

State Level Consultation on SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION IN INDIA: A CONSUMER PERSPECTIVE

**16 November 2021
Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala**

EVENT REPORT



1. Introduction

The vision of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is carved out of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) concluded in 2015. As a result of the MDGs identifying significant gaps in the distribution of achievements and breakthroughs among regions and nations, governments have pledged to continue global efforts toward sustainable development.

On September 25, 2015, during the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit, more than 150 world leaders convened to adopt the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes the SDGs. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development's 17 SDGs entered into force on January 1, 2016. A total of 169 SDG Targets and 17 SDGs are defined as well. To track progress toward these objectives, 232 different metrics have been approved.

"Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP)" is the subject of SDG 12. SDG 12 is the most important goal because it is interconnected with nearly all of the other goals, accounting for nearly 14 of the remaining 16. SDG 12 aims to ensure SCP patterns. SCP have been defined as "the use of services and related products, which respond to basic needs and bring a better quality of life, while minimizing the use of natural resources and toxic materials as well as the emission of waste and pollutants over the life cycle of the service or product so as not to jeopardize the needs of future generations" (Oslo Symposium 1994). Goal 12 on SCP is about promoting efficient use of natural resources, energy efficiency and sustainable infrastructure. It involves engaging consumers through awareness-raising and education on sustainable consumption and reducing waste.

With the increased use of natural resources, contamination of the air, water and land, and an ever-increasing amount of trash, it is evident that our current consumption and production patterns must shift fundamentally. Unsustainable production and consumption habits, according to the United Nations Guidelines for Consumer Protection (UNGCP), are the primary cause of the environment's continuous deterioration. World leaders have agreed on targets to achieve the goal by increasing resource efficiency, reducing the production of waste, and educating people about sustainable lifestyles.

Consumer participation is essential for more equitable and sustainable growth. Governments throughout the world should think about updating their laws and regulations to better achieve their duties under Agenda 2030, while also considering consumer protection when creating and implementing their development goals.

On November 16, 2021, Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS), in collaboration with the Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA), hosted a State Level Consultation on SDG 12 at Hotel Mascot in Thiruvananthapuram, to discuss the findings on the study of SDG 12 in Kerala. The main purpose was to disseminate the CUTS study's primary findings, with a

specific focus on the state's condition, as well as to educate about the techniques and lessons acquired from all five states.

SDG 12 was discussed using best practices and case studies from several districts in Kerala. Senior officials and members of numerous government agencies, as well as civil society organisations, focused on sustainable consumption in Kerala, attended the meeting.

The study was delivered by George Cheriyan, Director, CUTS International, Amar Deep Singh, Senior Program Officer, and Simi TB, Policy Analyst. The topic of effective natural resource management, energy efficiency, and long-term infrastructure was discussed. Consumer culture is critical to long-term development, according to representatives from many government ministries. The discussion also focused on how these ideas could be implemented at the state and local government levels.

The proceedings of this one-day workshop attended by expert panelists to examine the CUTS study and findings, as well as develop a professional assessment and conclusion on sustainable development, are detailed below in this report.

2. Inaugural Session

During the presidential address, Dr. Joy Elamon, Director General of the KILA, spoke about the need for civil society engagement. He emphasised the necessity of "leaving no one behind" as a key concept in sustainable development.



Goal 12 of the Sustainable Development Goals focuses on consumption.

It is not about market-based consumption; it is about how we live in this world, how we use its resources and how we advance. Because consumption and production are intertwined, and consumers have the ability to influence demand and supply, it is critical to address both production and consumption behaviours in a more sustainable manner. He added that the purpose of studying SDG 12 in Kerala is to help us reflect on ourselves as a state and understand "where we are".



In his introductory remarks, George Cheriyan, Director, CUTS International, gave an overview of the status of SCP in India and touched upon the findings from the research study. He spoke of the research of SDG12 spreading over various geographical constraints from April 2019 to March 2020. The research was carried out with a focus on five key states: Himachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Kerala. The data in the research is entirely based on secondary sources, including interviews and SDG cell analytics.

Cheriyan discussed the Asia Pacific Sustainable Development Goals Progress Report 2021, which looks at a variety of trends as well as data availability for tracking SDG progress. According to the report, none of the 17 SDGs will be met by the Asia-Pacific area. If the epidemic continues on its current course, the region may only achieve 10 per cent of the SDG targets. Eleven of the region's 13 countries that adopted pandemic recovery plans paid little or no attention to the environmental element. The main cities of the Asia-Pacific area produced 154 to 280 tonnes more medical waste per day than they did before the pandemic.

According to the Sustainable Development Analysis 2020 (SDR 2020) released by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), an unbiased quantitative evaluation on the progress of UN Member States toward SDGs, India was rated 117th in 2020, with a score of 61.92. However, India is presently placed 120th out of 165 countries. This finding reflects a decrease in environmental concerns in the country.

Speaking about the Sustainable consumption and production (Goal 12), Cheriyan highlighted that SDG 12 is the most important goal, since it is linked to most of the other goals, (can be linked to almost 14 out of the 16 remaining goals). Though, in India Ministry of Environment and Forests and climate Change is the nodal Ministry for SDG 12, this goal is an orphan or a baby with several mothers. Because the targets of this goal are a mixed bag, which MoEF&CC don't have any control.

According to the recent SDG India Index – Baseline Report, in the country -

- 87 per cent of biomedical waste is recycled.
- Per 1,000 people, 2.5 tonnes of plastic waste are generated each year.
- Per capita, 157.3kg of fossil fuel is consumed.
- Grid-interactive bio-power has an installed capacity of 7.62 megawatts per million people.

- Hazardous waste is generated at a rate of 8.09 tonnes per 1,000 people each year.
- Of the total hazardous waste created, 44.89 per cent was recycled or used.

Cheriyar then highlighted that in partnership with the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC), CUTS conducted a study mainly looking at SDG 12 from a consumer perspective based on the UNGCP. The study aims to frame the SCP concept's understanding beyond the SDG 12 and expand it beyond its current environment dimension. The concept was studied considering its presence in UNGCP from the perspective of SCP. Besides, he stressed upon the fact that the study is first of its kind that attempts to analyse the impact of pandemic on SDG 12 and its progress.

While highlighting the exemplary performance of Kerala in the Composite SDG India Index, 2019-20 and 2020-21 and 2018 prepared by NITI Aayog, in goals like the Zero Hunger (goal 2), Quality education (goal 4) and affordable and clean energy (goal 7), Cheriyar also expressed concern over the state's dismal performance with regard to SCP. In SDG 12, the state is ranked 28th (including all states and UT's) with a score of 65 (Front Runner) in 2020-21.

This dismal performance can largely be attributed to the lack of awareness among officials in the department that are responsible for the effective implementation of SCP policies within the state about SDGs and their inability to link SDGs to their departmental sustainable activities. Besides, state is yet to prepare the Vision 2030 document that was directed to all state governments by the NITI Aayog in 2016. Such a document proves vital as it provides strategic direction and a visionary roadmap towards achieving the SDG targets.

Some of the other major challenges which he highlighted during his talk includes lack of coordination between various departments; Shortage of technical staffs, inconsistent and unreliable data collection etc. Before concluding he however underlined that when compared to most other states, Kerala is implementing various projects relating to various SDG targets. However, it appears that these are not effectively mapped by the concerned officials/department.

From a national perspective, Cheriyar also expressed his apprehensions that even though considerable efforts are being taken to progress towards SDG12, it is very unlikely that India will achieve any of the targets of SDG12, In addition, the status of many of the Indicators may further worsen by 2030, comparing with 2015, due to the negative impact of the Pandemic and various other reasons.

3. Overview of CUTS Study

CUTS conducted a study based on the UNGCP that focused on SDG 12 from a consumer viewpoint in partnership with the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC). The goal

of this study was to widen the understanding of the SCP concept beyond SDG 12 and its current environmental dimension.

Informed consumers play a key role in fostering environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable purchasing, according to the United Nations' consumer protection principles, particularly through the effects of their decisions on manufacturers. Consumer and environmental groups are in charge of stimulating public debate and participation in sustainable consumption, as well as informing consumers and collaborating with the Member States and businesses to achieve this goal.

The research alludes to a rise in plastics production during the epidemic, which harmed SDG 12. The usage of plastic has increased dramatically, and 25,900 tonnes of plastic garbage from the Covid epidemic has leaked into the sea. Mismanaged plastic waste, which included personal protective equipment like masks and gloves, vastly outstripped governments' ability to properly dispose of it. Since the pandemic began, an estimated 8.4 million tonnes of plastic waste have been generated from 193 countries. Lockdown techniques and our expanding use of single-use plastics, according to Green Peace estimates, have increased plastic packaging waste by up to 300 per cent.



Kerala generates an average of 37 tonnes of biomedical waste per day. Furthermore, during the COVID-19 epidemic, 18 tonnes of biomedical waste were generated per day; making a total of 55 tonnes of wastes. Kerala, unfortunately, only has two biomedical treatment plants to handle the additional waste. Kerala's e-waste generation rate has also increased significantly. The 400 per cent increase in laptop sales indicates the gravity of the situation.



Senior Program Officer, CUTS, Amar Deep Singh, gave an overview of the CUTS study on SDG 12. He emphasised the SDG 12 targets, which include efficient use of natural resources, food loss reduction, chemical, and waste management, reuse, reduce, recycle, sustainable reporting, sustainable public procurement, awareness, sustainable tourism, and

fossil fuel subsidies, in his presentation. The graph depicts the engagement of several departments and individuals from various segments in SDG 12.

On several levels, the report discussed the present status of SDG 12.

- Global level: Globally, per capita consumption is increasing.
- Region level: At the regional level, progress on SDG 12 has stalled.
- National level: SDG 12 is one of the most difficult SDGs for India to achieve. We stand out as over consumers of all-natural resources, notwithstanding our ambitious politics.
- State Level: While a few states are attempting to improve their performance on key metrics, most states' total performance on SDG 12 is unsatisfactory.

SDG 12's overall outcomes are unsatisfactory, as this report plainly demonstrates.

The purpose of the report was to examine SCP (SDG 12) from a consumer perspective, looking beyond the environmental dimension, to examine India's progress toward achieving SDG 12, to identify gaps and challenges in the current plan, and to propose a more focused approach to achieving SCP by focusing on five target states.

The report's methodology was developed in collaboration with the NITI Aayog and other stakeholders. CUTS formulated the research issue from the consumer's perspective and analysed the UN Consumer Guidelines' 10-year framework on SCP and SDG 12 aspirations for the study. Literature, secondary data, and a map of state agencies and departments were all included. CUTS also visited and documented successful cases and best practices.

Out of the extensive research and investigation, CUTS chose five states for SDG 12 research: Himachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Kerala. Many factors were considered during the process, including geography, culture and potential SCP techniques. They also took into account the overall standing of states in the 2018 SDG Index.

According to him, the SDG report released comprises several issues that can be referred to as the study's outline:

- Global perspective of SDGs and SCP
- National Programme on SDG12
- Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy
- Ecolabels: A Perfect Tool to Facilitate Acceleration Towards SDG-12

He noted that they expected a result from the study, a result that is based on a proper approach to viewing and understanding the concept of SCP from the consumer's standpoint, which goes beyond SDG12 and its aims. The report can also be used as an advocacy tool to help streamline existing policies and push for more focused efforts to support SCP in India from a consumer standpoint.

Through the study, CUTS intended to ensure that SCP is given the attention and importance it deserves among the other SDGs through ongoing campaigning and national and state consultations.



4. Technical Session - SCP: *Learning from the Kerala*

In the technical session, Simi TB, CUTS Policy Analyst, presented the learning from the state and discussed the current condition of SCP. The session was chaired by Amar Deep Singh, CUTS Senior Programme Officer, and the discussants were Smt. Josephine J., Chief, Decentralised Planning Division, KSPB; Sri. S S Nagesh, Chief, Agriculture Division, KSPB; and Sri. Sreekumar B., Director (i/c), PIEM Department.



Ms. Simi spoke about Kerala's role in the SDGs and the position the state holds in each of the SDG Index report released since 2018. She pointed out that the state has been a frontrunner in the NITI Aayog SDG ranking for three years in a row and outperforms the rest of the states on nearly all of the SDGs. Kerala, on the other hand, was rated 23rd in terms of SDG 12 in 2020, with a score of 57, and slid from 23 to 28 in 2021. As a result, Simi pointed out that the focus of this study is on the state's progress toward SDG 12.

She stressed on the importance of the numerous environmental plans and programmes designed to safeguard natural resources. However, the state lacks the requisite local expertise to put them into practice. In 2004, Kerala had 3 lakh hectares of wetlands but currently has just 1.5 lakh hectares, suggesting a severe scarcity. Agriculture contributed 52 per cent of the state's GSDP in the 1960s, but it dropped to 11 per cent in 2014, and then to 8.3 per cent in 2018-19. To assist marginal and disadvantaged farmers, the research also stressed the significance of reducing food losses and storage facilities.

Waste management is hampered by a lack of finance and experience, as well as a lack of effectively functioning of waste treatment plants, among other challenges. Public procurement guidelines also overlook the importance of sustainable procurement.

Kerala is a frontrunner state in the NITI Aayog's Composite SDG India Index for 2019-20, 2020-21, and 2018, and ranks top among other states and Union Territories in each report. In the latest report 2020-21, Kerala was rated India's best-performing state in areas of Zero Hunger, Quality Education and Affordable and Clean Energy. When it comes to SDG 12, however, the state ranks 28th (out of all states and UTs) in 2020-21, with a score of 65. In 2019-20, the State's SDG 12 score was 57.

The state is yet to finish the Vision 2030 paper, which was directed to be prepared by all state governments by the NITI Aayog in 2016. This type of paper is critical because it provides strategic direction and a visionary path for achieving the SDGs. While the State Indicator Framework is being established, the District Indicator Framework (DIF) is yet to be developed. The state is yet to build a dashboard, which is a critical tool for measuring progress towards the SDGs.

Despite strong efforts to achieve SDG, Kerala is unlikely to accomplish the majority of SDG12 targets. Kerala has strong policies, but when it comes to putting them into practice, we fall short. It is due to a lack of collaboration between ministries, a technical staff deficit, inconsistent and unreliable data collection, a lack of understanding among authorities, and a shift in priorities to rebuild Kerala after it was ravaged by natural disasters on many occasions, among other things.

In comparison to other project states, Kerala is leading the way in terms of sustainability projects. However, it appears that the officials/departments engaged are not mapping these effectively. Departments that are concerned are unable to connect their long-term efforts to SDG 12.



Simi in her presentation also highlighted that during the time of study due to time constraints and word limitations of the study, CUTS could only highlight two successful case studies of the state – the “Nirmala Bhavanam – Nirmala Nagaram” implemented in Alappuzha municipality and the Responsible Tourism Mission implemented at Kumarakom and other

few places. Both these initiatives are so successful that it easily attracted the attention of global leaders and many states in India are considering these as best practices to imbibe.

She stated that there are many other such interesting projects like the Suchitwa Sagaram, Haritha Kerala Mission that are really creating an impact across the state. Through such missions, state was able to resume cultivation on more than 4,000 acres and more than 54,000 wells have been recharged in the last four years; 18,000 ponds were constructed and almost equally were upgraded. Through these activities, 1,21,81,650 cubic metres of water storage were ensured.

These are little examples of the many sustainable projects taking place in Kerala that can have a significant impact. In comparison to most other states, Kerala is working on several initiatives connected to various SDG targets. However, it looks that the officials/department in charge is not mapping these adequately. However, for a better understanding, these must be documented and communicated.

Likewise, she underlined the importance to rethink whether the SCP measures we use are indeed sustainable! A few activities that are assumed to be environmentally benign but are actually destructive to the environment are a cause of concern.

The large-scale distribution of plastic grow bags and seed trays to promote organic farming does not match the goals of sustainable development. Paving roads for using recycled plastic garbage is also a non-sustainable method. Despite the fact that the Suchitwa Sagaram collects sea garbage and it is discharged untreated in landfills. When it comes to implementing strategies and policies to address these problems, Kerala must proceed with caution.

5. Discussion by Panelist

On SDG 12 Kerala, Sreekumar B., Director of the PIEM Department, assessed the report's gaps and spaces. While the report mentions Kerala's dip from 23rd to 28th place, the improvement in the score from 57 to 65 was overlooked. Sreekumar emphasised that the state has a nodal department for each of the SDGs. Kerala has already created a map of SDG12's



administrative and implementation entities. A state-level steering group composed of the chief secretary and secretaries of key departments is working to achieve these goals. A total of Rs 1 crore has been set aside by the Chief Minister's Committee for the implementation of the SDGs. Aside from that, the state has task forces and goal committees. In addition, KILA engages with a state planning board to promote the approach and raise awareness.

Sreekumar stated that due to a change of agencies, Kerala was unable to prepare the vision paper much earlier. CMD, on the other end, has picked it up and is processing it. In the event of a staffing shortage, state SDGs are managed by agencies such as the Department of

Environment and Climate Change, the Pollution Control Board, and the Suchitwa Mission, among others, all of which have sufficient technical staff but may require additional coordination for effective implementation.

Kerala has been hit by a slew of natural calamities as well as pandemic-related problems. As a result, the state's focus had to be transferred to these areas, causing SDG12 to halt. Despite the fact that plastic waste has increased since COVID, air pollution has greatly decreased.

Several SDG-related projects have been launched by the government, notably the Nava Kerala Karma Padhathi, which is presently in its second phase. Sreekumar estimates that by implementing these plans, Kerala will be able to achieve all of the SDGs in the near future.

Josephine J., Chief, KSPB's Decentralised Planning Division, opened the address by mentioning Kerala's 14th Five Year Plan, which is the only state that follows it. She also mentioned Kerala's 25-year decentralised planning heritage.



Kerala, she pointed out, has yet to localise the SDGs. For different services, the local government receives 26 per cent of the state plan fund. Furthermore, the majority of the central government's policies are implemented by local governments. In light of these factors, Kerala's failure to localise SDG is a severe disadvantage. SDG 12 is linked to a number of other goals. When planning for long-term development, future generations should be taken into account. But when it comes to plastic, solid wastes, and other wastes, people are careless and unconcerned about the environment. Similarly, Kerala's impending IT revolution will have a long-term influence on future generations, culminating in vast amounts of e-waste.

Josephine advocated for using natural resources instead of non-sustainable ones, such as banana leaves instead of plastic plates and containers. Despite the fact that Kerala has a plethora of waste management institutions at both the state and local levels, the situation is still grave. Procedures and techniques to waste management are new to many people. They dismiss waste management plants simply and without hesitation. Some measures are taken care of by local entities based on certain criteria set by the federal government, which is promising.

Another challenge is the consumption of water. Even construction businesses prefer to work with pure water rather than recycled water. There is no recycling mechanism in Kerala, which will have a detrimental impact in the future. In response to the food grain storage proposal, she pointed at Kerala's effective public distribution system.

Josephine identified the necessity to correlate and integrate SDG goals in the curriculum of children in order to bring the issue of sustainable development to the forefront in all of the goals, including SDG12.

The need of documenting Kerala's successful programmes was stressed by S.S. Nagesh, Chief, KSPB's Agriculture Division. He asserted that Kerala has a long list of accomplishments and respectable activities, but the state falls short when it comes to publicising them. This is also how the SDGs have turned out. He emphasised the importance of Kerala's food system in the state's long-term development. "The need for sustainable



development rests at the nexus, which links food security, nutrition, and human health, ecological viability, climate change, and social justice," he stated. This was said to emphasise the idea of homesteading (Purayida Krishi). Agriculture, animal husbandry and fisheries are all part of a holistic production system in this long-term strategy. Waste from the homestead is used to make manure and biogas plants. Before documenting SDG12 in Kerala, people must conduct a study on homesteads.

Kerala is also grappling with a scarcity of agricultural and livelihood research. Instead of research, the majority of research funding goes to HR projects. Nagesh responded by emphasising the significance of continued research in order to discover long-term solutions.

6. Open Discussion

The open discussion included the ideas highlighted in the report, case studies from different parts of Kerala in relation to SDG 12, and best practices that could level up the position of Kerala. Senior officials and representatives from the various government departments, civil society organisations working on sustainable consumption from Kerala took part in the discussion.

The report's subject of plastic waste management drew the attention of Alexander George, Senior Environmentalist, Kerala State Pollution Control Board. He argued that the information utilised was inaccurate because it was based on uploaded information on the website. The actual percentage of plastics recycled is determined on a case-by-case basis. As a result, we cannot put our faith in the website's information. To combat this issue, the Ministry of Environment and Forestry will introduce a new regulation in December that will force plastic firms to register on a centralised digital platform and set a recycling goal. He claims that this will have a huge impact on the situation.

Nisha S.N, Assistant Environmental Engineer, Pollution Control Board, pointed out the lack of coordination between departments while playing the key role in collecting data, processing information and moving ahead to SDGs.



Bibin Thambi, a CSES Senior Research Officer, addressed consumer perspectives and views on the topics. He pushed for improved state and municipal awareness, as well as monitoring and evaluation of the activities. He also stressed the importance of introducing new technological solutions that can assist to reduce waste to some extent.

Krishnakumar, CSES Senior Fellow, emphasised the need to include local government functions in the study for long-term sustainability. LED street lighting, LED lamp distribution, coir-geotextiles for soil erosion, and other projects, he believes, should be included in the SDG indicators. The government's Subhisksha Keralam project, as well as the plastic ban that was in existence prior to COVID and the community kitchen initiative, drew attention during the discussion.



Dr. Jose Chathukkulam of the Centre for Management outlined the contradicting realities in Kerala. He suggested that despite their best efforts, Keralites' self complementaries could fail the results. If Kerala adopts a different approach to the problem, we might be able to solve this conundrum and its limits to some extent.



Dr. Radhakrishnan of CED took a close look at the decentralised waste management system. He claims that these solid wastes can be transformed into biogas with proper care and management. He also expressed his reservations regarding urban and homestead farming.



Balamurali IAS, Principal Director, LSGD, emphasised the state's commitment to long-term development. He discovered services supplied to farmers in Palakkad's Chittur block that are not available to many farmers elsewhere. They miss or misunderstand subsidies, sustainable activities, and other difficulties. He talked about how consumers are deterred from buying electric vehicles because of the lack of availability and underdevelopment of electric vehicle infrastructure. He emphasized that the government should not only educate people about sustainable development and other concerns but also provide them with the necessary resources.



Many attendees from various departments were eager to propose new ideas for enhancing Kerala's performance in SDG 12. The use of organic farming methods, sustainable natural goods, effective waste management, public awareness, data monitoring systems, and other themes was explored.



Amit Babu, CUTS Programme Associate finished and summarised the entire discussion and Mathew Andrew, Assistant Director, KILA, on behalf of both CUTS and KILA thanked all the dignitaries, discussants and participants for accepting the invite and making this consultation a productive one. Before winding up, as a token of gratitude mementos were distributed to the representative of every government department and civil society organisation present.

7. Recommendations

Major recommendations emanated from the CUTS study as well as the discussions held in the stakeholder consultation are:

- ✓ There has to be an inter-departmental coordination committee to strengthen the waste management system at the state level. Best practices identified under waste management should be adopted and practiced across the state rather than restricting to few locations.

- ✓ Allocate sufficient resources to demonstrate ways of reducing waste and recycling waste resources genuinely.
- ✓ Civil society organisation, consumer groups and environmental organisations should take the lead to organise the awareness programme for common people and to make them aware of the need for sustainable consumption to protect the environment. Consumers need to be well informed, empowered, and made to realise that their actions make a difference. Overall SDG 12 implementation should include the civil societies and consumer organisations in the implementation of SDG 12 programmes, which will help promote concept of SCP and engage common consumers in the process.
- ✓ Increase the efforts to generate more awareness among government officials on SDGs. There is a lack of awareness on the active role in addressing the core issues under SDG and SDG 12. Like in most states, knowledge and understanding of the SDGs rests among a few selected government officials, failing to trickle down to other local authorities and junior officials in the department. The importance of raising awareness among all stakeholders should never be overlooked and needs to be taken under high priority.
- ✓ The Government should put across clearly that all ministries, offices, and even individuals depend on each other to meet specific targets and the SDGs. Differing agendas, lack of coordination and integrated policy approaches among various departments and officials, including lack of information exchange among the staffs, seriously hinder and even counteract states' efforts towards achieving SDGs.
- ✓ Implementation of the schemes or programme that comes under SDG 12 is with the department such as urban local bodies, consumer department, State Pollution Control Board and Department of Environment. These departments are overburden with the day-to-day work and also managing the work with limited staff. Capacity of officials concerned at the department level is not enhanced as per the need, that's why the indicators at various levels are not able to be fulfilled. There have to be some SDG-specific capacity-building programmes implemented, which will help in implementing SGD12.
- ✓ State should focus more on funding and supporting research that encourage SCP. Some kind of network or a forum could be setup to promote active cooperation among researchers, the business sector, municipalities, civil societies and other related stakeholders.

8. Conclusion

This target on SCP aims to promote resource efficiency, energy efficiency, and long-term infrastructure. It entails educating and creating consumer awareness about sustainable consumption and waste reduction.

SCP and Goal 12 are critical to our state's growth and development. Growing urbanisation, changing lifestyles, resource-intensive growth patterns all need to be carefully tamed and diverted through a sustainable channel to stop any further depletion of resources and ecosystem degradation. Policymakers, governments, corporations, and citizens must work together to improve resource efficiency, fundamentally modify consumption patterns and manufacturing processes, improve waste management systems, and transition to a more circular economy approach.

Most of the workshop's proposals, if implemented properly, might help Kerala become a national leader in SCP. Kerala's contribution to achieving the SDGs is significant for the entire country. Kerala must therefore create effective means for implementing, monitoring, and measuring the development of the SDGs.

Programme Schedule

09:30-10:00	Arrival, Registration & Welcome Tea
10:00-11:30	<i>Inaugural Session</i>
	<p>Welcome and Presidential Address: Dr. Joy Elamon, Director General, KILA</p> <p>Opening Remarks: George Cheriyan, Director, CUTS International</p> <p>Overview of CUTS Study on SCP in India: Amar Deep Singh, Senior Programme Officer, CUTS</p> <p><i>Release of the CUTS Report: “Sustainable Consumption and Production”</i></p>
11:30-11:45	Tea/Coffee Break
11:45-01:15	Technical Session - SCP: Learning from the Kerala
	<p>Presentation - State Context of SCP: Smt. Simi TB, Policy Analyst, CUTS</p> <p>Chair: Amar Deep Singh, Senior Programme Officer, CUTS</p> <p>Discussants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smt. Josephine J., Chief, Decentralised Planning Division, KSPB • S S Nagesh, Chief, Agriculture Division, KSPB • Sreekumar B., Director (i/c), PIEM Department <p><i>Open Discussion</i></p>
01:15-01:30	Summing Up: Amit Babu , Programme Associate, CUTS
01:30-01:35	Vote of Thanks: Mathew Andrews , Assistant Director, KILA
01:35 onwards	Lunch & Departure