

National Workshop on Eco-labelling
Enabling Developing Countries to Seize Eco-label Opportunities
23-24 June 2008, Jaipur, India

Background & Context

CUTS and the Confederation of Indian Textiles Industries (CITI), in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is organising this National Workshop. The event is the first occasion to introduce to national stakeholders the **Enabling Developing Countries to Seize Eco-label Opportunities** project. This 4-year project, funded by the European Union and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, is aiming at promoting eco-labelling in Brazil, China, India, Kenya, Mexico and South Africa. Through technical assistance and capacity building to a wide range of national stakeholders, the project would like to increase the number of key export products eco-labelled, in view of increasing international market access and at the same time contributing to more sustainable consumption and production patterns. In India it will particularly aim at supporting Indian industries in eco-labelling textiles products with the EU Eco-label.

It will bring together relevant government decision makers, textiles industry's and industrial designers' representatives, as well as representatives from textile associations, national laboratories associated with the manufacturing of textiles, national representatives of the Ecomark scheme and standardization bodies, NGO's and consumer organizations, representatives of the EU eco-label scheme, international eco-label and sustainable consumption experts, industry representatives that got their textiles successfully eco-labelled, as well as UNEP and the European Commission representatives.

Objectives

- Create awareness among relevant stakeholders on the opportunities related to eco-labelling and to the increase of sustainability of the textile sector;
- Present the 'Enabling developing countries to seize eco-label opportunities' project and engage relevant stakeholders; and
- Increase textile industry stakeholders' knowledge of the EU Eco-label, its procedure, criteria and related market opportunities.

Venue

Royal Court Conference Hall, **Country Inn**, at Khasa Kothi Circle, M. I. Road, Jaipur

Participants

- Indian representatives of key ministries, industry, regulatory bodies, consumer organisations, producers associations, environmental NGOs, etc
- International representatives of EC, UNEP, UK DEFRA, GTZ, etc

The Programme

Session I – Setting the Scene

This session will aim at creating a common background about eco-labelling as a tool for promoting resource efficiency and Life Cycle Management; the role of different stakeholders will be presented, as well as the different related initiative existing in India.

Session II – Improving the Sustainability of Textiles Production: Challenges and Opportunities

This session will focus on the textiles sector in India, the need of improving its sustainability and related opportunities.

Session III – Working Session

This session will address textile industry representatives; it will provide more detailed specifications on the Enabling developing countries to seize eco-label opportunities project and specifically will focus on the presentation of the EU Eco-label, the market opportunities for Indian eco-labelled textiles, the scheme's criteria for textiles, and the related procedure for getting the product awarded.