

Program to minimise waste in factories

The National Cleaner Production Centre (NCPC) in Sri Lanka will launch a series of programs to minimise industrial waste in factories specially in the cash crop industry.

According to a senior official of the NCPC which is funded by the United Nations Environment Program and Royal Norwegian Embassy the Centre feels that there is a lot of waste in this industry. "If this waste could be saved and reused at a more production level Sri Lanka could earn at least 5% more from their productions."

He said that what the centre is proposing are some simple methods which are now being ignored by most industries.

"We have targeted 100 factories and industries to launch this program next year."

The official said that this year the NCPC has selected the hotel industry and next month they would be introducing this system in over 70 hotels. "We have selected five star hotels and even small hotels for this program."

He said that NCPC is the only certified body to issue the ISO 14001 certification awarded for efficiency in cleanness. "Only the Dankotuwa Porcelain company has received this certification so far." He said that 20 companies are now being evaluated to receive this award.

"Cleaner production is a new and innovative way of improving production and reducing pollution."

Cleaner production improves the production efficiency as well as the product quality and at the same time cleaner production reduces the cost of resources, materials, waste disposal and waste water treatment and improves environmental performance", the officials aid.

"The United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) has defined cleaner production (CP) as continuous application of an integrated preventive environmental strategy to processes, products and services to increase efficiency and to reduce risk to humans and to environment"

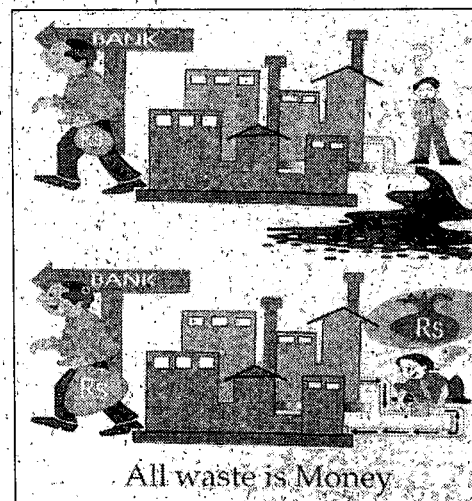
Cleaner production approach is a preventive, integrated strategy that is applied to the entire production cycle to:

- * Increase productivity by ensuring more efficient use of raw materials, energy and water;
- * Promote better environmental performance through reduction of waste and emissions at source.
- * Reduce the environmental impact of products throughout their life cycle by the design of environmentally friendly but cost effective products.

The net effect is to give enterprises in developing and transition countries a more competitive edge, thereby facilitating their access to international markets.

UNIDO's holistic approach to cleaner production includes its application in sectoral activities, as well as the implementation of multilateral environmental protocol through development and transfer of cleaner production technology and investment promotion.

Based on the experience gained through



Some of the slogans designed by the NCPC.

their various activities, NCPCs are able to prepare and submit various policy-oriented papers demonstrating how environmental pollution can be reduced at a low cost. The NCPCs also act as discussion partners for local or national environmental authorities.

Target beneficiaries

- * SMEs will benefit from participation: as a result of the project, they will reduce their emissions, achieve monetary savings and have increased access to modern CP technologies. The participating SMEs should be stable in terms of management, operations and ownership.
- * The quality of the environment would also benefit due to the decreased emis-

sions from the involved small and medium scale enterprises, and moreover the learned methods and methodology can later be applied in large scale plants, thus causing significant improvement in the environmental quality.

- * Regulatory governmental institutions would benefit, due to their increased know-how on harmonising the environmental policies at a regional level.
- * Environmental and industrial policy makers will benefit due to their improved awareness of cost-effective ways of reducing environmental pollution.
- * Industrial research institutes and universities connected to industries will benefit due to the marketable research possibilities and projects in the field of cleaner production. It could also help them to include cleaner production in the curricula and to gain expertise through participation in the project, thus developing a firm basis for teaching cleaner production.
- * Consultants who will be trained to conduct CP in plant assessments.

Industry has been and continues to be a major source of environmental problems locally and globally industry accounts for approximately one-third of the green house gas emissions and a large percentage of the hazardous waste generation.

The introduction of cleaner production to industries in developing countries provides important solutions to the above problems.

Experience shows that the application of cleaner production can significantly improve the environmental performance of existing production processes, with no or little investment. It does not make treatment and replacement of old equipment unnecessary, but reduces the requirements for these.

In developing countries most of the equipment in capital endowment still has not taken place; this is a critical time to ensure that the cleaner production concept is being disseminated fast.

Any delay in the application of cleaner production will cause more irreversible damage to the environment. Production inefficiencies and the need for corrective measures will result in higher costs to the industry.

The national Cleaner Production Centre Program of UNIDO/UNEP started in 1994. In the initial phase such eight centres were set up.

The success of these centres prompted UNIDO/UNEP to extend the NCPC program to other countries as well. NCPC of Sri Lanka is the 23rd centre to be established under this program.

The Norwegian Government provides the required financial support to NCPC Sri Lanka during its formative years.

Small and Medium Enterprise Developers (SMED), a joint project of Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Sri Lanka (FCCISL) and Friedrich Naumann and Stiftung (FNST) in Sri Lanka is the host organisation of the National Cleaner Production Centre.