

National Webinar on Green Budgeting and Launch of Green Budgeting Portal

DRAFT CONCEPT NOTE AND AGENDA

Date:	28th December 2022
Time:	2:00 PM to 3:30 PM
Platform:	WebEx

The need for realizing sustainable development goals, and addressing threats of climate change, biodiversity loss, and other environmental degradation requires urgent actions, concrete, and systematic approaches. There is need for the change in mindsets through dialogue around environmental sustainability in a multi-stakeholder setting. Budget-making processes assume a critical role in this regard as budget exercises are periodically undertaken by all departments.



Green Budgeting is a tool involving of budgetary planning than can help in systematic mapping and tracking the sources of funds, outlays, expenditures, and policies which, in turn, can support coordinated policy design and identification of periodic and continuous finance needs to achieve green objectives, that is, those relating to the climate and environmental dimensions. A Green Budget document is seen to have the potential to stimulate the constructive dialogue and debate towards improving environmental outcomes of public policies.

While environmental regulation is the principal responsibility of environmental ministries, much of the implementation on aspects of environmental sustainability is to be undertaken by other ministries. Environmental sustainability considerations needed to be mainstreamed across various schemes and activities of ministries, departments, and sectors. Such a mainstreaming will help shape attitudes and commitments of various department officials and actors.

Green budgeting can be implemented at the national and state-levels. Green budgeting can potentially enable innovations within existing schemes within the existing fiscal space to enable public funds flows to environment centric activities. Issue-based budgeting processes in the form of Child Budgeting (Statement 12 of Union Budget) and Gender Budgeting (Statement 13 of Union Budget) already exists in India. Insofar, Bihar is the first and only state in India to table a green budget in its legislative assembly. Relatedly, Odisha has conducted exercises related to climate budgeting.

The policy innovation of green budgeting can transform budgeting exercises into an effective coordination mechanism of sustainable development so that economic, social, and environmental aspects are duly considered. It does not change the existing policies by itself, but it provides decision makers with a clearer understanding of the overall environmental and climate impacts of budgeting choices. Institutionalizing green budgeting can create momentum

in terms of environmental consciousness in the mind-sets of departments and lead to better planning within the existing fiscal space (PSCST-TERI 2014).

TERI has been advocating for the policy innovation of Green Budgeting since 2012 when it first engaged in developing a conceptual framework for green budgeting project with the Punjab State Council for Science and Technology. Subsequently, along with the Asian Development Research Institute, TERI has been providing technical assistance for the green budgeting process for the state of Bihar, which is being implemented by the Department of Finance in Bihar. More recently, along with Department of Science, Technology & Environment, TERI organized a workshop for the officials of the Government of the U.T. of Puducherry on green budgeting.

Green budgeting is a new concept and unlike gender budgeting and child budgeting, there is limited understanding on the green budgeting process. There is thus a need for awareness on the topic of green budgeting.

With this rationale, TERI is organizing a webinar on green budgeting and is also launching a portal on green budgeting. The webinar will seek to raise awareness on the concept and method of green budgeting among key stakeholders including government, research, and civil society.

The purpose of the portal is to serve as a knowledge resource for government officials, research institutes and civil society. The portal will-

- (i) Provide the definition, rationale, and objectives of green budgeting as a tool that contributes towards environmental sustainability
- (ii) Serve as a knowledge resource on the method of green budgeting
- (iii) Raise the awareness of governments and civil society on the importance of green budgeting

The draft agenda of the event is given below.

DRAFT AGENDA

2:00 PM – 2:15 PM	Welcome Address and Chair Dr Prodipto Ghosh [Distinguished Fellow TERI and Former Environment Secretary, Government of India]
2:15 PM – 2:25 PM	Launch of Green Budgeting Portal
2:25 PM – 3:00 PM	Presentation on Green Budgeting Dr Shailly Kedia [Senior Fellow and Associate Director, TERI] Mr Vivek Tejaswi [Deputy Director, ADRI]
3:00 PM – 3:20 PM	Questions and Answers
3:20 PM – 3:30 PM	Vote of Thanks

Emcee: Ms. Palak Khanna, Communications Executive, TERI