

Note on “Awareness Workshop for Architects on clay-fired REBs”

Date : 04 December 2015 (Friday) from 10:00AM – 1:30 PM

Venue : Wienerberger Brick Industry Pvt. Ltd, 88/4, Richmond Road, Bengaluru

Brick making is one of the prominent industries in MSME (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) sector in India. A national level study undertaken by TERI during 2013-15 had estimated about 190,000 – 280,000 brick kilns in the country producing 220 - 280 billion bricks annually and consuming 29–35 million tonnes of coal and 12–16 million tonnes of biomass. The brick sector in India assumes great importance as it employs more than 10 million workers and contributes significantly to country’s GDP.

In India, century old methods of manual preparation of clay, moulding and firing are employed by brick makers while the manufacturing process has undergone a sea change in the developed countries with the adoption of semi to full mechanization and production of energy efficient products like Resource Efficient Bricks (REBs) e.g. hollow bricks and perforated bricks. The REBs in developed countries have replaced conventional solid bricks in large numbers resulting in substantial savings in consumption of top soil and fuel, besides improvement in the quality of products. REBs have further led to energy saving by way of better insulation of buildings with reduced electricity consumption for heating and cooling purposes.

In India, the majority of clay-fired brick production is in the form of solid bricks. One of the important reasons for reluctance by brick kiln entrepreneurs to produce REBs is lack of market demand for such products. Recognizing this gap and to address this issue, TERI is organizing an awareness workshop for architects on 4th December 2015 at Bengaluru under the UNDP-GEF brick project “Energy Efficiency Improvements in Indian Brick Industry”. The leading architects of the region are invited to participate in the workshop. The objectives of the workshop include the following:

1. To enhance awareness of architects on clay-fired products with a view to improve the market for REBs
2. To share knowledge among architects on the benefits and advantages of using REBs in place of conventional solid bricks to motivate them to adopt REBs in building construction.
3. To showcase various types of REBs being manufactured in India