

## **Minutes of workshop on “Best practices in brick making” held at Kolar (January 29, 2007)**

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The workshop on “Best practices in brick making” was jointly organised by TERI (New Delhi), DIC-Kolar and Vishveshwaraiah Industrial Associations (VIA)-Kolar. The objective of the workshop was to share improved operating practices in brick making and initiate discussions on new energy efficient technologies. The program was inaugurated by the Deputy Commissioner of Kolar district and about 70 brick kiln entrepreneurs participated in the programme.

The programme provided overview of various initiatives demonstrated by TERI under the CoSMiLE (Competence network for Small and Micro Enterprises) project supported by the SDC (Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation) in Kolar/ Malur clusters during last two years. The initiatives include improved firing practices in downdraught kiln and enhanced drying practices in drying sheds along with envisaged benefits and investments requirements. The programme also discussed in detail various aspects of brick making operation starting from selection of raw materials, testing, blending, mixing, shaping, drying and firing. Use of additives that would improve quality of green bricks and drying and use of internal fuels in brick firing practices were also deliberated. The programme also provided overview on new technologies such as tunnel kiln and VSBK (vertical shaft brick kiln) and production of resource efficient products such as perforated bricks and hollow blocks.

The open discussion held after the presentations helped in arriving at the following points:

1. Need for establishing a testing laboratory either at Malur or Kolar to be initiated by DIC/VIA, Kolar. The SISI (Kolar) has testing facilities for bricks and the brick kiln entrepreneurs were offered to make use of this facility.
2. Organising exposure visit to brick making facilities including VSBK and machinery manufacturers in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra for a group of entrepreneurs around March 2007 as a joint initiative of DIC,VIA and TERI. Possibilities of visiting Vietnam for possible technology adoption and upgradation will also be explored.
3. It was also agreed the TERI and its resource persons will be available at the cluster for 2 to 3 days in a month to assist individual brick kiln units to address their technical issues.

