



### Awareness Workshop on Fly Ash Brick Technology

The Development Alternatives (DA) Group is working with the Bihar State Pollution Control Board (BSPCB) and Department of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (DoEF&CC), Government of Bihar, to promote cleaner brick production technologies especially looking at fly ash brick technology. On 21<sup>st</sup> May 2019, BSPCB, in association with DoEF&CC organised an awareness and training workshop on Fly Ash Brick technologies. The aim of the workshop was to create favourable environment in the state to accelerate the adoption of fly ash bricks and quality awareness on the same.

Dr. Soumen Maity (Assistant Vice President, DA) presented on 'Fly Ash Brick Scenario and Quality of Fly Ash Brick in Bihar' during the workshop. He highlighted the current demands of bricks in Bihar for the construction sector; availability of fly ash for the fly ash brick making, roadmap of fly ash brick sector in Bihar; quality assurance during the production of fly ash brick at site; mapping of fly ash brick to overcome the gap between demand and supply.

The event witnessed 148 participants, including existing and potential fly ash brick entrepreneurs, experts on fly ash brick technology, government stakeholders, and private builders and contractors and triggered a discussion on issues faced in utilisation and quality of fly ash bricks and also find common grounds for solutions to upscale fly ash brick utilisation in the state. The discussions focused on the practical relevance of using fly ash bricks as an alternative to mitigate the environmental implications of the brick sector; since fly ash (a waste) as a raw material can contribute towards transitioning to a resource resilient India. The discussion also addressed the prevailing issues in the production and consumption of fly ash bricks.

Many of the eminent speakers expressed their deep concern regarding fly ash procurement from thermal power plants and the immediate need for developing a supportive ecosystem to promote fly ash bricks in Bihar. The speakers were confident that the prime objective of promoting fly ash bricks in Bihar can be achieved through transformative action on technological, economic, regulatory and behavioural changes.

Some of the key speakers included - Dr. Ashok Kumar Ghosh (Chairman, BSPCB), Shri Deepak Kumar Singh (Principal Secretary, DoEF&CC, Government of Bihar), Shri Alok Kumar (Member Secretary, BSPCB), Shri Pankaj Kumar (AGM, Eastern NTPC), Shri K.P.S Keshri (President, Bihar Industries Association, Patna), Shri Atul Prashar (Bihar Fly Ash Brick Industry Association), Shri. N.G. Reddy (National Expert on fly ash brick technology) and Dr. Naveen Kumar (Scientist, BSPCB)

The workshop concluded on the note to enable a supportive ecosystem required for scaling-up and sustaining fly ash brick enterprises in Bihar.