

Minutes of Sensitization workshop on “Use of Resource Efficient Brick Products in Construction sector” (held in Coimbatore on 18th August 2010)

TERI organized a sensitization workshop on resource efficient brick (REB) products in the construction sector on August 18, 2010 at Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu in association with Association of Consulting Civil Engineers (ACCE), Coimbatore Chapter. The participants included about 15 builders and architects from Coimbatore and a few progressive brick kiln entrepreneurs. Coimbatore is an important brick producing cluster with a large number of BTKs, each with a production capacity of about 30,000 bricks per day. The kilns operate round the year, unlike in other places. The workshop was significant in view of the fact that the construction sector has recently witnessed the introduction of hollow blocks produced by Weinerberger (Bangalore).



The workshop was presided by the ACCE Secretary, Mr V Gopalakrishnan and the ACCE Chairman, Mr C M Dharmalingam. TERI provided an overview of the UNDP-GEF project, the present technology status of the brick industry, and the importance and many advantages of REB brick products in the construction sector—for example, better finishing, improved brick quality, savings in construction practices and better insulation properties of walls. The participants were also shown a short film on construction practices with REBs, prepared under the project.

The presentation was followed by open discussions which focused on certain critical issues related to the adoption of REB products. A builder observed that substantial breakages take place while using REBs during construction, and that better masonry practices are needed to address this problem. Other issues related to adoption of REBs in construction are summarized below:

- Quality of REBs in terms of compressive strength as compared to solid bricks
- Need for more than one type of hollow block, for this would help in minimizing cutting/ breaking of bricks while carrying out plumbing and wiring activities.

- Trained manpower (masons) must be available to ensure better handling during construction and minimize wastages.

Agenda for the **Sensitization workshop on Resource Efficiency brick Products
in construction sector**

Place : Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu

Date : August 18, 2010

07:00 – 07:15 PM	Welcome and introduction address – ACCE
07:15 – 08:00 PM	Presentation of REB usage in construction – Vasudevan N, TERI
	Video on construction practices with REBs
08:00 – 09:00 PM	Open discussions

List of members of ACCE Coimbatore Chapter, Tamil Nadu

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