

PAN-COMMONWEALTH NATURAL FIBRES SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Date	Time	Content	Resource Persons
21 Jun	4.30- 6.00 pm	Inaugural Session: Joint Inaugural Session with Ninth Commonwealth-India Small Business Competitive Development Programme.	TBA
22 June	8.30 – 09.30am	Session 1: MSME Development: The Commonwealth Perspective Session to examine role of Commonwealth Secretariat in MSME development and a review of some of the MSME initiatives undertaken by the Secretariat including technical assistance provided to Countries/Institutions promoting MSMEs/industries utilising Natural Fibre	
	09.30 – 11.00am	Session 2: The Economic significance, development, utilisation, market situation and prospects of natural fibres. A session to examine the economic significance, development and utilisation of natural fibres especially among small rural farmers, women entrepreneurs, micro small and medium industries in the Commonwealth. The session will examine and analyse the global demand for natural fibre products, characteristics of consumers, market requirements in terms of quality, labour and environmental standards.	
	11.00 -11.30 am	Coffee/Tea Break	
	11.30 – 1.00pm	Session 3: MSME Development: Creating Opportunities at the bottom of the Pyramid (Joint Session with Ninth COMSEC-India Programme) Examining models and initiatives in MSME development where natural and sustainable resources have been used to service domestic, rural and international markets	
	1.0 2.00pm	Lunch	

Date	Time	Content	Resource Persons
	2.15 – 5.30pm	<p>Session 4: <u>Field Visit</u></p> <p>* Visit to second level of production center – making of boxes, bins, bags, storage items, etc.) – Rajendra unit in Koramangala 8th Block, Bangalore</p> <p>* Visit to Natural Fibre Furniture unit</p>	TBA
	7.30pm	<p>Session 5: <u>Practical Demonstration: Banana Craft</u> :</p> <p>Banana rope making by hand/machine; Banana weaving; Table mat weaving; crochet skill clinic</p>	

DAY 2: 23 June

Date	Time	Content	Resource Persons
	08.30 -10.00	<p>Session 6: <u>Creating a Competitive and Enabling Environment for Natural Fibre Industries</u></p> <p>The session will examine and discuss the business environment Governments should create especially for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises operating in natural fibre industries. The session will look at financing models, incentives and production structures being used in different countries and what has worked.</p>	TBA
	10.15 -1.00pm	<p>Session 7: <u>Field Visit</u></p> <p>Travelling to Krishnagiri (Rural second level of production unit) - * Sewing</p> <p>* Fabricating * Conversion from basic product to second level / utility / value added product</p>	
	1.00 -2.00pm	Lunch	

DAY 2 Continues

Date	Time	Content	
	2.00-3.30pm	<p><u>Session 8: The contribution of production and trade in natural fibres to poverty reduction in India</u></p> <p>The session will examine the various Indian small and medium industries utilising natural fibres by looking at sourcing of raw materials, technology use, product development and design, value chains, quality control and standards, marketing of products etc.</p>	TBA
	3.30 – 4.00pm	<p>Tea Break</p>	
	4.00 – 5.30 pm	<p><u>Session 9: Demonstration of technology usage</u></p> <p>River Grass Splicing River grass dyeing River grass handloom weaving</p> <p>Bamboo Splicing Bamboo weaving Bamboo Basketry Cane Frame making</p>	TBA
	7.30 pm	<p><u>Session 10: Group Work – Case studies</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perspective from Retailers/importers of natural fibre products • MSME Institutional support: A look at Sustainable Business Models in natural fibre industries 	TBA

DAY 3: 24 June

Date	Time	Content and Speakers	Resource Persons
	09.15 -10.45am	<p><u>Session 11: Role of NGOs and Self-Help Groups in MSME development</u></p> <p>Highlighting the role played by NGOs and Self-Help Groups (SHG) in generating sustainable employment through MSME development in India as well as examples from other parts of the Commonwealth</p>	TBA
	10.45 -11.15 am	<u>Tea Break</u>	
	11.15 -1.00pm	<p><u>Session 12: Industrial applications for Natural Fibres: Innovative use of Natural Fibres</u></p> <p>This session will explore the various industrial applications of natural fibre with special emphasis on utilisation and technology. The session will also explore how using local skills, local material, fused with culture, SMEs in India are able to produce global competitive products rather than ethnic products</p>	TBA
	1.00 -2.00pm	<u>Lunch Break</u>	
	2.00 -3.30pm	<p><u>Session 13: Case Studies of Natural Fibre Industries: Challenges and opportunities for SMEs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production and sourcing of raw materials • Natural Fibre Product Design and Development • Maintaining Quality, protecting and branding Natural Fibre Products • Exploring the market appetite for Natural Fibre applications into the future; <p>This session which will be in form of case studies will highlight the different challenges and opportunities of natural fibre industries for SME giving practical examples on how those successful dealt with sourcing and production of raw materials, selling/exporting/marketing of products, maintaining quality, branding the products and the global demand for natural fibre products and looking at the fashion trends</p>	TBA
	3.30 – 4.00pm	<u>Tea Break</u>	
	4.00 -5.30pm	<p><u>Session 14: Summary and Closing</u></p> <p>Workshop Evaluation and Closing</p>	TBA

