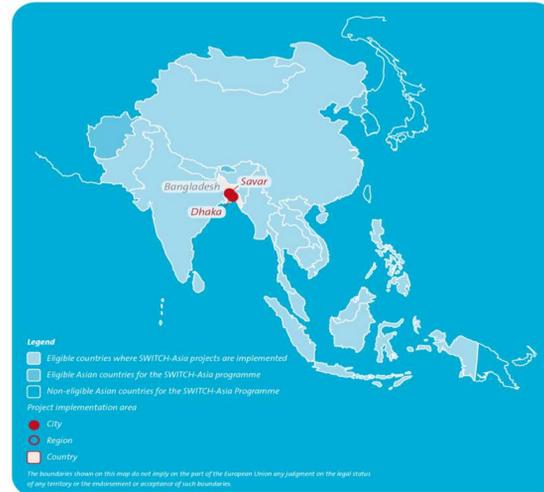
Indicators

- Water consumption reduced by 30%;
- Load of chromium in waste water reduced by 15%;
- COD of waste water reduced by 15%;
- 10 trained and coached national experts on cleaner production matters continue to consult companies;
- at least 120 technicians from local SMEs trained and in total up to 400 SMEs reached with specific CP methods
- Practical guideline how to handle solid waste, including composting and bio gas production;
- At least 15 sectoral cluster groups (nuclei) established (with similar company profiles);
- At least 2 regulatory proposals presented to relevant political stakeholders
- New industrial site Savar pays due attention to common and general environmental facilities and aspects;

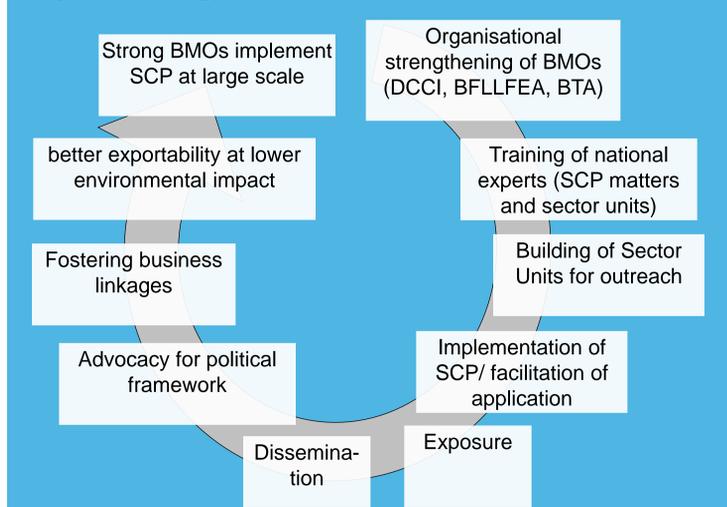
In a Nutshell

The SWITCH-Asia project: “Re-Tie Bangladesh: Reduction of environmental threats and increase of exportability of Bangladeshi leather products” seeks to address the provision of employment and improving of income-opportunities in environmentally sustainable SMEs in the leather sector in Bangladesh through:

- Diminution/efficient use of resources and significantly reduction of pollution/waste;
- Enhanced exportability through improved occupational health and safety (OHS), Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and other international standards;
- Supportive Policy framework to Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP);
- Strengthened institutional structure and outreach to SMEs for promotion of SCP



Project Strategy:



The Outreach Strategy

The Action will have a wide outreach towards SMEs through the implementation of the nucleus approach within the Intermediary Business Membership Organisations (BMOs) BFLFEA, DCCI and BTA as target group. The nucleus approach will be a very useful instrument to identify and define the specific needs and problems of the leather industries. This approach will allow a better coordination between SMEs' needs and policy answers. The target groups will have a key role in the dissemination of information and the consolidation of the political dialogue between private sector and public stakeholders.



Contact:

Mr. Gerhard WEBER
Alexanderstrasse 10
D-53111 Bonn
Germany
+49 (0) 228 / 982 38 22
gerhard.weber@sequa.de