

Report
on
Preparatory Workshop on HPMP Stage-II



Chamelli' Conference Room, Poribesh Bhaban, Department of Environment

Date: 01 October 2016

Introduction:

Hydrochlorofluorocarbons or HCFCs are one of the low potent ozone depleting substances promoted during phase-out of CFCs as an intermediate alternative to CFC. ODP varies from 0.11 to 0.2, about one fifth of the CFCs. But these are highly global warming potential substances. HCFCs are used in refrigeration and air-conditioning systems, foam blowing agent, fire fighting etc.

A survey was conducted for the year 2009 and 2010 and the baseline was determined for HCFCs was 72.6 ODP tons. Following the survey results, HCFC Phase-out Management Plan (Stage-I) was prepared which was agreed in the 65th Executive Meeting of the Montreal Protocol Multilateral Fund (MLF). HPMP Stage-I has two components, one is investment project for the conversion of HCFC-141b to Cyclopentane as foam blowing agent in the Walton High-Tech Industries and other is non-investment component projects. Non investment components comprises of technician training, customs training, ODS Identifier for customs entry point and awareness components.

Investment component of the HPMP was accomplished in 2013 under MLF assistance implemented by UNDP. Non Investment Components under HPMP-(Stage-I) are being implemented and expected to be completed by 2017. UNEP is assisting to implement these non-investment components. About 18% of HCFCs will be phased out by 2017 after completion of HPMP-Stage-I.

To achieve 35% phase-out target in 2020 and for the preparatory activities targeting 65% to be achieved by 2025, government requested Montreal Protocol Multilateral Fund for the preparation of HCFC Phase-out Management Plan, Stage-II (HPMP Stage-II) in 2015. MLF approved preparation fund at the end of 2015. UNDP is the lead implementing agency and UNEP is the co-operating agent for HPMP (Stage-II).

UNDP is responsible for the implementation of investment portion of the plan i.e, Conversion Project, Retrofit of HCFC based equipment and capacity building of RAC sector through providing equipment. UNEP is responsible for non-investment portion of the HPMP-Stage-II i.e, capacity building of RAC sector, training for customs officer, awareness, green procurement, standard preparation, initiatives for energy efficiency of the equipment.

Objective:

The objective of the preparatory workshop is to:

1. To disseminate information related to HPMP (Stage-II) preparation.
2. To identify sector and subsector of HCFC uses.
3. To disseminate information on possible alternatives.
4. To prepare a plan of action for the preparation of HPMP (State II) for non-investment components.

Approach:

The workshop was designed such as presentations from the representative of Department of Environment and UNEP followed by the technical discussion session. Participants of the workshop were the representative of the refrigeration and air-conditioning sector, foam sector, government officials, representative from UNDP & UNEP, civil society and experts from universities.

Agenda of the stakeholder meeting attached in Annex-I and participant list attached in Annex-II.

Opening Session:

The workshop begins with the registration of the participants on 01 October 2016 at the Chamelli Conference Room, Department of Environment followed by the recitation from the holy Qur'an. Participant introduced themselves to the chair of the meeting Mr. Quazi Sarwar Imtiaz Hashmi, Additional Director General, Department of Environment and Project Director, ODS related Projects.

Mr. Quazi Sarwar Imtiaz Hashmi welcomed the participants to the workshop and hoped that the meeting would be successful and requested the participants for their active and constructive inputs to the meeting.

Mr. Atul Bagai, Senior Regional Coordinator, UNEP ROAP, Bangkok delivered the objective of the workshop and expectations regarding the workshop. He appreciated Bangladesh for her efforts in phasing out CFCs from foam sector and also appreciated for achieving the 2015 reduction target. He outlined some ideas for the next stage of the HPMP. He highlighted about the green procurement, energy efficiency, illegal trade, outreach activities and leapfrogging the HFC transition.

Technical Session

The session was facilitated by Mr. Atul Bagai. The technical session began with the presentation made by Dr. Satyendra Kumar Purkayastha, Senior Officer, Institutional Strengthening Project, Department of Environment. He highlighted the activities undertaken during HPMP Stage-I in his presentation. He pointed some ideas for the upcoming stage for the non-investment activities.

After the presentation participants discussed in floor issues related to the HPMP Stage-II preparation. Following are the key discussion made by the participants.

- Mr. Lutfar Rahman, President, Bangladesh RAC Importers Association raised the question about the funding of the large enterprise. He pointed out the need for funding requirement for the SMEs. He urged that if the government ban ODS containing equipments, consultation should be made with the RAC Importers Association and BRAMA.
- Mr. AKM Delwar Hossain, Advisor, Crown Thermo Plastic Industries Ltd., appreciated the customs initiatives made during stage-I and he supported the continued efforts.

- Dr. S K Purkayastha added that Bangladesh Border Guard force should be strengthened along with the customs in the next phase.
- Mr. Atul Bagai, UNEP stressed on the need for border dialogue and banning of the equipment. He proposed banning of equipment should be effective at earliest possible time.
- Mr. Md. Delwar Hossain, Ex-President, BRAMA raised the question about the quality of the imported refrigerants and products. He stressed upon the need for regulate the fake or contaminated gases.
- Mr. Humayon Kabir, Sr. QCO, Bangladesh Frozen Food Exporters Association raised the economics of the alternatives and he mentioned that price protection measures may be taken for the available alternatives.
- Mr. Abu Sayeed Babul, Trainer, Good Practices Training raised the issue of the accident caused by the currently used refrigerant. He asked the government to take necessary steps for enquire the accidents.
- Mr. Atul Bagai also stressed upon the sustaining the training programme. He gave some ideas how the association can work for continuing the training programme. He floated ideas of e-learning, informative website etc.
- Engr. Md. Ashrafuddin, MD, Watson group supported the banning of the equipment at earliest time. He draw attention of the house about the energy efficient alternatives in the foam sector.
- Mr. Md. Abul Hossain, President BRAMA highlighted their need for the next phase. He put up a proposal to establish a training centre for skilled and un-skilled workers training.
- Mr. Md. Aziz Taher Khan, Director, CPTU stressed upon the target group and beneficiaries. He informed that government is also working for the green procurement and he will be assisting about the provision of green procurement in the Standard Tender Documents (STDs) for government procurement.
- Regarding banning of equipment, Mr. Lutfar Rahman pointed out that unless suitable alternatives are found, banning of equipment will be detrimental for the business and some businessmen can take advantage in the form of monopolize the business.
- Ms. Mst Tajkera Khatun, Director, IMED mentioned that at the user level should be sensitized.
- Mr. Abu Sayeed Babul proposed to set up user complain centre in addition to Ms. Tajkera's comment.
- Ms. Surya Akter, Specialist-Skills (TVET), UCEP stressed upon the need of distance learning programme and information outreach. She highlighted the need of TOTs.
- Prof M A A Shoukat Choudhury, ChE, BUET mentioned about the standards of the alternatives and stressed the need for adoption of local standards. He highlighted the need for information outreach programme for safe handling of the alternatives. He pointed out that BSTI should play leading role to put the standard in place.

- Engr. Md. Saidul Islam, DD, BSTI informed that they have already formulated standards refrigerators under BRESL project.
- Mr. Md. Shahjahan, Ex-ADG, DoE pointed out the challenges to be faced during the total phase-out programme. He highlighted the need of PPP in implementing such programme recalling the previous successes of the PPP during CFC phase-out especially from foam sector.
- Mr. Mohammad Reazuddin, Ex-Director, DoE congratulated all for the success of ODS phase-out programme. He mentioned about the Paris agreement and put stress on the HFC amendment under Montreal Protocol. He emphasized on the need to establish linkage between climate and ozone.

The programme ended with the vote of thanks made by the ADG, DoE.

Recommendations:

The workshop recommends the following:

1. Need for creating information outreach.
2. Need for creating various modes of information outreach.
3. Need for establishing a training institute under the management of BRAMA.
4. Need for banning of equipment containing HCFCs.
5. Need for developing standards for the new alternatives.
6. Need for the inclusion of Bangladesh Border Guard (BGB) and other enforcing agencies along with customs department to combat illegal trade.
7. Need for participating border dialogue with neighbouring countries.
8. Need for distance learning and e-learning.
9. Need for inclusion of green procurement in the Standard Tender Documents (STDs).
10. Need for rating the energy efficiency appliances.
11. Need for initiating certification programme for RAC technicians.
12. Need for keeping programme for accidents enquiry in RAC sector.
13. Need for arranging separate workshop with focused stakeholders.
14. Need for climate and ozone linkages in choosing the HFC alternatives.