

REPORT ON

“Workshop cum Exhibition series inspired by proposals”

Organized by: Sanitation and Solid waste management

1. Motivation behind the workshop:

The motivation behind this workshop was born out of a deep analysis of the proposals we received. We realized that many of these proposals, while addressing important issues, were somewhat generic in their approach. They often lacked the technical expertise required to make a real impact. To address this, we decided to focus on empowering Project Implementers (PI's) with the necessary skills and knowledge through hands-on workshops, a comprehensive guide on waste upcycling, and a documentary series showcasing success stories in waste management. To get started with the action plan, we started our journey with a workshop series inspired by proposals that celebrated innovation, sustainability, and exposure to the invaluable work being done in the field of upcycling.

2. Event details:

- **Event:** Workshop series inspired by proposals cum Upcyclers Exhibition
- **Date:** 7th of October'23
- **Venue:** IIT Madras

3. Event Highlights:

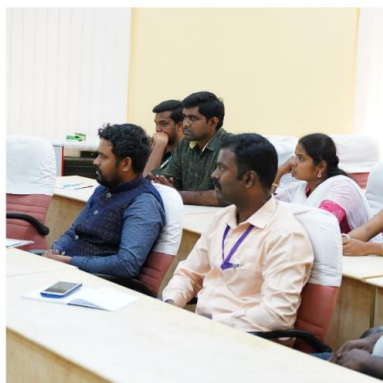
i. Workshops on Value-Added Products: Many proposals from PI's focused on upcycling waste from villages, such as flower and fruit waste. However, these proposals often reinvented existing technology and recipes. To redirect their focus towards implementation and sustenance rather than working on existing technology, we organized hands-on workshops. These workshops covered the crafting of bio-enzymes from fruit waste and the creation of incense sticks from flower waste.

Resource persons for these workshops included Ms. Neeraja, Founder of Canopy Tales, who specializes in bio-enzymes, and Ms. Vinatha Hari, Founder of Paper Flower. These entrepreneurs actively work with Self-Help Groups (SHG's) and are experienced trainers. PI's and stakeholders not only learned practical techniques

to minimize waste but also discovered how to create economic value from it. One of our PI's Ms. Thanuja who has implemented incense stick making in one of the adopted villages also shared her experiences.

ii. Exhibition of Entrepreneurs and Upcyclers: While there are many value addition possibilities in waste, they are not so popular among citizens. Our event showcased a diverse group of entrepreneurs and upcyclers who are pioneering creative solutions for handling various waste streams. The purpose of this exhibition was to inspire PI's and show them the viable options available for mitigating waste issues with economic benefits. We facilitated interactions between the PI's and these entrepreneurs to discuss how to transform these ideas into viable business models.

We also included SHG women in this event to enable knowledge sharing and create a cascade effect. The idea is for these women to continue the knowledge transfer in their villages, eliminating the need for PI's to venture into these areas to convince them to adopt alternative strategies. The goal is to train individuals who can, in turn, become trainers themselves.



Name of the Enterprise / NGO	What are they?	Flagship products offered	Are they working with SHG's or conducting workshops?
The Canopy Tales	Enterprise	Bio-enzyme based home care products	✓
Nilayaan	Enterprise	Home and community composters along with training	✓
Kamarkattu Eco store	Enterprise	Eco-alternatives for single use products and traditional personal care products with modern touch	-
No Food waste	NGO	Not for profit organization	✓
Rope Production Centre	Enterprise	Value added products from Banana fibre waste	✓
Crazy Coconut	Enterprise	Upcycled Handmade Coconut shell products with functional use in kids toys sector	✓
Pooranai Eco Crafters	Enterprise	Upcycled Handmade Coconut shell products with functional use like QR code scanner	-
Paper Flower	Enterprise	Upcycled incense sticks from flower waste	✓
Namma Ooru Foundation	NGO	Helps community go Zero waste and	✓
Fluff Trails	Enterprise	Reusable cloth alternatives for diapers and sanitary napkins	-
Sanal Eco Shop	Enterprise	Mobile store for zero waste essentials	-
Refillables	Enterprise	Refillable Home care Products with mobile unit	-
Ecoline Clothing	Enterprise	Upcycled clothing from plastics. Their products are worn by the Prime Minister to promote sustainability	-

4. Conclusion:

The workshop saw the participation of 14 representatives from various institutes, along with SHG women from their adopted villages. We stressed the importance of bringing SHG women alongside the PI's to train them as trainers, which led to several registrations. Valuable feedback from the PI's highlighted that the SHG women preferred block-level training programs in their villages. Consequently, we plan to move forward with online block-level training programs in collaboration with Regional Coordination Institutes (RCIs) after identifying the hotspots for project implementation.

This event is the culmination of extensive planning and collaboration with PI's who have submitted thoughtful proposals. We believe it will serve as an inspiring platform for sharing ideas, fostering collaboration, and advancing the cause of sustainability in our region.

Additionally, we captured best practices from the entrepreneurs at the exhibition in the field of waste management, including their strategies and thoughts on collaboration. These insights will be shared on the UBA – SEG SWM social media page and the UBA website. This resource will be invaluable for PI's working on relevant problem statements and seeking collaborations.