

URBAN POLLUTION MANAGEMENT: A CASE STUDY OF DELHI

ABSTRACT

Delhi has been facing dense cover of smog in the post-monsoon period of late October to mid-November for last 5-6 years continuously. Multiple studies have taken place to ascertain the cause of the influx. Also, several measures have been implemented by the government to prevent the return of the smog cover. Despite various attempts, the issue has seen minimal relief and continuous to occur every subsequent year. The paper attempts to better understand the scenario by presenting a complete and comprehensive picture of the issue and its causal factors. The attempt is to bring clarity around the factors that have to be focused upon while addressing the issue. The paper also looks at the policies that have been implemented till date to mitigate the issue, but have for some reason or the other, failed to deliver. Recognising the short-comings of these policies allows us to move forth and look ahead at better policies that have taken into consideration the short-falls of previous policies. The paper found bio-mass burning in states neighbouring Delhi to be detrimental in the smog influx episode. Taking into consideration the cost of exposure to PM_{2.5}, it is of utmost importance to implement cost-effective and efficient policies that help mitigate the issue. The paper suggest In-situ and Ex-situ management strategies for crop residue which will help farmers shift from crop burning to better and more beneficial alternatives.

Key words: Bio-mass burning, Smog influx, particulate matter, crop residue management, Happy Seeder, Supply chain management