



Mainstreaming Sustainable Social Housing in India

The National Workshop on Mainstreaming Sustainable Social Housing in India (MaS-SHIP) held on the 9th October 2018, was the last in series of the six events in a two year journey of the project. The workshop sought to share the outcomes of the project with a focus on the components of a Decision Support Toolkit (DST), designed to assist stakeholders in the social housing sector to make informed decisions in adopting more sustainable building materials, technologies, and construction practices. To this end, the beta version of a Sustainability Assessment Tool (SAT), a key component of the DST, was a particular subject of discussion. The consultation commenced with a contextualisation of the construction sector as a major contributor to resource stress and CO2 emissions globally. Recognising the need and potential of interventions to transform the housing market in India and other developing countries, the current project has been supported under the United Nations' Ten year Framework Programme (10YFP) for Sustainable Consumption and Production. While welcoming the participants to the consultation, Zeenat Niazi (Vice President, Development Alternatives), also briefly introduced the Sustainable Building and Construction Programme as one of the six coordination hubs initiated under the United Nations' Ten Year Framework Programme (10YFP). The 10YFP promotes the shift towards sustainable consumption and production (SCP) patterns by member states of the UN and facilitates access to technical and financial assistance for developing countries in this endeavour.

Pratibha Caleb (Deputy Manager, DA) presented the GIS-based application which is part of one of the decision-support activities in the toolkit. The application, which is updatable, maps location details, size and scale of operations, distance and transportation requirements for moving materials from a selected production unit to the desired site of construction. This is a first version and could become a useful tool as a directory of building materials and technologies benefitting both suppliers and housing project developers.

The key speakers for the consultation were: Sanjay Seth (Senior Director, TERI), Saurabh Diddi (Director of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency), Prof Rajat Gupta (Director of Oxford Institute for Sustainable Development and Low Carbon Building Research Group, Oxford Brookes University, UK), Pramod Adlakha (Adlakha Associates)

and Mr Ayushman Banerjee (UN-Habitat, India). The participants of the workshop came from diverse backgrounds ranging from government bodies, construction industry, private developers, and architecture, along with academia and research institutes. It concluded that it is important to keep the communication simple both in describing the toolkit as well as in the key messages for policy makers and the focus should remain on selection of materials and technologies from the perspective of the 18 attributes of sustainability, however, communication to different users would have to be treated differently.