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# India's Climate Leadership

# Sustainable growth

ICIL is aggressively pursuing its sustainability goals



Anil Kumar Jain and Mohit Jain, ICIL.

Indo Count Industries Ltd (ICIL) today is a significant name not only in the global textile business but also a player to reckon within the domestic textile sector. The Rs 2000-crore company having an integrated manufacturing capability, exports a complete bedding solution to marquee customers around the world. In fact, it exports almost 90 per cent of its production to over 50 countries. While the company has been quite aggressive in positioning itself in the highly competitive global textile business, it has never shied away from delivering its responsibility towards various environment-related causes and issues. The company has relentlessly tried to put up a sustainable business model which entails lesser stress on natural resources.

“At ICIL, environmental responsibility is a key in decisions we make. We track our water and energy consumption, look at how we can best treat all discharge, and create green zones around our facilities to make life better for everyone. We focus on ensuring environmental sustainability, ecological balance, protection of flora and fauna, animal welfare, agro forestry, conservation of natural resources and maintain-

ing quality of soil, air and water,” says Anil Kumar Jain, chairman, ICIL.

The company has recently joined its one of the major customers, Walmart’s Project Gigaton. The US retail giant launched this sustainability platform inviting its suppliers to join it in committing to reduce greenhouse gas emissions resulting from their operations and supply chains. This initiative provides an emissions reduction toolkit to a broad network of suppliers seeking to eliminate one gigaton of emissions, focusing on areas such as manufacturing, mate-



rials and use of products by 2030. Project Gigaton is part of a series of Walmart sustainability initiatives, focused on addressing social and environmental issues in ways that help communities while also strengthening business. “We strive to develop a new and more sustainable offer by working with our customers to meet and exceed their sustainability ambitions,” states Jain, adding that around 70 per cent of units shipped by the company to Walmart and ASDA are in sustainable packaging form. Overall, 21 per cent of ICIL’s



CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCE - WATER USAGE REDUCTION

packaging is of sustainable packaging category.

ICIL under the Carbon Disclosure Project, also declares Carbon Footprint Saving as part of its responsibility towards sustainability. The company also regularly submits data and assesses its supply chain periodically through Higg Index. Developed by the Sustainable Apparel Coalition (SAC), the Higg Index is a suite of tools that enables brands, retailers, and facilities of all sizes — at every stage in their sustainability journey — to accurately measure and score a company or product’s sustainability performance. The Higg Index delivers a holistic overview that empowers businesses to make meaningful improvements that protect the well-being of factory workers, local communities, and the environment. SAC is an industry-wide global group of more than 250 leading apparel, footwear, and textile, brands, retailers, suppliers, service providers, trade associations, non-profits, NGOs and academic institutions working to reduce the environmental and social impacts of products around the world.

The Chemicals Management Plan (CMP) is an initiative aimed at reducing the risks posed by chemicals to workers and their environment. ICIL is part of the CMP.

ICIL continually improves the sustainability of its products through raw material choice, use of organic dye stuffs and reducing chemical usage, producing ranges which are eligible for Made in Green and Oeko-tex standard 100 labelling. Its sustainability includes BCI Cotton, Fairtrade®, organic and recycled cotton. The company also use recycled polyester and other more sustainable fibres such as Tencel™ and Hemp. It has implemented a traceability system that ensures, it documents and can verify the source of every product. This Bureau Veritas approved system utilises a unique barcode for identification of fibres from the place of origin through every stage of production cycle to the final retail shopping experience.

Around 14 per cent of its annual consumption of raw material is from sustainable cotton sources like BCI, Organica and Fairtrade, while over 90 per cent of dyes & chemicals used across manufacturing are in compliance with guidelines of Oeko-tex norms.

ICIL sources majority of its raw material from the cotton growing areas of Maharashtra and therefore is an active participant in various initiatives taken by ‘CITI CDRA’ to improve the productivity of cotton in Maharashtra, making it more sustainable. ICIL’s collaboration with CITI CDRA, has also contributed to the cause of sustainable cotton by using BCI/sustainable cotton to address 60 per cent of its cotton requirement.



SOLAR POWER GRID INSTALLED - 2ND PHASE COMPLETED



GREEN POWER GENERATION - BIOGAS PLANT SETUP

The company is also engaged with companies like Bayer Crop science who plays a major role in shaping agriculture through break-through innovations for the benefit of farmers, consumers and the environment.

ICIL sustains its purpose in the Fall Home Textiles Market, through innovations in natural fibers, patented techniques and fabrications to create inherent comfort improvements. “Our commitment to sustainability evolves as we deliver on the basis of performance with new materials and inherent benefits by nature,” says Mohit Jain, Executive Vice Chairman, ICIL.

“The family of products, in our New Age of Sustainable series, features a unique element from nature, that provides the performance characteristic, that was available earlier from chemicals and other synthetic methods. In addition,



KK Lalpuria, Executive Director & CEO, ICIL

We feature an elegant touch series, newly introduced brand named “The Cotton Exchange” in the timeless constructions of Percale, Sateen & Twill. We continue to invest in Technology & People, thus enhancing our overall offerings and service level, thereby assuring a continued sustainability,” adds KK Lalpuria, Executive Director & CEO, ICIL.

The company has installed a modern zero discharge Effluent Treatment Plant which allows it to ensure that no harmful substances are discharged into the environment through primary, secondary and tertiary treatment of effluents. ICIL recycles up to 90 per cent of the water used in production, even recycling caustic soda to ensure that it does not get into the water system. Each plant is equipped with rainwater harvesting and the company recovers water from its water cooling system. The recovery of water from its cooling system has reduced its water consumption by 50 per cent per annum. This is in addition to the 90 per cent of water that it is recycling from our water treatment and conservation.

ICIL has been constantly investing in new technology and equipment across all its manufacturing processes and sites in order to greatly conserve energy. Its new production plant is a LEED Certified “Green Building”. It has both solar power and natural day lighting which will considerably reduce its carbon footprint. At present, the company saves 4 million kw per annum and it aims to continue to enhance its usage of renewable energy across its plants in the future ♦