

## Flash Report

# National Roundtable: Mainstreaming Resource Efficiency in Textile Industry in India



**Date:** Friday 04 February 2022 | 14:00 -16:00 (India Time)

**Venue:** Online

**Disclaimer:**

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## List of Acronyms:

<b>CO2</b>	Carbon Dioxide
<b>CE</b>	Circular Economy
<b>CRB</b>	Centre for Responsible Business
<b>COVID-19</b>	Coronavirus Disease
<b>CTPs</b>	Chemical Treatment Plants
<b>EU</b>	The European Union
<b>GHG</b>	Greenhouse Gas
<b>R&amp;D</b>	Research and Development
<b>RPAC</b>	Regional Policy Advocacy Component
<b>SCP</b>	Sustainable Consumption and Production
<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>SMEs</b>	Small and Medium Enterprises
<b>SWITCH-Asia RPAC</b>	SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Advocacy Component
<b>TERI SAS</b>	The Energy & Resources Institute School of Advanced Studies
<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environment Programme

## Background:

SWITCH-Asia is the programme funded by the European Union (EU) to promote sustainable consumption and production (SCP) across the Asian Region. The SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Advocacy Component (RPAC), implemented by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), is designed to strengthen the dialogue at regional, sub-regional and national policies on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) and thereby contributing to green growth and reduction of poverty in Asian countries.

The textile industry is a key sector of Indian economy and a major source of employment for the people. Its rise has also resulted in sizeable use of natural resources and causing negative impact on the environment. To make the textile sector more sustainable, there is a need for fundamental changes by mainstreaming resource efficiency and circular economy in the textile manufacturing and processing to minimize/mitigate the detrimental environmental impacts of the textile industry and bring long term sustainability.

In this context, a national activity with TERI School of Advanced Studies was initiated to understand the sector's resource use profile and policy landscape for mainstreaming resource efficiency in India. As part of this national activity, a National Roundtable on "Mainstreaming Resource Efficiency in the Textile Industry in India" was organised on 4th Feb 2022 from 2 – 4 pm (IST).

## Objectives of the event

- To engage in dialogue with the industry, government, and civil society stakeholders on critical needs and enabling solutions to induce resource efficiency in the textile sector in India;
- To explore systemic changes needed in policies and processes involved in various stages of production to help institutionalize resource efficiency and circular economy in the textile industry;
- To share best practices, initiatives and lessons learned on implementing resource efficiency and circularity in the textile value chain (policies, programs, economic instruments, voluntary measures, activities etc.)

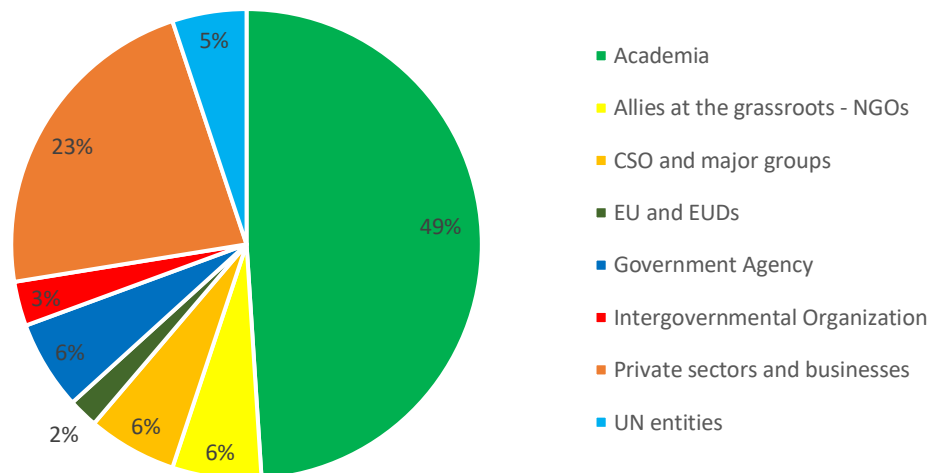
## Logistical information about the event

The event was organized by the SWITCH-Asia RPAC in partnership with TERI SAS through Microsoft Teams and was livestreamed on TERI SAS's Youtube [page](#).

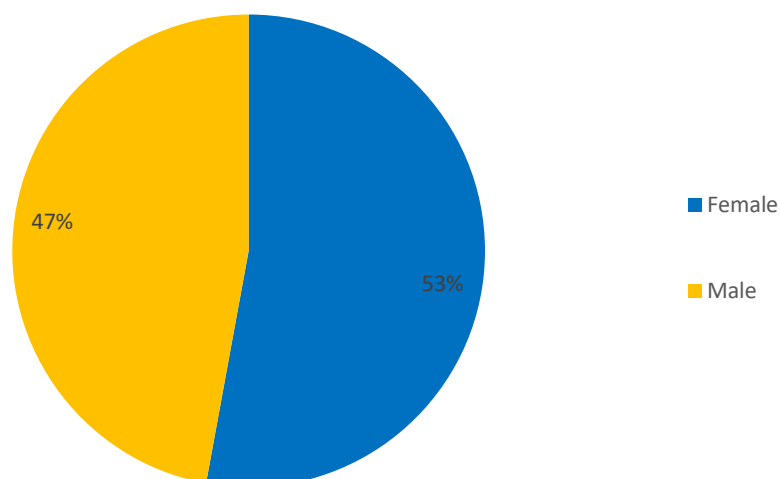
## Review on Participants:

Based on the registrations, the national dialogue was attended by 112 participants belonging to different stakeholder groups (graph below). Figures below presents the distribution of participants who registered prior to the event by stakeholders. Based on the registrations, 47% of the participants were male and 53% were female.

**Distribution by stakeholder (%)**



**Distribution by gender (%)**



## Summary of key messages:

### Welcome remarks

#### **Prof. Prateek Sharma**

##### **TERI School of Advanced Studies, New Delhi, India**

Prof. Sharma welcomed the participants and speakers. Referring to a report by Ellen MacArthur Foundation he stated that if business as usual scenario is continued, the textile industry by 2050 is going to contribute more than 25% of the global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. In the Indian context, the textile industry contributes around 5% of the total GDP and India is the sixth largest exporter of textiles in the world and in terms of industry, it is the second largest employer providing direct employment. He highlighted that it is critical to quantify and mitigate the environmental impacts at each stage of the supply chain which is only possible if all the stakeholders come together on a common platform and try to identify the control points for appropriate action on resource utilization.

#### **Dr. Mushtaq Memon**

##### **Project Manager, EU SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Advocacy Component (RPAC)**

Dr. Memon added that the textile industry is the backbone in most of the Asian countries and is an integral part of building back better after COVID-19 pandemic. Learning from the Indian experience will be beneficial to other countries in the region. He also added that bridging the gender gap and engaging youth are key aspects to this. He noted that India has the lot appetite for the reuse of textiles due to cultural values and several companies are following extended producer responsibility in the country. He thanked the European Union for their support on sustainable consumption and production in different sectors. He concluded by emphasizing the importance of the textile sector and its interlinkages with agriculture, pollution and plastic waste.

### Opening address

#### **Dr. Michael Bucki**

##### **EU Delegation to India and Bhutan**

Dr. Bucki started with mentioning that the EU textile strategy is under discussion with member states and stakeholders. He noted that the textile strategy relates to the circular economy action plan, the chemical strategy for sustainability and upcoming initiative on sustainable products. EU sees textile as a priority sector towards a carbon neutral circular economy.

He stated that the goal is to adopt a coordinated and harmonized response across the EU, to those structural weaknesses regarding textiles, textile waste collection, sorting and recycling in the Member States, and to strengthen the capacity of the public authority and industry in a globalised manner. This will be done through three main pillars: 1) drive sustainable investments in a production process design, new materials, new business models, infrastructures and capacities; 2) support technologies, notably the digitization and traceability, logistics related to innovative textiles and 3) tackle the release of microplastics that can be very polluting. The EU

also intends to boost demand for sustainable and circular textile, extended producer responsibility, GPP, among others. He highlighted that on the global dimension, they will also look at the protection of human rights, environmental duty of care and due diligence across the global value chains, including improving traceability and transparency.

## Keynote Address

### **Sh. Upendra Singh** **Secretary – Ministry of Textiles, Government of India**

Mr. Singh began his keynote address by sharing that India is the second largest producer of textiles in the world and has a huge domestic and export market. In India, textile industry is the second largest employer after agriculture in India, employing 2.5 – 3% of the population. He remarked that in terms of government initiatives, there is a cabinet approved PLA scheme for textile production linked incentive scheme for textile. India's textile industry is natural fibre based, with 70% cotton dominated textile industry and 30% manmade fibres, whereas globally its other way around. Accordingly, this production linked incentive scheme focuses on two things: 1) manmade fibre based textiles and 2) technical textile because it has potential in different sectors in India and the penetration of technical textile in India is pretty low. He noted that India has a National Technical textile mission which is looking over a number of R&D projects.

He added that the value chain in India is very fragmented, and limiting the potential of size and scale. To address this, Government of India recently launched the PM Mitra scheme, with a plan to set up seven a mega textile parks with an overall area of 1000 acres with a world class infrastructure. He also highlighted some of the inherent challenges including poor water use efficiency in agriculture phase, pollution during wet processing, textile waste ending up in landfills etc. He concluded by emphasizing the timeliness of the roundtable to devise solutions to these challenges.

## Presentation 1: Findings of the Assessment of Indian Textile RE Policy Landscape

### **Dr. Ranjana Chaudhuri** **TERI SAS**

Dr. Chaudhuri shared that the study aimed to capture the resource use profile of the textile industry, identify the hotspots, where we need to institutionalize the resource efficiency and also map policies across the lifecycle stages of the textile value chain and identify gaps over the existing policies.

She shared the findings of the policy mapping, highlighted the various policies, starting with the National textile policy, integrated processing development scheme, Make in India amongst others. The research team also studied various cross cutting policies which are relevant for the textile industry such as the national mission for sustainable agriculture, the draft notification for the amendment rules of standard effluence, the draft national resource efficiency policy, the pesticide bill and the PM Mitra scheme. She then discussed the policy gaps, they identified that most of India's pilot policies

are at the first two stages of the lifecycle, fibre production and textile production stages, but an integrated approach to building a circular system across the textile value chain is required. She stated that policies relevant to the allied sectors of agriculture, manufacturing and processing need to evolve towards a singular cross sectoral policy framework that incorporates multilateral facets, governing the textile industry and align the policy goal with local context by involving all stakeholders. She concluded by highlighting the need for upscaling upskilling measures for the informal sector and the need for market support for secondary textiles.

## Presentation 2: Sustainable Textiles – Challenges and Benefits

### **Mr. Naresh Tyagi** **Chief Sustainability Officer, Aditya Birla Group**

Mr. Tyagi shared that the Aditya Birla Group is one of the largest fashion and lifestyle retail company. In 2012 the company started its sustainability journey by looking at the national and global regulatory landscape, requirements and expertise at the global level. The company set 10 mission from energy, carbon waste water, great building, product packaging, CSR and safety with clear target and shared progress and achievements in last decade.

He informed the audience about their upcoming sustainability 2.0 program, where they have set their targets for 2025 and 2030 focusing on resource optimization along the value chain. With a focus on circular economy, the company will look at clean by design, focus on the entire supply chain, collaborating with partners, and bring consumers and value chain together by 2025. He highlighted that to bring the change to the entire value chain, lot of collaboration is needed because the industry is very fragmented and majority is unorganized.

## Presentation 3: Circular Textiles and Apparel in India – Policy Intervention Priorities and Ideas

### **Ms. Devyani Hari** **Director, Centre for Responsible Business (CRB)**

Ms. Hari highlighted some of the priorities and requirements for mainstreaming circular textiles in India. She stated that for circularity it is important to support design to reduce wastage in the design and production stage itself. Comprehensive standards and benchmarks set in consultation with the stakeholders while taking into account the local conditions could be good to measure the performance of the industry. She remarked that from the policy perspective, a clear content law highlighting minimum recycled content and indicating fibre content, investment in R&D, awareness program, labelling for recycled materials for acceptance in the marketplace, policy support for cleaner chemicals, a robust collection mechanism to support post-consumer recycling and incentives for start-ups utilising waste are necessary.

She also remarked on the importance of green finance and identifying opportunities for circular investments. She recommended setting up an inter-ministerial and multi-stakeholder task force that develops a roadmap and start the operationalization for adopting circularity in textiles in the country scale.



## Presentation 4: A Multi-Stakeholder Approach for Pollution Prevention, Efficient Water Use and Circular Economy

### **Mr. Tatheer Zaidi** **SOLIDARIDAD**

Mr. Zaidi presented a case study established in last five years in the leather sector, when on the suggestion of Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India. He highlighted the importance of low cost, simple technology solutions to mainstream resource efficiency in SMEs. He also shared that as part of this SWITCH-Asia funded project, a centre of excellence was established in Kanpur region which regularly provides trainings to the workers and change the behaviour of the people who are working at the shop floor. Under the ambit of this project was formulated a multi stakeholder platform which is being chaired by National Mission for Clean Ganga and co-chaired by State Pollution Control Board to establish uniform communication, and bring public and public private stakeholders at a single platform to bridge communication gap.

### Roundtable Discussion

The roundtable discussion focused around 5 specific questions targeted towards the relevant experts invited as discussants. The summary of the discussion is provided below:

- India has more than 90% of textile units are in different clusters. There is a lack of integration and inter-connectedness in the clusters and along the value chain. In a well-organized cluster or value chain, there must be collaboration between different actors and between the three pillars of economy, policy, and academia.
- Promotion of and incentivization of waste textiles into value added materials. Government can also look at supporting the indigenous technologies through R&D projects and promoting startups through tax rebates.
- It is important to look at the dye manufacturers also as part of the same value chain. Hence, apart from regulating what types of dyes are utilized in the country, it is important to look at the alternative technologies for dye manufacturing.
- The challenges for adoption of new technologies are: high risk perception, perceived high financial cost, high investment, and the need for handholding and technical assistance.
- Regular/follow up technical assistance is required, for this local technical experts, local/sectoral industry association can be roped in and trained for the specific function.
- Targeted capacity building program for MSMEs and the unorganized sector to improve the silks of the workforce.

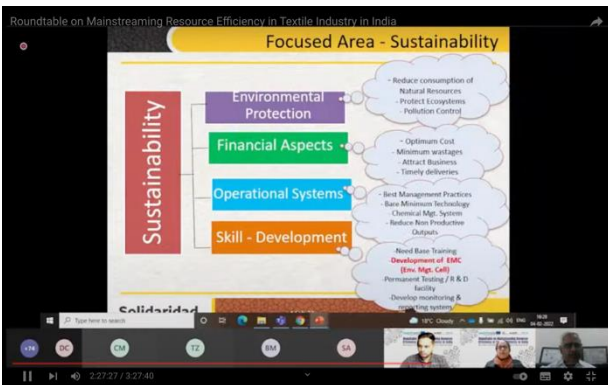
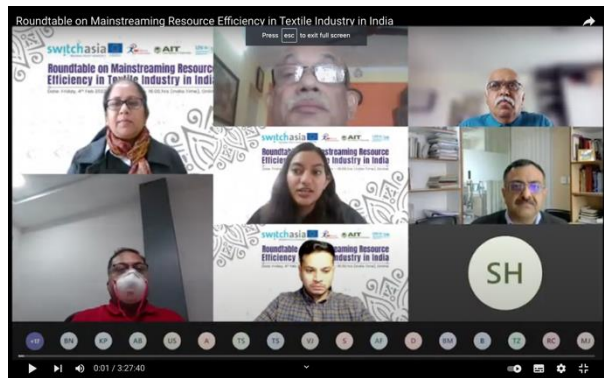
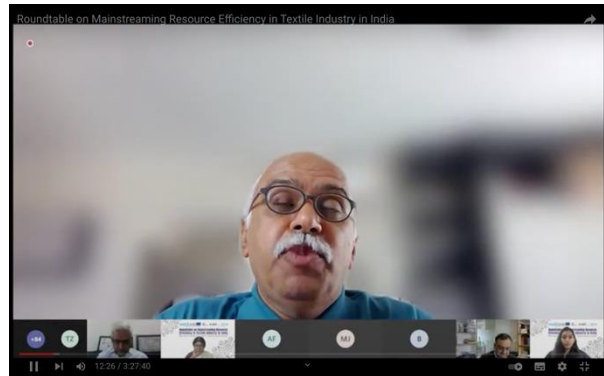
## Conclusion and Way Forward

**Dr. Arun Kansal**

**TERI School of Advanced Studies, New Delhi, India**

Dr. Kansal thanked all the speakers and participants for a fruitful discussion and implored the group to continue supporting collective action and collaborations for a sustainable textile sector.

## Snapshots of the event



## Annex:

### Annex 1: The Final agenda

Time	Programme
1400 - 1405	<b>Introductory Remarks</b> <i>Prof. Prateek Sharma</i> <i>TERI School of Advanced Studies, New Delhi, India</i>
1405 - 1410	<b>Welcome Address</b> Dr. Mushtaq Memon <i>Project Manager, EU SWITCH-Asia RPAC</i>
1410 - 1420	<b>Opening Address</b> Dr. Michael Bucki <i>Counsellor, EU Delegation to India and Bhutan</i>
1420 - 1435	<b>Keynote Address</b> Sh. Upendra Singh Secretary – Ministry of Textiles, Government of India <i>Delegation of European Union to India</i>
1435 - 1445	<b>Presentation 1: Findings of the Assessment of Indian Textile RE Policy Landscape</b> Dr. Ranjana Chaudhuri <i>TERI SAS</i>
1445 - 1455	<b>Presentation 2: Sustainable Textiles – Challenges and Benefits</b> Mr. Naresh Tyagi <i>Chief Sustainability Officer, Aditya Birla Group</i>
1455 - 1505	<b>Presentation 3: Circular Textiles and Apparel in India – Policy Intervention Priorities and Ideas</b> Ms. Devyani Hari <i>Director, CRB</i>
1505 - 1515	<b>Presentation 4: A Multi-Stakeholder Approach for Pollution Prevention, Efficient Water Use and Circular Economy</b> Mr. Tatheer Zaidi <i>SOLIDARIDAD</i>
1515 - 1555	<b>Roundtable Discussion</b> Moderator: Dr. Fawzia Tarranum <i>TERI SAS</i> Conversation outline and Guiding Questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the gaps or barriers or challenges to mainstream sustainability into textile sector?</li> <li>• What actions (policies, regulatory/ economic instruments, industry led voluntary targets etc.) are needed to reduce environmental impacts of textile industry as informed by the resource consumption? (focus on areas that have not yet been covered in existing programs and the areas that are most challenging to achieve)</li> <li>• Priority areas/entry points that should be targeted for immediate adoption of RE measures (e.g., opportunities that will be easiest to implement early in the mainstreaming process)</li> </ul>

- What kind of institutional and capacity development arrangement/ needs are required for industry and government stakeholders to operationalising the RE measures?

**1555 - 1600**

**Conclusion and Way Forward**

Dr. Arun Kansal

*TERI School of Advanced Studies, New Delhi, India*

## For more information

SWITCH-Asia event page:

<https://www.switch-asia.eu/event/national-roundtable-on-mainstreaming-resource-efficiency-in-the-textile-sector-in-india/>

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