

# Media Update

25 February 2016

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## UNIDO

Press Release

### **Promoting Sustainable Energy Production & Use from Biomass in Pakistan to enhance knowledge base and support commitment towards better biomass energy technologies in Pakistan**

After the successful conclusion of the biomass gasification training workshop at the National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), a similar workshop was organized by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in collaboration with NUST at UET Peshawar. The purpose of the training was highlight the importance of biomass as a huge and largely un-tapped energy resource for Pakistan, particularly for SME industries. Participants of this training learned how technologies such as biomass gasification have excellent potential for a variety of applications in Industry, rural electrification and entrepreneurship development. The training was conducted by local and international experts, designed for non-engineering professionals from small and medium sized industrial facilities (SMEs), public sector organizations and professionals from academic institutions. The training component included practical demonstration of biomass gasifier (rated at 10 KW) for efficient conversion of biomass into heat and electricity.

The workshops emphasized on capacity building of SMEs in terms of biomass feedstock, finance and technology to adopt biomass gasification as an alternate source of energy in Pakistan. Introducing Biomass Gasification in Pakistan is a step toward efficient and environment friendly utilization of biomass/crop residue, an indigenous energy source, to alleviate the energy shortfall faced by the industrial sector. Keeping in view the advance nature and beneficial aspects of biomass gasification, capacity building is a key element to spread awareness and establish optimized and skilled technical



services to promote training centers and research institutions, and promotion and maintenance of installation of biomass gasifiers.

Chief Guest of the event, Prof. Muhammad Pervez, Chairman Mechanical engineering department said that workshops such as these provide excellent opportunities for understanding the possibilities and getting practical knowledge of technologies such as biomass gasification. He elaborated the role of biomass gasification techniques as giving uplift to the solutions that will reduce the shortfall of electricity.

Speaking on the occasion Mr. Yasir Ali, National Project Manager of the UNIDO Biomass project appreciated the interactive sessions. He informed the audience about importance of biomass to energy conversion technologies feasible for developing countries like Pakistan. He also mentioned the need of commercializing of technologies such as biomass gasification. He said in order to make use of the abundant resources of biomass available in Pakistan trained human resource is essential. He thanked the biomass experts for delivering the training and ensured the continuous support of UNIDO to promote inclusive and sustainable development.

The final training workshop from this series of workshops would be held at the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad on March 1, 2016. This workshop would focus on biomass as a means for off-grid rural electrification.

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### Press Release

## **UNIDO initiative of relocation of tanneries in Sialkot EDF approves to support tanning leather sector of Pakistan paving way for sustainable livelihoods**

The administrators of Export Development Fund (EDF) approved a project for the establishment of Tannery Zone at Sialkot for Climate Change Adaptation, through relocation of tanneries in the leather industrial zone. The project is being implemented under the supervision of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Punjab with the technical and financial assistance of United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO).



Esam Alqararah the Country Representative UNIDO to Pakistan disclosed that the Project will provide a range of technical cooperation services to assist Pakistan adding value to the output of leather sector, during the implementation of the project the new initiative will be facilitating the town of Sialkot tannery relocation, around 230 tanneries are currently located in 10 different clusters, scattered all around Sialkot and suburbs. These scattered tanneries are unable to meet the international standards which are becoming more and more stringent with the passage time. Meeting the international standards needs proper infrastructure which is not possible to be extended to each tannery in scattered locations all around the city. The foremost and critical requirement for international trade and exporting leather goods is the environmental and social compliance.

The project is being executed in Public Private Partnership. For representation of the private sector, a non-profit company by the name of Sialkot Tannery Association (Guarantee) Limited was incorporated. The STAGL was established under companies' act 1984 on 24/06/2004.

The project would help in shifting of tanneries located in and around the city to a centralized location to provide various facilities like Common Effluent Treatment Plant, Solid Waste Disposal Site and Common Effluent Collection System. Part of the project will be also preparation of plans, recommendations for green belt around new tannery zone, transport system for workers, housing etc. This would help in effective control of environmental hazards caused by the tanning industry in the region. It is an immensely important project for the leather industry and would be instrumental in growth of this sector and promotion of leather products exports.

Mr. Naveed Iqbal Sheikh played a key role in securing EDF funding for the project.

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