

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED EXPANSION IN EXISTING SUGAR FACTORY FROM 4,960 TCD TO 10,000 TCD, CO-GENERATION PLANT FROM 25 MW TO 33 MW AND MANUFACTURING OF 300 KLPD RS / ENA / ETHANOL FROM C & B HEAVY MOLASSES/SUGARCANE SYRUP AND RS/ENA FROM GRAINS ALONGWITH 8 MW POWER GENERATION IN 300 KLPD GRAIN BASED DISTILLERY SET UP, APPROVED UNDER B2 CATEGORY FOR PRODUCT ETHANOL AT GAT NOS 76, 76/1, 76/2/1, 76/2/2, 757, AT POST-CHANNEHATTI, RAJGOLI (KHURD), TALUKA-CHANDGAD, DISTRICT-KOLAHPUR (416 507) MAHARASHTRA BY PROJECT PROPONENT M/S OLAM GLOBAL AGRI COMMODITIES INDIA PVT. LTD., CHANNEHATTI-RAJGOLI (KHURD), TALUKA-CHANDGAD, DISTRICT-KOLAHPUR (416 507) MAHARASHTRA.

---

The Environment Public Hearing in respect of proposed expansion in existing sugar factory from 4,960 TCD to 10,000 TCD, Co-Generation Plant from 25 MW TO 33 MW and Manufacturing of 300 KLPD RS / ENA / ETHANOL From C & B Heavy Molasses /Sugarcane Syrup And RS/ENA From Grains Along with 8 MW Power Generation In 300 KLPD Grain Based Distillery Set Up. Approved Under B2 Category For Product Ethanol At Gat Nos 76, 76/1, 76/2/1, 76/2/2, 757. At Post – Channehatti, Rajgoli (KHURD), Taluka-Chandgad, District -Kolhapur – 416 507, Maharashtra By Project Proponent M/S Olam Global Agri Commodities India Pvt. Ltd., Channehatti - Rajgoli (Khurd) , Taluka -Chandgad, District - Kolhapur, 416 507, Maharashtra was conducted on Wednesday, the 12th, 2024 at the site of the said industry on 12.00 Noon at Project Site – Opposite Workers' Residential Colony Ground, M/S Olam Global Agri Commodities India Pvt. Ltd., At Gat Nos 76, 76/1, 76/2/1, 76/2/2, 757, At

Post – Channehatti, Rajgoli (Khurd), Taluka -Chandgad, District -Kolhapur (416 507) Maharashtra.

Shri Pramod Mane, Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kolhapur and Convener of the Environment Public Hearing Committee welcomed Shri Amol Yedge, IAS, District Magistrate, Kolhapur and Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee: Shri Jagannath Salunkhe, Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kolhapur and Member of the Environment Public Hearing Committee, Environmentalists, NGOs, Journalists, Representative of media channels and Company Officials and local people/participants who were present and with permission of Chairperson. Environment Public Hearing Committee started the proceedings.

Shri Pramod Mane, Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that as per the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change Govt. of India, (i.e. MoEF & CC, Gol.) dated 14<sup>th</sup> September 2006 as amended on 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2009 and 14<sup>th</sup> August, 2018, it is mandatory to conduct prior public consultation to certain projects which are covered in the schedule of the said Notification. Also, convener further informed that as per EIA Notification, 2006, the category of proposed project falls under Category A – Schedule - sugar – 5 (j), co-generation project – 1 (d) and distillery – 5 (g), which requires to obtain prior Environmental Clearance from the Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt of India, New Delhi for which prior environmental consultation is mandatory

Also, Convener informed that the aim of conducting prior public consultation is to make aware, local people who can be participant in the hearing, and they should know the developmental activities and Environment Management Plan of the unit. So as per EIA Notification Project Proponent had submitted online prescribed application along with pre-feasibility report on 27-01-2024 to the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi for obtaining ToR (Terms of Reference) and it has been considered and given online approval on 12-02-2024. As per the directives in ToR, Project Proponent has prepared Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Report and submitted it to Government.

Further Shri Pramod Mane, Convener informed that Maharashtra Pollution Control Board was in receipt of application from Project Proponent M/S Olam Global Agri Commodities India Pvt. Ltd., Channehatti - Rajgoli (Khurd), Taluka-Chandgad, District – Kolhapur - 416 507, Maharashtra to arrange Environment Public Hearing for their proposed expansion in existing sugar factory from 4,960 TCD to 10,000 TCD, Co-Generation Plant from 25 MW TO 33 MW and Manufacturing of 300 KLPD RS / ENA / ETHANOL From C & B Heavy Molasses /Sugarcane Syrup And RS/ENA From Grains Along with 8.0 MW Power Generation in 300 KLPD Grain Based Distillery set up, Approved Under B2 Category For Product Ethanol at Gat Nos 76, 76/1, 76/2/1, 76/2/2, 757, At Post – Channehatti, Rajgoli (KHURD), Taluka -Chandgad, District -Kolhapur – 416 507, Maharashtra. So Joint Director (WPC), Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai vide letter dated 26.02.2024 directed

Sub Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kolhapur to implement the process of conducting Environment Public Hearing.

So as per the directives of Joint Director (WPC), M. P. C. Board Mumbai started the procedure of conducting public hearing & obtained the sanction from District Collector, Kolhapur to conduct the Physical Environment Public Hearing on Wednesday, the 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2024 at 12.00 noon, and as per the Notification dated 14-09-2006 issued by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, (MoEF & CC, Gol), New Delhi and subsequent amendment on 01-12-2019, Member Secretary, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai has constituted Environment Public Hearing Committee vide Board's Office Order No. E-183 of 2024 under letter no. BO/JD (WPC)/PH/B- 240517- FTS- 0144 dated 17-05-2024 as under:-

- |   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| 1) District Magistrate-Kolhapur<br>or his representative not below<br>the rank of an Additional District<br>Magistrate                                    | <b>Chairman</b> |
| 2) Representative of Maharashtra<br>Pollution Control Board, Mumbai -<br>Regional Officer – Kolhapur,<br>Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,<br>Kolhapur | <b>Member</b>   |
| 3) Sub Regional Officer,<br>Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,<br>Kolhapur  | <b>Convener</b> |

As per said Notification, 30 days' advance public notice was published by Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kolhapur in the Local Newspaper in Daily Pudhari in Marathi and in

National Newspaper Times of India in English on 09<sup>th</sup> May, 2024. In which the public were appealed to send their suggestions, views, doubts or objections regarding the proposed unit.

Also copy of EIA report and executive summary were made available in Marathi and in English at various notified Government offices as under: -

- 1) Hon'ble District Collector, District Collector Office, Kolhapur;
- 2) General Manager, District Industries Center, Kolhapur,
- 3) Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad, Raigad, Kolhapur,
- 4) Sub Divisional Officer, Gadhinglaj, Taluka - Gadhinglaj, District – Kolhapur;
- 5) Tahsildar, Tahsil Office, Chandgad, Office, Taluka-Chandgad, District – Kolhapur;
- 6) Block Development Officer, Panchayat Samiti Office, Chandgad, Taluka – Chandgad, Dist- Kolhapur;
- 7) Sarpanch/Gram Sevak – Grampanchayat Office – Chenehatti-Rajgoli (Kh), Rajgoli (BK), Dindalkop, Taluka – Chandgad, District – Kolhapur;
- 8) Director, Environment & Climate Change Department, Maharashtra Government, New Administrative Building, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor, Mantralaya, Madam Cama Road, Mumbai – 400 032;
- 9) Member Secretary, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kalpataru Point, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Sion-Matunga Scheme Road No.8, Opp. Cine Planet Cinema, Near Sion Circle, Sion (East), Mumbai – 400 022;
- 10) Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Udyog Bhavan, District Collector Office, Kolhapur – 416 003
- 11) Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Udyog Bhavan, District Collector Office, Kolhapur – 416 003
- 12) Website of Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai;

Shri. Pramod Mane, Convener of the Public hearing, informed that 02 suggestion / objection have been received through e-mail to Sub Regional Office/ Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kolhapur regarding the proposed project. Also, he informed that an

opportunity is given to all participants to raise any doubts, suggestions or objections regarding the proposed project in environmental angle, which can be submitted by orally or in writing also.

Shri. Amol Yedage, District Magistrate cum Chairman of the Public hearing informed that this Committee is only for recording public opinion, views, suggestions, objections regarding the proposed project in environmental angle only and the Committee has no right to approve, reject or recommend the project. The suggestions/objections raised by the participants in the public hearing will be noted and it will be included in the minutes of the meeting. Similarly, the revised Environmental Assessment Report of the Project Proponent, written suggestions/objections and minutes of the meeting after approval of Chairman will be submitted through MPCB Head Office to the Department of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi after taking note of the video recording of the said meeting, suggestions and objections recorded in the meeting. An Expert Committee there takes further decision regarding the same He requested Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee to inform Project Proponent to start the presentation.

Shri. Pramod Mane, Convener of the Public hearing on behalf of Chairperson of the meeting informed Project Environment Consultant to start the Presentation.

With the permission of the Hon'ble Chairman, Project Environmental Consultant made a presentation about the proposed project and the Environmental Management Plan.

Project Environment Consultant informed that Project Proponent M/S Olam Global Agri Commodities India Pvt. Ltd., Channehatti - Rajgoli (Khurd) , Taluka -Chandgad, District - Kolhapur, 416 507, Maharashtra proposed expansion in existing sugar factory from 4,960 TCD to

10.000TCD. Co-Generation Plant from 25.0 MW TO 33.0 MW and Manufacturing Of 300 KLPD RS / ENA / ETHANOL From C & B Heavy Molasses /Sugarcane Syrup And RS/ENA From Grains Alongwith 8.0 MW Power Generation In 300 KLPD Grain Based Distillery Set Up, Approved Under B2 Category For Product Ethanol At GUT Nos 76, 76/1, 76/2/1, 76/2/2, 757. At Post – Channehatti, Rajgoli (KHURD), Taluka - Chandgad, District -Kolhapur – 416 507, Maharashtra.

Project Environment Consultant further informed that as per EIA Notification, 2006, the category of proposed project falls under Category A – Schedule - sugar – 5 (j), co-generation project – 1 (d) and distillery – 5 (g), which requires to obtain prior Environmental Clearance from the Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt of India, New Delhi for which prior environmental consultation is mandatory. Similarly, the distillery capacity of the project is 300 KLPD and the inter-state (Maharashtra-Karnataka) border is 5.0 km from the project site. As the proposed project is inside the inter-state border in 5.0 KM, the said project is considered at the central level only.

Project Environment Consultant presented a slide show about the proposed project. It includes project introduction, project description, project location, general location map, specific location and project boundary map, project layout plan, resource requirements and infrastructure, Power requirement, Water requirement, Factory water requirement and effluent generation, Sugar section -effluent treatment, condensate treatment, Distillery section- condensate treatment, effluent treatment plant, Domestic sewage treatment, Air emission management, Existing and proposed boilers and their Details of control equipment's to be installed for pollution control in the plants, solid waste management, hazardous waste management, air environment, Impact of proposed

action on air quality i.e. PM10, PM2.5, SO2, NOx, etc. Regarding scale-up, special diagram of quantity, water analysis and results, report of soil analysis within 10 km radius of the study area, Noise environment, land use pattern in the study area with the photographs of the factory, showing the green space in the factory, budget provision towards environmental management plan, community environmental responsibility plan, rainwater harvesting and stormwater conservation plan, conclusions etc.

Also, the Project Environmental Consultant gave detailed information about the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) of the existing working project and the proposed project. In the proposed project, the investment for sugar factory and production of co-gen. is Rs 84.54 crores and for the distillery project Rs 15.0 crores will be invested. Although as per the directives of the Government of India, 33% green belt development of the project area is mandatory, but the project management has developed 38% green belt. Also, the sugar factory will operate for 180 days in a year and the distillery plant for 330 days. The Environmental Consultant informed us that the said project is a ZLD – Zero Liquid Discharge project and is a project in the interest of farmers. Rupees 43.35 crore has been earmarked for environmental protection and Rs 4.50 crore for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) fund in the project. A photocopy of the presentation is enclosed as Annexure.

After that Shri Pramod Mane, Convener of Public Hearing Committee cum Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kolhapur after published the environmental notices in Local News Paper in Marathi & English as well as making available the executive summary report of the proposed project in English and Marathi language at various notified offices of the government and on the website of



Maharashtra Pollution Control Board. The Regional office / Sub Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kolhapur has received 02 (two) suggestions/comments. They are as follows-

- 1) Out of two, one suggestion/objection is from **Grampanchayat Office, Rajgoli (Khurd), Taluka – Chandgad, District – Kolhapur.** Gramsevaks have submitted their suggestions/objections as –
  - a) The smoke generated from the bagasse in the currently operational project is causing dust particles to fall in the area. However, in the proposed project, modern pollution control systems should be set up to arrest dust particles and handle them efficiently.
  - b) The vehicles coming and going to the project are equipped with music systems and the drivers are playing songs on it loudly day and night. so the people of the village especially children, sick people and senior citizens were suffering.
  - c) Project Proponent uses project water for sprinkling, which is chemically laden.
- 2) Another suggestion/ objection received by email from Shri Sunanda Reddy, an Environmentalist, Telangana State. He has suggested that the proposed project should not cause any pollution to the people of the area, for this, all the pollution control systems should be used efficiently after implementation in the proposed project. The project should not cause pollution under any circumstances.

The Chairman Public Hearing Committee cum District Magistrate, Kolhapur, when inquired about the presence of the representatives of Gram Panchayat Rajgoli (Khurd). The

representatives were present from the said Gram Panchayat which raised the following questions.

- 1) **Shri Santosh Divase, Gram Sevak, Gram Panchayat Rajgoli (Khurd), Taluka-Chandagad, District – Kolhapur** informed that we have submitted a total of eight suggestions.

So, the Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee asked Environment Consultant to clarify the suggestions/objections raised by the Gram Panchayat Rajgoli (Khurd).

So, Environment Consultant informed that as shown in the Presentation, this industry is Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) Project and the effluent produced from the production activities will be recycled and reused in the process after the treated and not a drop of treated effluent will be released outside the factory. Also due to vehicular traffic, presently dust emission is there which spread in surrounding area for that water sprinkling arrangement is provided to suppress the same. Now the roads have been repaired and if they are damaged the factory takes the responsibility for the maintenance and repair of them.

In continuation to that the Environmental Consultant further informed that for emission from stack the Electro-Static-Precipitator (ESP) is installed in the working project and its adequacy will be checked. Also, in the proposed expansion ESP will be upgraded so that ash from the stack/chimney does not fall into the surrounding area as well as the prescribed standards as laid down by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB)) will be complied. During the construction of the proposed project, the existing ESP three fields will be upgraded to four or five fields. Accordingly, in the proposed project, the new ESP will be constructed in such a way that the industry achieves the required

standards, so that dust/ash will not fall in the project & surrounding area. The environmental consultant further said that since the drivers of the heavy vehicle coming and going to the project are playing loud songs in the music system day and night, for that the factory administration will warn the concerned drivers for the trouble caused. Also, water, air & noise pollution control will be fully taken care of in the proposed expansion project.

After that, The Chairman of the Public Hearing Committee, appealed to the attendees to register their environmental suggestions, criticisms and objections regarding the proposed project. He said that while registering suggestions, objections, you should first mention your name, the name of the village.

**Views, questions, suggestions/objections raised during the Environment Public Hearing and the answers/promises given by the Project Proponent :-**

**1) Ahmedjuber Abdullia Ajj Kazi, Dy. Sarpanch, At Post – Talguli, Taluka – Chandagad, District – Kolhapur: -**

The said person raised the following questions,

- Although the said project is good, it will benefit. However, the complete information about the fuel to be used for the boiler, its safety and the system to be implemented for pollution control should be explained in detail.
- CSR fund of 4.50 crores will be reserved for social and economic development, to what extent, the fund will be used for the people?
- Is Project Proponent going to make available the produced electricity entirely to the Government or whether the local resident people will be permitted to use it?

- My request to the company is that maize, jowar, sugarcane crops need water & presently there are leakages in the Kamoliwadi dam due to which water scarcity increases significantly in March and April. We cultivate the crops all year round, but in April we do not get water & our sugarcane dries up. So, my request to the company authority should take efforts for a new dam.

On which the Environmental Consultant said that incineration boiler will be installed along with its stack/chimney, for which spent wash mixed with bagasse will be used as fuel. As the bagasse is agro based and has low sulfur content, ash from the bagasse will be 2-3%. Also, industry authority already proposed to provide an updated air pollution control system i.e. ESP (Electro-Static-Precipitator) which shows 99.9% efficiency due to which the ash will not come out to prevent air pollution. Also, the adequacy of existing ESP will be checked immediately & the fields of the said ESP will be studied and upgraded to meet the standards as prescribed by the Central Pollution Control Board and the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board. In continuation to that the Environmental Consultant said that in the proposed project appropriate measures will be taken to control water, air, noise, hazardous solid waste and standards as prescribed by the Government will be followed.

For the second question, the Environmental Consultant said that the said CSR funds will be used for various social and economic development within a radius of 10.0 km from the project site. As the construction of the project will require to complete about two years and after that the project is fully operational, the expenditure will be phased over the next five years after the project becomes profitable.

Also, Environmental Consultant replied that after the production of power, it will be used within the project, as we need high pressure power. After using it, the remaining power will be made available to the Government grid.

Regarding the fourth point, it was said that the suggestion that efforts should be made through the factory for a new dam has been noted.

2) Shrti Vitthal Bhausahab Patil, At Post – Shattihalli, Dist – Belgavi, Karnataka State: -

He raises two issues that is if expansion of Co-generation Project is planned, so how much electricity will be generated and for what purpose it will be used? Also, what will the local farmers benefit from this project?

On that, the environmental consultant said that the existing 25 MW project will be expanded to 33 MW and the generated electricity will be used in the factory first and the excess power will be connected to the government grid, so it is called co-generation project. Since both sugar and distillation units are separate, both these plants proposed to expand from 25 MW to 33 MW electricity generation & for that bagasse will be used as fuel.

Also, the environmental consultant said that the biggest benefit of this project is that employment will be created in our area and new employment will be given to the local people in the project. Also, another thing is that additional price can be given to the farmer of sugarcane and since the distillery is a multi-feed, the local farmers can produce the second crop, thus providing additional income to the local

farmers. Maize, Jwari, rice will be used as raw material in this project and if maize is planted till the sugarcane crop is completed, then maize can be bought as raw material in the project so it can benefit the farmers.

**3) Shri Ravindra Ramchandra Naik, Grampanchayat Member, At Post – Donewadi, Taluka-Gadhinglaj, District – Kolhapur:-**

How much alcohol will be produced per day in the proposed distillery plant?

The Environmental Consultant replied that the expansion project would produce 300 KL of alcohol per day. But since the said distillery project is multi-feed, the raw material will be different, 300 KL per day production, if grain is used as raw material, 300 KL per day production if molasses is used and 300 KL per day production if sugarcane is used. The planning and designing of the project have been done to produce 300 KL per day only.

**4) Shri Vitthal Subrao Patil, At Post – Kitwad, Taluka – Chandagad, District – Kolhapur:-**

What benefit the farmers of our area will get from this project?

The Environmental Consultant replied that the benefit to the local people after starting any project is important. Here one of the benefits is that the project will generate job opportunities. At present, 1,040 people are working on the project & it will increase as well as the local people will be given priority while giving job in the project. Also, another advantage is that the company can pay additional price for sugarcane

to the farmers due to the increase in the company's income as the distillery project will play a major role in it

A third benefit is that farmers who grow a single crop of sugarcane can grow another crop along with the sugarcane. Grain will be needed when the distillery project is operational. So, if maize is planted while the sugarcane is growing, we can purchase it for the distillery & local farmers will benefit from it.

5) Sou. Bharati Ramchandra Patil, At Post – Nittur Village, Taluke – Chandgad, District – Kolhapur

Will the local people get a job opportunity due to this project? Who will get it, whether workers will be brought from outside or will local people be hired?

On that The Environmental Consultant said that the Project Proponent will give first preference to the local peoples. If there is no educational/technical qualification available in the local people for that post, a training scheme will be prepared and implemented locally so that the local people will be empowered to work in their respective posts.

6) Shri Sanjay Sutar, At Post – Rajgoli Budruk, Taluka - Chandagad, District – Kolhapur:-

Heavy vehicles carrying raw materials as well as empty vehicles are passing on both sides of the project in Rajgoli village. It is causing trouble for the local people for what is the plan of the Project Administration in this regard in the future.

Environmental Consultant said that since the said suggestion falls under traffic management, it will be answered by Project Proponent.

So, project Proponent answered that suggestions have been issued regarding traffic problems in Rajgoli village. Heavy vehicles coming in the project will go through the bye-pass road and small vehicles will go inside the village for that to avoid the congestion asphaltting has been done wherever possible. Also, we have a space problem, If space is available, the road can be widened to handle the traffic of loaded and empty vehicles.

Shri Sanjay Sutar objected that after so many years the company has not done anything. As we live along the road and we are very disturbed by the noise of trucks, heavy vehicles, tractors coming to the company for that complaints in this regard have been submitted to the company administration from time to time in oral and written form. Further measures should be taken in this regard.

Project Proponent promised to take positive action.

7) Shri Virupaksha Kumbhar, At Post – Rajgoli Khurd, Taluka – Chandgad, District – Kolhapur: --

The said person raised the following questions.

- For the project production, the company is going to take grain as raw material i.e. Maize, Rice etc. So, at what price company management will buy grain? Because of the increase in cost of production, cost of cultivation, wages to laborers, farmers cannot afford to sale the grains at government rate. Now the government guaranteed price of paddy is Rs.2,200/- and Traders are paying Rs 3.000/- for rice. So, will the company buy grain from us as raw material at the government guaranteed price or at the market price?
- Has the company management made any policy regarding this, because brokers come into the transaction. Farmers are fed up with



the behavior of brokers. So, company management should not keep brokers here & Company should purchase directly from farmers or appoint a stockiest.

The Project Proponent said that everyone knows that according to the Government's policy, sugarcane will have to purchase by us as per FRP. But company management will purchase maize according to the market price.

Here, The Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee remarked that company management has promised to purchase the maize as per market rate.

On which Project Proponent replied that after the project is fully operational, we will need a maize crop of 650 Tons per day. It means the quantity is more & for that we are going to conduct a survey to determine whether the company should directly purchase from the farmers or how to get the excess maize.

If the company is operational for 300 days, we will need 2.5 million MT of maize per year. So, for that the company will start a commercial department and study and plan how to buy actual maize from each farmer so we are going to plan with the help and co-operation of the local farmers. Further Project Proponent replied that we are going to purchase from the farmers directly.

8) **Shri Sunanda Reddy, Environmentalist, Telangana State: -**

The Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee directed concerned person to file suggestions/objections in short.

Shri Sunanda Reddy remarked that it is appreciable that the company administration will implement pollution control system, treat the wastewater and reuse it in the project. Similarly, developing green belt,

rainwater recharge in the project is also appreciated & also local people will be given priority in employment in the project.

In continuation to that Shri Sunanda Reddy opined that the said project is Farmers' Friendly Project & thorough survey has been carried out by the Environmental Consultant. He suggested conducting a survey regarding the health status of the project area, and crop status. Similarly, a survey should be conducted regarding the present status of underground water in the project area. If possible, Project Proponent should undertake Skill Development Programs for local young boys and girls and a co-ordination committee should be constituted regarding the utilization of CSR funds of the project which will benefit the local young and girls and company management will also get confidence. If it is possible for the company, wind power and solar power systems should be installed in the company and that energy should be utilized. Also, the Project Administration is requested that the project be implemented as a ZLD - Zero Liquid Discharge project.

On which the Project Proponent thanked Shri Sunanda Reddy for giving appropriate suggestions & as per the suggestion the company management have already planned to map the availability of ground water in the area through satellite mapping, which will benefit the local farmers. Further he answered that if we consider the last 7-8 years, we have saved 212 billion liters of water by working together with all farmers as we have a third-party audit report on this.

In continuation to that Shri Sunanda Reddy has suggested to extend Skill Development Training. On which Project Proponent submitted that all the villagers know that on behalf of Olam Global, Vasantdada Sugar Institute, Manjar, District-Pune, four scientists come to company every month and provide technical training to the local farmers

in their fields regarding how to increase the productivity of the fields, what kind of fertilizer to use according to the texture of the soil, how to increase production. Also, he submitted that under Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) Program we are giving education to farmers. Also, we are going to set up a micro weather station due to which the farmers will be given advance notice when and how much water should be given to the agriculture farm. The micro weather station will act as an advisory body to the farmers. Also, as mentioned in the presentation, we are operating in seventeen countries & Environment protection and conservation is our top priority. So, overall our goal is the development of farmers.

9) **Shri R. Venkatesh, Environmentalist, Hyderabad State:--**

He suggested that tree guards should be installed for saplings and small trees while developing green belts which will protect the trees. Also, local people should be given job opportunities in the project due to the fact that the unemployed person here will get employment.

Project consultant said that the suggestions have been noted.

Here, Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed all participants to raise any suggestions, objections, if any, regarding the proposed project

10) **Shri Yallappa Punnappa Bharamgavada, At Post – Rajgoli BK, Taluka – Chandgad, Dist – Kolhapur, Director of Shiva Society: -**

In the proposed project justice should be given to local peoples/Bhumiputras by giving the 80% job opportunities to the local people. Also, our village Rajgoli Budruk did not get any share of CSR funds. Hence, CSR funds should be spent on Rajgoli Budruk. Similarly, if we think about the environment, the tractors and heavy vehicles in & out of the project causing nuisance due to which our village is suffering a lot.

For that there is an alternative road on the side of our village so heavy vehicles and other traffic for the company should use the alternative road only.

On which the Project Proponent replied that Shri Yallapa Bhamar Gowda had complained about non-receipt of CRS funds to Rajgoli Budruk. But, as far as I know, we have developed a ground in Rajgoli village. Also, as per the priority, various social development work is carried out & we have constructed a school in Channehatti village for which Rupees 14 lakhs have been spent. Also, Ganeshwadi is a village adjacent to the project in which we are installing solar lights there, which will cost around Rs 8-10 lakh. So, overall, we first assess the need for social work and then prioritize the work in the respective village. We had a request from 4-5 schools in the in the surrounding area that there is co-education facility for the boys and girls as there are no toilets for girls. So, we are building toilets for girls in four of those schools in which one of them is for Rajgoli Budruk village also. However, as the local people demand various social activities, it will be taken in hand as per the priority.

**11) Shri Bhavku Gurav, At Post – Rajgoli Budruk, Taluka – Chandgad, District – Kolhapur, Director, Gadhinglaj Market Committee: -**

He requested that the Project is surrounded small vastis (bastis) & small villages for that it is necessary for Project Management to conduct health camp in that area from time to time.

Project Proponent promised to conduct the health camp.

**12) Sou. Anita Arjun Patil, At Post – Chinchane, Taluka – Chandgad, District – Kolhapur: -**

She submitted that presently sugar cane is not purchased in time so project proponents should act in this regard.

On which the Project Proponent replied that the issues will be resolved only after the expansion of this project & sugarcane will be taken on time after expansion.

13) Shri Jagannath Salunkhe, Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee And Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kolhapur:-

The member of the committee cum Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kolhapur submitted that for this public hearing women have come in large numbers and raised their views. So, first I welcome them. As the Project Proponent has planned to expand the production capacity of the sugar factory from 4,960 tons per day to 10,000 tons per day for which sugarcane seeds/cells should be cultivated here. So, it is necessary to find out which soil is required for it and whether the soil has been tested by Vasantdada Sugar Institute (VSI)? Also, it is necessary to organize village-to-village workshops by Project Proponent. Also, maize will be used as raw material in the project for that which cells/seeds of maize are good. what quality of those cells, what kind of fertilizer is needed, it is necessary to study by the project proponent and it is necessary to make it available to the local farmers. In continuation to that he submitted that potash will be produced in the project & potash is very good for soil. So, Potash should be made available to local farmers at subsidized rates after soil testing. For that whether project officials are going to make available? These points are related to the interests of the farmers and the raw materials required for the project. The information should be given about all points raised so that local farmers also should benefit due to the expansion of this project.

On which the Project Proponent informed that for variety, we have appointed 2-3 organizations here i.e. VSI, Manjri, District-Pune, SBI, Coimbatore, and one from North India. Also, we have brought 15 different varieties of sugarcane & tested it in the project itself. For that our detailed study is going on & we are planning how we can provide the best sugarcane varieties/seeds to every farmer at concessional rates. In continuation to that the Project Proponent answered that the importance of soil testing is very essential. So, for that we have ten group offices in our project area & also we are going to bring Soil Testing Machines in those ten group offices, because presently after taking the soil sample, it must be sent to Kolhapur for analysis. and it takes 15-20 days to get the report. Due to which, time of crop cultivation passes away so We have Agricultural Technical Service Providers and with their help we will install soil testing machines in our group offices. Also, they are making plans for how many field soil samples should be tested in each season? And we will do it with help and suggestions from local farmers at a concessional rate. Also, as per their NPK report, the farmers will be guided about the fertilizer and its quantity to be used. For this, we are developing our programme with one I.T. Company (Vibrant Company). In that if the concerned farmer has registration with us and he would have cultivated sugar cane crop, maize crop, Crop Calander of whole year/twelve months will be made available to him. Also, the message on mobile phone will be sent to him due to which the farmers will get all the information about crop calendar automatically. So, that the developing that software will make our process simple and easy.

In continuation to that further he submitted that now about the potash, as shown in the presentation, there is a highly useful quantity of potash contains in spent wash. The ash which comes out from the boiler will be made into briquettes and we have planned to supply to the local farmers as potash at a discounted rate as Potash is very useful for sugarcane farming.

14) Sou. Savita Tanaji Patil, At Post – Chinchane village, Taluka – Chandgad, District – Kolhapur :-

She submitted that as per the presentation the effluent generated from the factory will be used. So how it will be used should be informed in detail?

The Environmental Consultant replied that the project has an Effluent Treatment Plant to treat the effluent generated in the sugar factory. The Project Proponent proposed to install the Reverse Osmosis (RO) on wastewater after primary, secondary and tertiary treatment. In which the treated wastewater will be recycled and reused in the production process after the treatment in Reverse Osmosis system. Also, the wastewater from the distillery will be burnt in the incineration boiler and condensate water will be recycled in the process. So, overall, not a single drop of wastewater will be released outside the project. Also, he explained that the sugar & distillery both the sections will have separate units for processing, so that the wastewater will be treated efficiently. Also, the sewage generated will be treated in the proposed STP & treated effluent will be further treated which will be recycled.

The Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee opined that many participants have raised their suggestions, objections. Now, we are approaching the conclusion of the public hearing and while concluding the meeting stated that as per the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification passed by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi, thirty days in advance of the meeting date, a notice of environmental public hearing was published in a local newspaper and a national newspaper in Marathi & English in which the place and time of the public hearing was published for the information of the public. Accordingly, a public hearing was started today at the specified place and time. Also, the Environmental Consultant of the project has given detailed information about the Environment Management Plan for the proposed project in the presentation. As well as the Participants have registered environmental suggestions, objections about the proposed project. It has been explained by the environmental consultant of the project. The suggestions and objections raised by the locals in the meeting have been recorded and they will be included in the minutes of the meeting. The Minutes of the meeting, written suggestions/objections received, as well as revised Environmental Impact Assessment Report will be submitted with the approval of the Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee through Head Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai to Ministry of Environment Forests and Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi & Expert Committee there will take further decision in this regard.

The Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee directed Project Proponent to implement EMP as agreed during the meeting & it should be followed strictly. The Chairperson of the meeting thanked all



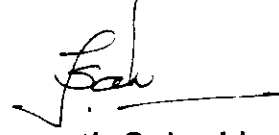
and declared that the meeting was concluded. and the meeting ended extending thanks to the Chair.

Enclosed herewith are 03 written suggestions/objections.



**(Pramod Mane)**

Convener,  
Environment Public Hearing  
Committee  
And  
Sub Regional Officer,  
Maharashtra Pollution  
Control Board,  
Kolhapur



**(Jagannath Salunkhe)**

Member,  
Environment Public Hearing  
Committee  
And  
Regional Officer,  
Maharashtra Pollution  
Control Board,  
Kolhapur



**(Amoj Yedge, IAS)**

The Chairman,  
Environment Public Hearing Committee  
And  
District Magistrate, Kolhapur,  
District - Kolhapur