

ENVIRONMENTAL BURDEN DUE TO TOBACCO PRODUCT WASTE

Objectives

The study was carried out to assess the environment burden in terms of plastic, paper, foil and filter waste, posed by various smoked and smokeless tobacco products at National and State levels.

Methodology

A cross-sectional survey was conducted in 33 districts of 17 states and UTs across the country. After exclusion of duplicates, 200 unique tobacco products including 70 cigarette brands, 94 bidi brands and 58 smokeless tobacco brands were procured from across the country to ensure representation and generalizability from all the geographic regions of the country. Gross weight and segregated weights of the plastic, paper, foil and filter content were taken from the procured samples and were correlated with the data from GATS-2 survey to arrive at the final results.

Key Findings

Prevalence (Meghalaya)

- Total current tobacco users is 47.0 percent.
- Current Cigarette smokers is 23.4 percent.
- Current Bidi smokers is 17.2 percent.
- Current SLT users is 20.3 percent.

*Source: Global Adult Tobacco Survey: India 2016-17 Report

Plastic Waste Generated

- The total annual plastic waste generated by Cigarettes is 27.11 tonnes.
- The total annual plastic waste generated by Bidis is 37.64 tonnes.
- The total annual plastic waste generated by SLTs 137.71 tonnes.
- Thus, the total annual plastic waste generated by all forms of tobacco products amounts to 202.46 tonnes.



Foil Waste

- The total foil waste produced per year by tobacco products (Cigarettes) is 80.71 tonnes.

Filter Waste

- The total annual filter waste generated by Cigarettes is 17.42 tonnes.
- The total annual filter waste generated by Bidis is 0.20 tonnes.
- Thus, the total annual filter waste generated by all forms of tobacco products amounts to 17.62 tonnes.

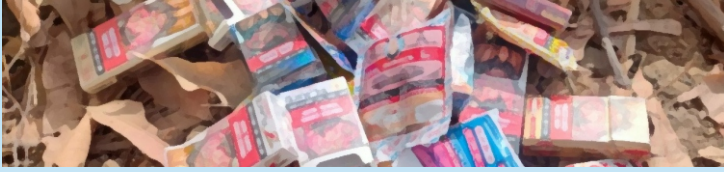


Paper Waste

- The total annual paper waste generated by Cigarettes is 417.42 tonnes.
- The total annual paper waste generated by Bidis is 32.03 tonnes.
- The total annual paper waste generated by SLTs 111.11 tonnes.
- Thus, the total annual paper waste generated by all forms of tobacco products amounts to 143.14 tonnes.

Total Waste generated

- Total waste (Paper + Plastic + Foil + Filter) generated by all the tobacco products per year is 861.3498293 tonnes.
- Total waste produced per year by Cigarette is 542.66 tonnes.
- Total waste produced per year by Bidi is 69.87 tonnes.
- Total waste produced per year by SLT 248.82 tonnes.

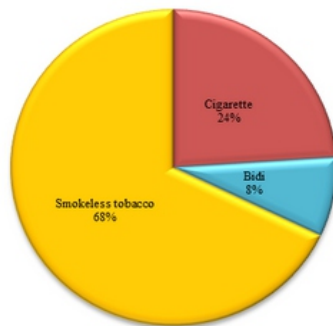


Equivalent

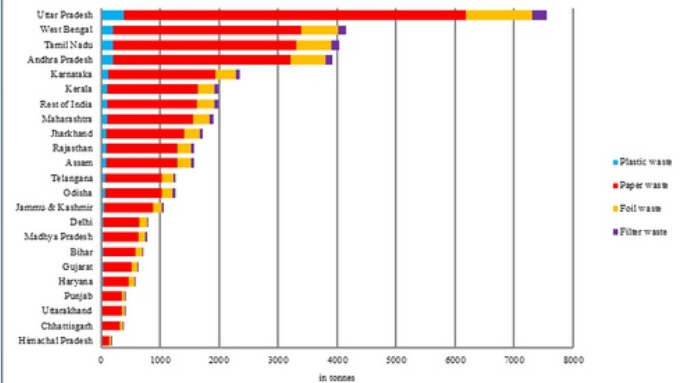
- Plastic : 202460 Buckets
- Paper : 3538 Trees
- Paper : 191389 Notebooks
- Foil : 1 chartered Aircraft
- Filter : 117120 Tshirt



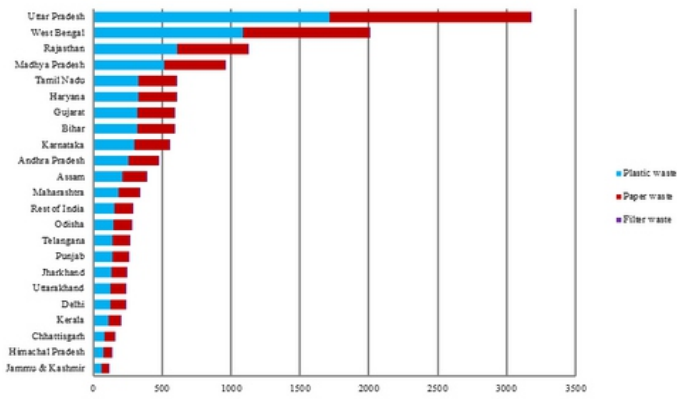
Contribution of different tobacco types to the overall tobacco waste (in %)



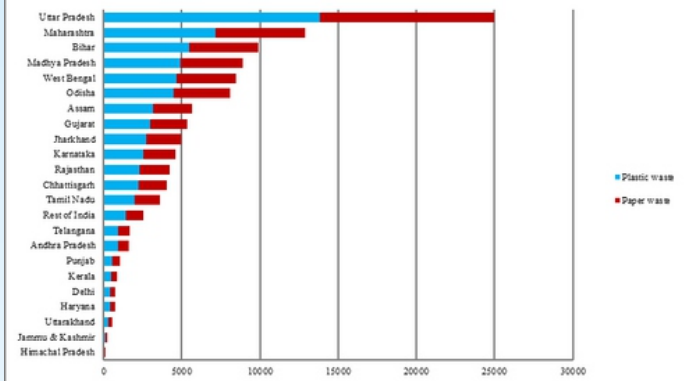
Distribution of annual waste by different components of cigarette (in tonnes)



Distribution of annual waste by different components of bidi (in tonnes)



Distribution of annual waste by different components of smokeless tobacco (in tonnes)



Recommendations

- Tobacco product wastes are diverse in nature. A comprehensive policy deterrent and a financial levy to be borne by the manufactures are needed.
- Sensitization of stakeholders for effective implementation of existing regulations for tobacco waste management is needed to reduce its environmental impact.
- Tobacco companies and their shareholders must take full responsibility to reduce the environmental burden of their products and comply with environmental laws.
- The violation of existing environmental laws and policies related to solid wastes/packaging should be strictly monitored, reported and implemented to ensure compliance.
- Given the irreversible impact of plastics on the environment and the human body, the unnecessary plastic waste generated from the tobacco products need stronger and urgent policy implementation.

For full report visit the link below or the scan the QR Code:

<https://hccn.in/rctprj/index.html>



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