

Participation in the workshop on “Environmental sustainability in foundry and electroplating sectors” organized by the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board February 11-12, 2010, Coimbatore

TERI participated in a workshop on ‘Environmental sustainability in foundry and electroplating sectors’ which was organized by the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) on 11–12 February 2010 in the Coimbatore foundry cluster, which has around 680 units. The event, which was attended by around 200 participants, took place in the backdrop of growing concerns about pollution from coke-burning cupolas, because of which TNPCB is strictly enforcing environmental regulations in the cluster. While large-size foundry units have switched over to electrical induction furnaces, a huge number of smaller foundry units are not able to afford such a switchover and continue to operate coke-based cupolas. TNPCB is concerned over the fact that these smaller units are unable to comply with pollution control norms, as they have installed sub-optimal pollution control systems (PCS).

During the workshop, the smaller coke-based cupola entrepreneurs discussed the problems they are facing in meeting environmental norms. A number of them were interested in learning more about the high-efficiency venturi scrubber PCS developed and demonstrated under TERI-SDC Partnership project. Following the workshop, TERI along with TNPCB held discussions with interested entrepreneurs who were provided details about the venturi scrubber system and its proven ability to meet the most stringent environmental norms. It was agreed that representatives from the cluster would visit Howrah to witness the venturi scrubber PCS in operation. TNPCB also responded positively to the idea of demonstrating the venturi scrubber in the Coimbatore cluster.