

Greetings from Team EMC and Ekonekt!

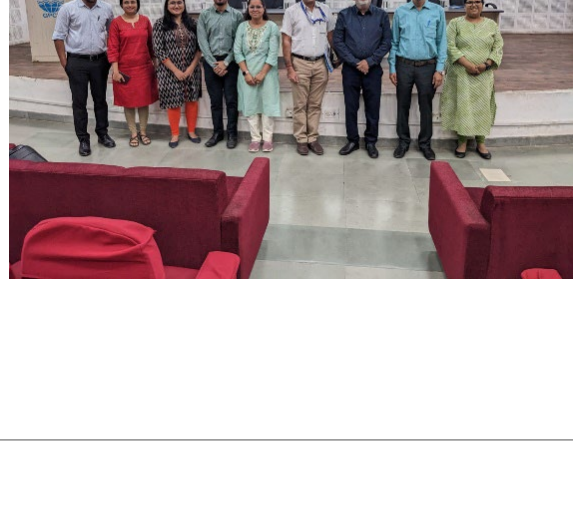
We hope you are having a wonderful year so far! We are happy to bring to you highlights of last month at EMC and Ekonekt. We also have an exciting announcement for eco-entrepreneurs! Read on to know more.

### New projects awarded to EMC

- EMC is assisting NITI Aayog to develop **Mission Circular Economy** and a **Dashboard** on Circular Economy indicators. This assignment is supported by the Asian Development Bank.
- EMC along with Gujarat Cleaner Production Centre (GCPC) has been awarded a project by Gujarat Pollution Control Board (GPCB) for the Preparation of a Circular Economy Action Plan for the State of Gujarat. This will be the first State level action plan focusing on Circular Economy.
- EMC has been engaged by a holding company that selects, implements and manages investments with a high social and environmental impact in India and South East Asia for conducting an Environmental and Social Due Diligence Assessment for a Plastic Recycling Company.

### Stakeholder Consultation Workshop to finalize GCCAP

- EMC was engaged by GIZ for the preparation of the Gujarat Clean Air Plan (GCAAP). A stakeholder consultation workshop for finalization of the GCAAP was conducted in Ahmedabad on 10 March. The workshop had representations from the Directorate of Agriculture, Transport Department, Municipal Corporations of non-attainment cities, Department of Climate Change, Indian Institute of Public Health, Gandhinagar, and Central Pollution Control Board.
- The GCAAP developed by EMC has several distinguishing features. The Plan was based on the Driving Force-Pressure-State-Impact-Response (DPSIR) framework. The Response is structured in the form of work packages based on Policy, Plan, Program and Projects (4P) approach to achieve rounded actions. A detailed inventorization of emissions was carried out at the district level thus giving spatial and sectoral representation of the emission inventory. Ambient air quality data at 78 stations over 5 years was processed for quantitative trends and detection of violations to identify hot spots. Finally, the Operational Memorandum (OM) as suggested by CPCB to the SPCBs was further expanded and strengthened.



### EMC's ongoing engagement and participation at G20

- Dr. Prasad Modak, Dr. Shilpi Kapur and Ms. Rashi Sirohi participated in the Second Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group (ECSWG) Meeting of the G20, that took place in Gandhinagar from 27-29 March.
- Constructive deliberations among the G20 countries took place on many issues including Encouraging Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy. EMC team is the knowledge partner to MoEFCC on the sub-theme of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Circular Economy. The discussions during this meeting will be taken forward at the 3rd ECSWG meeting, which is scheduled to take place in Mumbai from 21-23 May, 2023.



### Kickoff Meeting for the Preparation of a Circular Economy Action Plan for Gujarat

The Kickoff Meeting for the Preparation of a Circular Economy Action Plan for the state of Gujarat took place in Gandhinagar on 29 March, where more than 15 officials from the Government of Gujarat were present. An orientation workshop on circular economy for key stakeholders will follow.



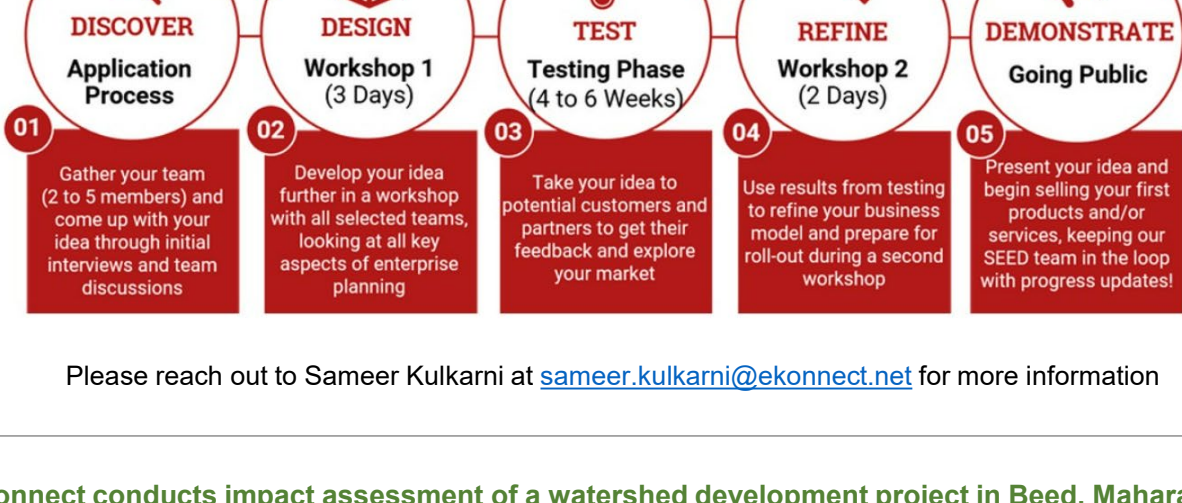
### Ekonekt signs MoU with SEED

Ekonekt Knowledge Foundation has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with SEED with the aim of setting up a collaboration framework to promote action on social and environmental entrepreneurship around the SEED India Hub.

SEED was founded at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg by UNEP, UNDP and IUCN as a global partnership for action on sustainable development and the green economy. SEED is based on the understanding that the promotion of social and environmental entrepreneurship is pivotal for environmentally friendly and socially inclusive development and poverty reduction. SEED's main aim is to support enterprises across sectors that generate positive environmental, social and economic impacts, generating market-based solutions with environmental, social and economic benefits.

Ekonekt is hosting the SEED Starter 2023 workshop in India. The first such program will be conducted for future eco entrepreneurs on 19-21 April and 29-30 May in Ahmedabad, India. Typical structure and process steps for the Starter workshop are shown below.

- Receive **free entry** for the business model DESIGN (2.5 days) and REFINE (2 days) workshops
- Access **expert guidance and tailored support** to turn your business idea into a reality
- Apply the **SEED Starter Toolkit** that contains different business tools and step-by-step guidelines to develop your business idea
- Network and share peer learning opportunity** with likeminded entrepreneurs
- Benefit from **free mentorship support** during the test phase to try out your business idea
- Be eligible to **apply for a SEED Grant** after successfully completing the SEED Starter workshops (of up to 1,000 Euros)



Please reach out to Sameer Kulkarni at [sameer.kulkarni@ekonekt.net](mailto:sameer.kulkarni@ekonekt.net) for more information

### Ekonekt conducts impact assessment of a watershed development project in Beed, Maharashtra

- Ekonekt Team visited Beed, a drought-prone district of Maharashtra, to conduct a socio-economic impact assessment as well as an assessment of water conserved through a watershed development project carried out under CSR activities of a real estate company.
- The socio-economic impact assessment consisted of focus group discussions, in-depth semi-structured interviews, and structured household surveys of more than 270 households in three villages. A comprehensive assessment framework for data collection and analysis was developed, consisting of five impact areas/themes – Natural Capital, Social Capital, Financial Capital, Human Capital, and Physical Capital.
- Several open wells have been selected for monitoring across the three villages. Fluctuations in the aquifer status, water table height, and water quality were understood based on the on-site sampling and measurements of the open well water details, historical data as gathered from the primary and secondary sources, and checking water quality parameters in conformity to Indian Standard IS 10500 (2012).
- Remote sensing imagery analysis including modelling of satellite imagery information with the help of GIS software was employed to calculate indices such as Normalized Difference Water Index (NDWI) and Normalized Difference Water Index (NDVI) and evaluate the before and after scenario in terms of vegetation cover, surface water availability and soil erosion.



### Speaking engagements

Prahlad Tewari delivered a talk on "CE monitoring framework and tools" during a workshop on the theme "Towards Zero Waste: Circular Economy (CE) in Waste Management", organized by Toxics Link on March 21 at India Habitat Centre, Delhi. During the workshop, he also spoke at an expert panel discussion on the topic "Potential strategies for CE adoption".



### Update on EMC team

EMC welcomes three new team members!

**Tejas Choudhari** has joined EMC as Consultant after interning with EMC for 2 months. He has a Master's degree in Sustainable Management from the Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow, and a Bachelor's degree in Computer Engineering. Tejas has three years of experience in Business Development, Project Management, and Quality Assurance in the IT industry. Through various internships, Tejas has worked extensively on ESG, decarbonization, and renewable energy strategy. He is skilled in sustainability reporting, greenhouse gas accounting, lifecycle assessment and sustainable supply chain. As a sustainability-focused management expert, he strives to create value to generate revenue and optimize business and enjoys developing innovative sustainable business solutions. He is a fitness enthusiast and a state-level weightlifter and enjoys travelling to new locations.

**Shubha Mukherji** joined EMC as a Consultant after interning with EMC for 7 months. She graduated with a B.A. (Hons) in Sociology and Anthropology and a minor in Political Science from Ashoka University. She is deeply interested in understanding the weaknesses and strengths of different systems of environmental compliance, and how they can be made more effective. As part of her internship with EMC, Shubha documented the history and trajectory of E&S Safeguard evolution in a set of multilateral development banks. She also traced bank patterns of Financial Intermediary lending over the past decade. Shubha likes to walk everywhere, make music, and learn through reading and travel.

**Anjali Dalmia** has joined EMC as a Consultant after interning with EMC for 7 months. She holds a B.A. (Hons) in Sociology and Anthropology from Ashoka University, with a specialisation in Environmental Studies. Anjali previously worked on raising awareness of safe menstruation and sustainable menstrual products in schools, housing societies and urban bastis. She is deeply interested in better understanding of public consultation and compliance processes for large infrastructure projects in India. She plans to pursue a Masters in Environmental Policy and Regulation from LSE in the near future. In her free time, Anjali enjoys reading, playing the baansuri and travelling to various forest and coastal areas of India. She is very fond of spiders and marine animals, and likes beekeeping.

### Featuring EMCians

At EMC, we cherish our relationship with our alumni, including interns, and continue to stay connected on a WhatsApp group "EMCians" that now has more than 120 members. We are hence taking a step forward and introducing some of our alumni as a part of the EMC-Ekonekt newsletter.

**Anuja Sawant** joined EMC as an intern in 2014 and continued her tenure at EMC as an Associate – Waste Management till 2015. Subsequently, she has worked at IKEA USA, Tervita Corporation, and Secure Energy. In 2014, she founded a consulting firm named Anuja Sawant Consulting. Currently, she is Senior Proposals Specialist at PwC Canada.

**Disha Modi** worked at EMC as a Research Intern for three months in 2012. At EMC, she was involved in research on ESG at financial institutions, conducting need assessments, and case studies. Post her internship, she worked at IL&FS as a Senior Officer – Corporate Sustainability Cell. Currently, she is a Senior Associate – ESG Ratings Content at MSCI.

### Are you participating in the Eko-Life initiative?

We hope you are making conscious lifestyle choices and actions that contribute to a larger movement to protect and preserve the environment. Don't forget to contribute your ideas on LIFE in the twelve (12) action areas each month on <https://ekonekt.net/eko-life/>

Register on <https://ekonekt.net/eko-life/>, if you have not already, and join the contest to become an Eko-Warrior! Please participate and encourage others to contribute their ideas and experience on practicing sustainable lifestyles.

### Monthly Webinar on Eko-Life



Join us on **Friday, 7 April at 5 PM IST** for this month's Eko-Life webinar.

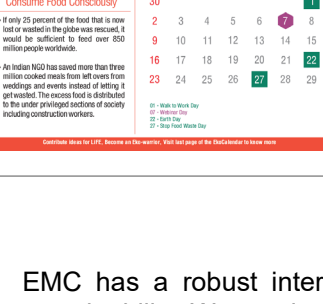
The topic for this month's webinar is **YOUR SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT (STP) CAN BE A GOLD MINE!**

We are delighted to have Dr Ananth S Kodavasal as our guest speaker for this webinar.

Dr. Ananth received his B.Tech in Chemical Engineering from IIT Madras, and his PhD from Vanderbilt University, USA. He has over 40 years of experience in the Wastewater Treatment field with expertise and experience across a wide range of industries, geographies, and applications. He founded Ecotech, an industry leader in wastewater treatment, in 1986. Dr Ananth is the author of the "STP Guide" handbook published by the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board.

**Register for the webinar here:** <http://bit.ly/42CyOM9>

Download **EkoCalendar 2023** here: <https://forms.gle/ng618UL1uCaNmwrze6>



### Internships at EMC

EMC has a robust internship program for students and young professionals willing to pursue a career in sustainability. We receive at least three applications every week!

**Chayanika Samanta** and **Navdip Patel** have joined EMC as interns. They are pursuing Masters of Business Administration (MBA) Energy and Environment from Symbiosis Institute of International Business, Pune.

At EMC, we consider an internship to be a key opportunity for learning in life. EMC's internship program is designed to provide experiential learning to graduates/postgraduate students or those who are looking to get hands-on experience before their next academic program in the field of environmental management. To know more [click here](#).

### We are hiring!

**Immediate requirement: Experienced professionals with experience in Environmental and Social Due Diligence (ESDD), Environmental and Social Management Systems (ESMS) and Environmental & Social Impact Assessment (ESIA).**

Please write to [vishwa.trivedi@emcentre.com](mailto:vishwa.trivedi@emcentre.com)

Further, in view of our expanding business canvas, we are continuously looking to expand our team. We need people that come from interdisciplinary areas, have a passion for the environment, and have good writing and communication skills. If you have a fire in your belly and are ready to learn, then EMC is the place for you.

If interested, please send your CV to Dr Prasad Modak, Executive President, EMC at [prasad.modak@emcentre.com](mailto:prasad.modak@emcentre.com)

For more highlights and details on past projects, you can access the previous issues of our e-newsletter, [here](#)  
Thank you for your time! Click [here](#) to subscribe to EMC Ekonekt joint e-newsletter!

Join us on our journey. For latest news and updates, follow us on our social media

