

Green SME Summit – Collaborating across the Value Chain

WRI India, in association with TERI and CII has set-up the India GHG program – a voluntary industry led partnership that aims to build institutional capabilities towards measurement and management of greenhouse gas emissions. By providing relevant trainings, tools, capacity building and facilitating best practices, peer interactions etc. the program aims to eventually promote profitable and competitive businesses in India. The India GHG Program is supported by the Pirojsha Godrej Foundation, Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation and German Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU).

The program partners as well as its founding member companies realize there are business benefits associated with management of greenhouse gas emissions, and these are not limited to large organizations alone. Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) form the core of the economy, and contribute not just to the supply chains of select large organizations but to the overall GDP in a significant manner. However, the challenges that SMEs face in terms of understanding the environmental impacts, benefits or opportunities are very unique and these are generally pertaining to dedicated capacity, resources and availability of tools/guidance etc.

The India GHG Program, with the Green SME Summit therefore aims to convene various stakeholders and key influencers together to explore potential avenues of collaboration between large companies and SMEs across the value chain using GHG Accounting as a tool. The Summit would highlight best practices and case examples of this approach and its role in highlighting bottom line benefits to the overall business segment. Apart from highlighting national and international experiences, the Summit would also see the official launch of the do-it-yourself GHG Accounting tool developed under the aegis of the India GHG Program.

The Green Summit – Collaborating across the value chain, would be held at The Lalit, Sahar Airport Road in Mumbai on 16th July, 2014. The Summit is supported through a strategic partnership with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ), a German government owned not-for-profit enterprise supporting sustainable development. Operational in India since the last 60 years, GIZ currently has about 300 staff members handling sustainable development measures worth about 25 million EUROs per annum. As a part of its overall

strategy, GIZ is promoting Small and Medium Enterprises improving responsible business management and reforming financial systems to make them accessible to poor population groups – within its private sector engagement, thereby following similar approaches and seeking sustainable development.

The Green SME Summit therefore primarily focuses on;

- Identifying primary challenges of doing inventories across the SME sector;
- Exploring possible engagements of large companies (having resources and expertise) in supporting their tier1,2 suppliers to develop inventories;
- Formally releasing the SME sector do-it-yourself tool or guide to compiling GHG inventories;
- Identifying specific policy gaps/challenges and providing specific recommendations that promote closer collaboration along the value chain.