

Environmental Management at Nagaon Paper Mill : Enhancing Competitiveness

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ABSTRACT

Even after facing many constraints, quite a few paper plants in India are doing very good and have shown their ability which is globally comparable. Pulp and Paper industry has been considered as one of the major polluting industries in the world. At the same time, stringent environmental legislations has forced the industry to look for drastic measures to recycle natural resources by adopting eco-friendly practices, so that they can be used as raw material to other processes inside the plant or outside. Nagaon Paper Mill (NPM) has already initiated and implemented many schemes since inception of the mill to fight with the pollution potentials in and around mill premises for betterment of the local inhabitants not only for its survival but also as a social obligation, which is considered to be a major step in to-day's competitive scenario. NPM is marching towards continual improvement of environmental performances as per EMS because of which many time targeted action plans of eco-friendly nature have been implemented and many are under implementation. Total recycle concept has already been implemented in processes to reduce consumption and wastage. We have already achieved target in some of the areas like reduction in wastewater discharge, reduction in total pollution load and reduction in consumption of some natural resources like water, coal, bamboo, etc. The use of treated effluent, all along the disposal route to a stretch of 25 km is remarkable. Regular monitoring of effluent, ground water & air quality have shown very encouraging results since last couple of decades. The Mill is going for modernization and technological upgradation of its processes including Pulp Mill, which will further improve the quality of product as well as quality of out going emissions. To conserve Forest, NPM has adopted a Farm Forestry scheme, which was introduced in 2001 and is progressing well. The tissue culture laboratory of NPM, for mass production of bamboo plantlets is considered to be a noble step towards conservation of forests in NE states that may also be considered as a break through in this field for global competition.