



Youth Seminar

Green Growth - Preparing Youth for Sustainable Living

26-27 February 2013, International Centre Goa (ICG), Dona Paula, Goa



TERI promotes green growth agenda among Goan youth

Youth are important stakeholders in shaping and furthering the global environmental agenda. They can be actively engaged in raising awareness, running educational programmes, advocating for policy level changes, designing innovative solutions, technologies and tools, and strengthening public participation for environmental protection. At a time when unsustainable consumption of resources has emerged as one of the key global challenges, the need of the hour is to instill a sense of responsibility in the youth towards the environment.

Recognising the multi-dimensional potential of young minds in realising the sustainable development goals, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) in collaboration with the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs—conducted the Goan leg of its seven-state interactive seminar series at the International Centre Goa, Dona Paula, with the aim of sensitising young minds on issues pertaining to green growth and sustainable development.

This seminar is being showcased as an RCE Goa initiative which is endorsed by the United Nations University's Institute of Advanced Studies that is promoting Education for Sustainable Development globally.

Themed “Green Growth–Preparing Youth for Sustainable living,” the two-day seminar aimed to host undergraduate/postgraduate students, young professionals and enthusiastic individuals willing to voice their opinions and contribute towards a sustainable future. The seminar in Goa witnessed the presence of almost 100 youth from academic institutions. It also sought the active involvement of the National Service Scheme (NSS) and the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) youth groups from across Goa.

Inaugurating the seminar, Shri V M Prabhudessai, Director, Directorate of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of Goa said, “that youth are the change makers and need to take proactive action for taking Goa along the Green Growth pathway”. Ms. Nandini Sahai, Director, ICG also asserted the importance of youth being at the forefront of sustainability issues and being messengers of change in society.

The first day of the event featured focussed yet exhaustive discussions on sustainability issues. A session on “Fundamentals of Green Growth” by Ms. Anita Haladi, Associate Professor, DMC Goa, highlighted the importance and the need for environment-friendly development practices, while special panel discussions on “Sustainable lifestyles and Youth choices” and “Social Entrepreneurship: Opportunities for youth” provided an insight into green jobs and behavioural changes required to conserve the environment. Mr. Darryl Pereira particularly spoke about social entrepreneurship and motivated youth to think out of the box for solutions that address local needs and positively impact a large number of people while being a viable business option. Ms. Tallulah D'Silva spoke about the need for youth to connect pro-actively with nature and make wise choices in their consumption patterns.

A special youth panel comprising Akshay Bhandari, Surekha Fatarpekar, Radhika Mali, Irvin Pinto and Sitaram Toraskar provided suggestions on how youth can play a role in green growth. Ms. Saltanat Kazi, Fellow and Consultant, TERI moderated the discussion and summed up the following suggestions that emerged from this panel. She concluded that youth can play a role in exerting pressure for the enforcement of existing rules and regulations, take part in awareness and sensitization initiatives on various key issues and also the importance of taking genuine interest in gaining knowledge related to environmental sustainability in Goa. Simulation exercises, group activities and presentations were also organised to facilitate exchange of views among the participants. Ms. Nandini Sahai felicitated the winners of the simulation exercise.

Highlighting the importance of such initiatives, Ms. Livleen Kahlon, Fellow, TERI, asserted, “youth need to ideate, build networks and translate their ideas into reality”. Ms. Shabana Kazi, Research Associate, TERI proposed the Vote of Thanks and urged students to take back their learnings from this seminar to their peers and stressed on the need to translate it into action at their level and for the collective benefit of their communities.