

Road-map for sustainable and inclusive Mica industry in Jharkhand

Balancing interest of the State, business and people



Submitted by Centre for Responsible Business

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The findings are based on the interviews, group discussions, statements made by the mica industry actors, senior government officials, user industries, using a standard questionnaire used during the project. The validation and verification of the findings is restricted to the documents and information which could be obtained during the onsite assessment. The conclusions and recommendations contained within this report are those of CRB.

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Producer

Centre for Responsible Business

Supervision

Tirza Voss, Terre des Hommes

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Mukul Modi, Modi Mica Enterprises

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Representatives of the mica industry, Giridih

Fanny Frémont, Responsible Mica Initiative

Vijay Jain, Responsible Mica Initiative

Author

Sohini Gupta, Centre for Responsible Business

Editors

Rijit Sengupta, Centre for Responsible Business

Sohini Gupta, Centre for Responsible Business

Design and layout

Sohini Gupta, Centre for Responsible Business

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About the document

The document has been prepared to provide guidance for the mica industry in Jharkhand in its journey towards sustainable and inclusive growth. Being one of its kind documents prepared for the mica sector in India, this may be a good starting point for professionals and organizations to take further concrete steps for the sustainability of the sector. This document can be used as a handbook by the policymakers, industry, NGOs to set priorities, goals and targets for respective pillars of sustainability for the revival and sustainability of the mica industry.

1. About the mica sector in Jharkhand

Historically, India has been a world leader in the production and export of sheet mica. The best quality mica deposits occur in Jharkhand¹ and hence the state was the seat of a booming industry. But in the past decades, there has been a steady downfall in the mica industry, due to fall in the demand of natural mica in the world market, use of reconstituted mica, emergence of mica substitutes and various other factors. However, on account of its unique properties, mica continues to be used in raw or processed form in various industries viz. ICT, electrical, paints, automobile, plastic, etc. There is sufficient supply and industrial capability in Jharkhand to meet this demand domestically and in the international market. Greater attention to the mica sector, in line with the Government of Jharkhand's pro-industry strategy, will reinstate the old glory of the sector and provide livelihoods to a large number of people associated with it.

1.1 Production, Supply & Industrial use of mica

- In India, the largest mica deposit occurs in Jharkhand (13 million tonnes) with smaller deposits occurring in Bihar, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan.
- There is variation in production data between domestic sources like Indian Bureau of Mines, IBM (Fig 1) and international sources (Fig 2).

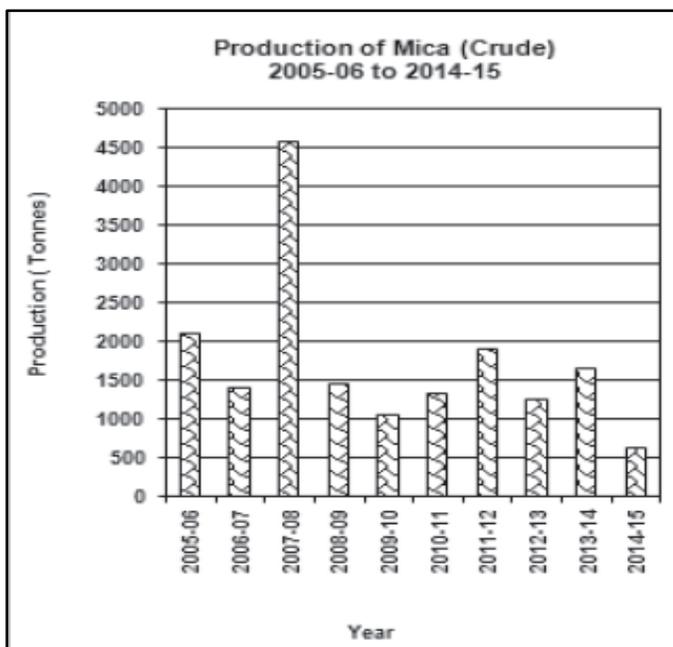


Fig 1: Production trend of Mica in India [Indian Bureau of Mines, Mica Mineral Yearbook, 2015]

¹ According to the JSMDC, Jharkhand has a reserve of 13 million tonnes of mica, and contributes almost 60% of the mica sources across India (<http://www.jsmdc.in/web/MineralReservesProduction.php>)

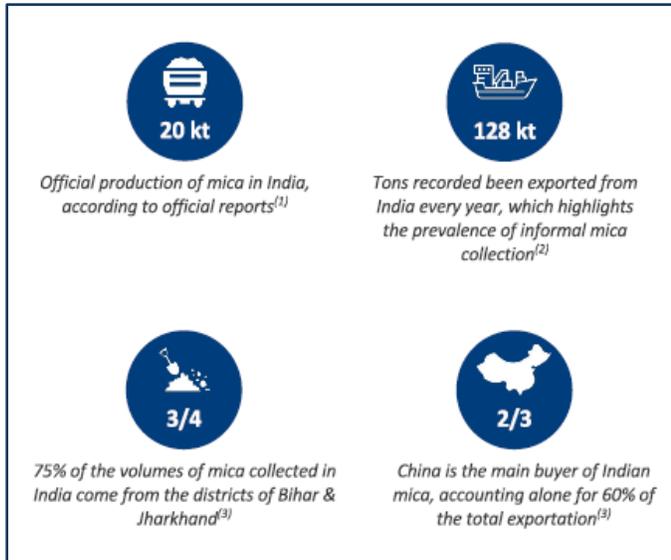


Fig 2: Mica belt in Jharkhand and Bihar [Ref: (1) USGS, 2015; (2) UN Comtrade Data, 2014; (3) TdH, 2016]

- In 2015, mica was transferred from the list of ‘major’ minerals to that of ‘minor’ minerals – thereby empowering state governments to develop plans to manage and utilise the mineral.
- There is often news about illegal deep excavation mining of mica especially in some areas of Koderma and Giridih in Jharkhand, which perhaps explains the heavy tonnage of mica being exported out of the ports of Calcutta and Chennai. On papers, there is little or no mining of mica that happens any more in the state, as the state government cancelled mica mining leases.
- Mica however continues to be collected from overburdens of abandoned mica mines, many of which are located in forested areas. This is done by villagers in the proximity at low wages, in the absence of other alternative livelihoods the villagers are employed to gather mica and supply it to the processors through a local network of local aggregators and dealers.
- Given crude and unsafe methods of collection, accidents are not uncommon.
- Further, collection of mica from some of these sites is considered illegal as they fall within protected/reserve forest areas.

Mica is an extremely versatile mineral, widely used in many industries and applications, due to its exceptional characteristics. Figure 3 below shows the wide range of industrial uses of mica. Given such wide application of mica across industries, the global market is slated to grow from US\$478mn (2016) to US\$669mn (2024) as per Mica Exporters Association (MEA) estimates. This presents a great

opportunity for Jharkhand to revive the mica sector, with due consideration to tackle the above-mentioned challenges.

1.2 Properties of Mica

Mica has a number of unique properties that contributes to its wide-spectrum industry use and applications.



Fig 3: Properties of mica [Mica Exporters Association (MEA), Jharkhand]

1.3 Industrial use of mica

Mica has application across a number of industries including electrical, paints, heavy industries, cosmetics, electronic, etc.



Fig 4: Industrial Use of Mica [Mica Exporters Association (MEA), Jharkhand]

2. Brief introduction to Sustainable Development Framework² for the Mining Sector by the Ministry of Mines

2.1 Need for sustainable mining in India

Development of natural resources is essential for sustaining economies as it fuels industrial development, employment generation and skill development. But, in the last decades, contribution of mining sector in GDP has been stagnant to nearly 1.2%³, which is highly alarming. The Indian mining sector grew at a CAGR of 7.3% in the last decade compared to 22% in China in the same period⁴. It is also true that employment in the Indian mining sector has grown at a rate of 3% per annum over the last 10 years⁵. Mining can generate jobs and much-needed revenues; it can promote the development of a more skilled workforce; hence it also calls for a strong legal and policy framework. Such a framework must promote the economic and social development benefits of mining while upholding strong environmental and social standards. In the absence of such a framework, mining activities can threaten to pollute and degrade the environment, endanger workers, lead to non-inclusive growth and promote corruption, among other things.

The situation is very similar in case of mica industry as well in Jharkhand. The industry is grappling under various social, environmental challenges along with struggling for survival and economic viability. Seizing of trucks during transportation has been one of the major hurdles for the industry. Though the state government has been taking initiatives to revive the sector, so far these efforts have not been enough. The industry is also struggling with illegal mica mining which has questioned the legitimacy of the industry. Few of the media clips below will highlight and corroborate with the challenges being faced by the mica industry.

²https://mines.gov.in/writereaddata/UploadFile/SDF_Overview_more.pdf

³<http://www.asianage.com/business/economy/091117/7-8-per-cent-contribution-of-mining-sector-in-gdp-can-create-25-million-jobs-in-india.html>

⁴<http://www.asianage.com/business/economy/091117/7-8-per-cent-contribution-of-mining-sector-in-gdp-can-create-25-million-jobs-in-india.html>

⁵<http://www.asianage.com/business/economy/091117/7-8-per-cent-contribution-of-mining-sector-in-gdp-can-create-25-million-jobs-in-india.html>

गिरिडीह में डंप माइका नीलामी का मुख्यमंत्री ने दिया संकेत



सीएम के साथ वार्ता करते माइका व्यवसायी।

सिटी रिपोर्टर | गिरिडीह

ढीबरा को माइका की श्रेणी से बाहर किए जाने से उत्साहित गिरिडीह व कोडरमा जिले के अभ्रक व्यापारियों ने गुरुवार को रांची प्रोजेक्ट भवन में मुख्यमंत्री रघुवर दास से मुलाकात की और इस निर्णय के लिए धन्यवाद दिया। साथ ही मांग किया गया कि गिरिडीह व कोडरमा जिले में डंप माइका की नीलामी कराई जाए, ताकि अभ्रक कारोबार में नई जान आ सके। गिरिडीह व कोडरमा जिले

की माइका पहचान रही है, लेकिन वर्तमान में यह कारोबार पूरी तरह से ठप पड़ा हुआ है। नीलामी होने पर कारोबार में नई जान आ सकती है और बड़ी संख्या में लोगों को रोजगार भी मिल सकता है। व्यवसायियों की बात पर मुख्यमंत्री ने सहमति जताई है और नीलामी की प्रक्रिया शुरू कराने का आश्वासन दिया है। सीएम से वार्ता के क्रम में प्रभाकर बगेड़िया, राजेश छापरिया, प्रदीप भरतिया, दीपक सिंह सहित करीब एक दर्जन व्यवसायी मौजूद थे।

Fig :5 Meeting in Ranchi with Jharkhand Chief Minister Shri Raghubar Das and mica industry entrepreneurs of Giridih agreeing on auction of mica dumps and providing a boost to the industry [Source: Prabhat Khabar, 01/06/2018]

राज्य के खनिजों के बारे में जीआइएस प्लेटफॉर्म पर उपलब्ध होगी जानकारी

वेबसाइट लांच

- खान सचिव और निदेशक ने वेबसाइट जारी की
- भारत में झारखंड राज्य द्वारा तैयार की गयी है पहली वेबसाइट

वरीय संवाददाता > रांची



कार्यशाला को संबोधित करते खान सचिव अबू बकर सिद्दीकी.

खनिजों का आंकड़ा अब जीआइएस प्लेटफॉर्म पर भी उपलब्ध होगा. खान एवं भूतत्व निदेशालय द्वारा झारखंड स्पेश एप्लीकेशन सेंटर के संयुक्त प्रयास से जीआइएस इनेबलड वेबसाइट तैयार की गयी है. खान एवं भूतत्व निदेशालय द्वारा इंडीएस टेक्नोलॉजी के संयुक्त तत्वावधान में शोटल रासो में जियोर्लॉजिकल एक्सप्लोरेशन एंड रिसोर्स इस्टीमेशन टेक्निक विषय पर आयोजित कार्यशाला में खान सचिव अबू बकर सिद्दीकी एवं निदेशक कुमारी अंजली द्वारा वेबसाइट का उद्घाटन किया गया. कहा गया कि पूरे भारत में

झारखंड राज्य द्वारा तैयार की गयी पहली वेबसाइट है जिसके द्वारा खनिज तथा भूतत्व का आंकड़ा का जीआइएस प्लेटफॉर्म पर उपलब्ध है. कार्यशाला में झारखंड में व्याप्त खनिज अन्वेषण तथा नीलामी संबंधित नियमों तथा उसके उपयोग पर चर्चा की गयी. इस संबंध में मनोज कुमार, अरुण कुमार, कुमार

अमिताभ, राजेश कुमार पांडेय, संजीव प्रसाद तथा एम्प्लोयीज के क्षेत्रीय प्रबंधक पी. रवींद्र द्वारा एक प्रेजेंटेशन भी दिया गया. इंडीएस टेक्नोलॉजी द्वारा रिसोर्स इस्टीमेशन के लिए डिजिटल टेक्निक के प्रयोग पर सॉफ्टवेयर के माध्यम से प्रेजेंटेशन दिया गया. कार्यशाला को अख्यतल भूतत्व निदेशक कुमारी अंजलि ने की.

Fig 6: Shri Aboobacker Siddique, Secretary, Department of Mines and Geology, Govt of Jharkhand said information about the state minerals will be available on GIS platform indicating use of innovative technology to track mining activities [Source: Prabhat Khabar, 28/06/2018]



Fig 7: Trucks seized during transportation of mica leading to huge losses and harassment of the industry; how mica is being procured is disputable, hence falls under the illegal category [Source: Prabhat Khabar, 02/07/2018]



Fig 8: In a seminar organized on the subject of safety management of mining machinery in Ranchi, the Governor mentioned that the mining companies should take the responsibility to raise the living standards of the people living nearby. He also mentioned that mining is an important contributor to the economic growth of GDP and State. [Source: Prabhat Khabar, 29/07/18]

2.2 Initiative by the Ministry of Mines

The Sustainable Development Framework 2011 (SDF) for the mining sector is an important feature of the National Mineral Policy 2008 which is also mentioned in the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act after its amendment. A Planning Commission report titled “*Sustainable Development, Emerging issues in India’s mineral sector*”⁶ observed that in the mineral-rich states of Odisha, Goa, Karnataka and Jharkhand, mining has brought about tremendous economic development and at the same time, it has caused significant environmental damages and negatively impacted communities as well. Mining and environmental laws and regulations have not been very effectively enforced. Illegal mining in many cases has similar effect while additionally causing loss of public revenues. Keeping in view the increasing disputes in the mining sector, a High Level Committee recommended development of a Sustainable Development Framework (SDF) especially tailored to the Indian context in 2005 taking into account the work done by the International Council of Mining and Metals (ICMM) and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN). ERM India Pvt. Ltd. and Ministry of Mines (Government of India) developed a Sustainable Development Framework for the Mining Sector (Non Coal, Non Fuel) in India in 2015.

2.3 Sustainable Development Framework for the Mining Sector

SDF is applicable for all concerned stakeholders in the mining sector (non-coal, non-fuel, non-atomic minerals, not covering off-shore mining). SDF comprises principles, reporting initiatives and good practice guidelines. The key principles that define the framework for sustainability in the Indian mining sector are as follows:

- i. Incorporating Environmental and Social Sensitivities in decisions on leases
- ii. Strategic Assessment in Key Mining regions
- iii. Managing impacts at the Mine level
- iv. Addressing Land, Resettlement and Other Social Impacts
- v. Community engagement, benefit sharing and contribution to socio-economic development
- vi. Mine Closure and Post Closure Mining
- vii. Ethical functioning and responsible business practices
- viii. Assurance and Reporting

Ministry of Mines issued a notification F.N. 31/4/2016-M.III⁷ dated 30 January 2018 stating that States have agreed to implement the system for minor minerals as well. The Ministry of Mines is enabling the State Government to institutionalize a statutory mechanism for ensuring sustainable mining which

⁶http://planningcommission.nic.in/reports/sereport/ser/isid_mining%20_report1206.pdf

⁷<http://mines.bih.nic.in/Docs/StarRatingTemplate.pdf>

addresses the concerns on environment and socio-economic issues in the mining sector, through a Sustainable Development Framework.

2.4 Other international and national sustainability related initiatives

2.4.1 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Mining industry impacts SDGs to a great extent, and nature and quantum of impact depends on mining practices. Mining can foster economic development by providing opportunities for decent employment, manufacturing, increased revenues, and infrastructure linkages. In case of mica, it is also essential for many technologies (notably electronics), infrastructure, energy and agricultural production. However, mining has contributed many challenges – environmental degradation, displacement of populations, economic and social inequality, corruption, increased risk for many health problems, and the violation of human rights.

SDGs on Economic Development: Mining can have a local, regional and national impact on economic development and growth that can be leveraged to build new infrastructure, new technologies and workforce opportunities. SDGs with economic implications for mining include:

- **SDG 2: Food security, improved nutrition and Sustainable agriculture:** Mining can adversely impact availability of land and quality of soil for agriculture, affecting its sustainability and ability to ensure food and nutritional security.
- **SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth:** Mining can generate new economic opportunities for citizens and members of local communities, including jobs, training, and business development relating to mining operations, associated service providers, or local economies linked to the mine.
- **SDG 9: Infrastructure, Innovation and Industrialization and SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production:** Mining can help drive economic development and diversification through direct and indirect economic benefits and by spurring the construction of new infrastructure for transport, communications, water and energy.

SDGs on Environmental Sustainability: Mining activities typically cause impacts on the resource base and quality of land, water, the climate and the flora, fauna and people. Relevant SDGs include:

- **SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation and SDG 15: Life on Land:** Mine development requires access to land and water, presenting significant adverse impacts on land and soils, aquatic systems, water quantity and quality, air quality, biodiversity and ecological processes that can be mitigated or avoided to some extent.
- **SDG 7: Energy Access and Sustainability and SDG 13: Climate Action:** Mining activities are energy and emissions intensive; mining therefore adversely impacts the relevant SDGs; however mining have applications in energy efficiency and renewable energy generation presenting opportunities for greater efficiency as well as expanding access to energy.

SDGs on Social inclusion, equity and Justice: Mining significantly impacts local communities; bringing economic opportunities including employment, livelihoods and growth opportunities.

- **SDG 1: End Poverty, SDG 5: Gender Equality and SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities:** Mining generates significant revenues through taxes, royalties and dividends for governments to invest in economic and social development, in addition to opportunities for jobs and business locally. Companies can also support participatory decision-making processes, equitable allocation of benefits and grievance redressal and expand opportunities to strengthen mining communities.
- **SDG 11: Inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements:** Mining provides the building materials necessary for the growth of cities and human settlements
- **SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions:** Mining Industry can contribute to more peaceful societies, respecting human rights and the rights of vulnerable peoples supporting the overall development of the society.

2.4.2 Relevance of United Nations Guiding Principles (UNGPs)

The Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights⁸ were unanimously endorsed by the UN’s Human Rights Council in June 2011. They were endorsed by the UN Human Rights Council and have received the support of a wide range of business, labour, and human rights organizations. Governments, businesses and investors have begun applying the framework in their operations. The Guiding Principles represent a new global standard on business and human rights. The standard can be summarized as follows:



Figure 9 shows the three pillars of the UN Guiding Principles

It is important to note that the Guiding Principles do not create any new legal obligations for states of business; rather, the Guiding Principles:

⁸ More info at <https://www.shiftproject.org/un-guiding-principles/>

- Elaborate implications of existing human rights standards.
- Provide guidance on how states and companies can better meet their duties and responsibilities
- Identify gaps in human rights protections and where improvements might be made.

2.4.3 Mining and District Mineral Foundation

District Mineral Foundation (DMF) is a trust set up as a non-profit body, in those districts affected by the mining works, to work for the interest and benefit of persons and areas affected by mining related operations. It is funded through the contributions from the holder of major or minor mineral concession in the district as may be prescribed by the Central or State Government. The objective of District Mineral Foundation is to work for the interest of the benefit of the persons and areas affected mining related operations in such manner as may be prescribed by the State Government. Every holder of a mining lease or a prospecting license-cum-mining shall, in addition to the royalty, pay to District Mineral Foundation of the district in which the mining operations are carried on, and an amount at the rate of:

- (a) 10% of the royalty paid in terms of the Second Schedule to the Mines & Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (67 of 1957) (herein referred to as the said Act) in respect of mining leases or, as the case may be, prospecting license-cum-mining lease granted on or after 12th January, 2015; and
- (b) 30% of the royalty paid in terms of the Second Schedule to the said Act in respect of mining leases granted before 12th January, 2015.

DMFs were introduced in 2015 through an amendment in the Mining and Minerals Act, 1957. Most major mining states have developed the legal and institutional framework for the implementation of the DMF. District Mineral Foundations (DMFs) can play a significant role in addressing adverse impacts of mining activities on communities living in and around the mining areas.

3. State of affairs of the mica sector in Jharkhand

3.1 Current situation of the mica sector in Jharkhand

Jharkhand has led the production of mica in India. Once boasting over 700 legal mines, the industry was first by a change in global demand of mica in the '60s and then ultimately in 1980 with the enactment of the Forest Conservation Act. Given the location of many of the erstwhile mica mines inside forest areas in the districts of Koderma, Giridih and Hazaribagh – the mining of mica from these areas was stopped, thereby forcing most mines to close⁹. However, renewed interest in mica (scrap mica) lured traders and operators to access hundreds of closed mines, many of which lie in the forests of Jharkhand's Koderma and Giridih districts and thereby result in conflict with the local police and the forest administration.

Enforcement of the Forest Conservation Act 1980¹⁰ (with Amendments made in 1988) posed several challenges to mica mining. Consequently, the state Government stopped renewing the mining leases due to enforcement this act. Although mica mining was declared 'illegal' due to non renewal of leases, mining still continued in the state (illegally), coupling the problem by adhering to lesser safety and security measures for the miners. One of the detrimental effects of the closure of the legal mines was the decrease in the family incomes of the collectors as laborers lost their jobs. Unable to source mica from the mines, mica dumps¹¹ became a lucrative source for mica collection. However, the quality of mica accrued from these sources (scrap and powder mica) is considered inferior in quality as compared with mica sheets obtained from deep mining of mica. Apart from the economic disadvantages, the dealers are unable to source good quality mica from the dumps, thereby suffering heavy losses at the hands of international buyers. Due to the reduced opportunities in mica sector, many traders are now diversifying their business for survival. More importantly, the present state of the regulatory framework in the mica mining sector is guarded by several laws such as The Bihar Mica Act, 1957, The Mines and Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and The Jharkhand Mineral Dealer's Rule, 2007.

To tackle some of the social and economic challenges, the Government of Jharkhand is taking certain decisive steps towards legalisation of mining (both collection of debris or *dhibra* from the overburden of the abandoned mines; and deep excavation mining). Auctioning of some mica dumps in 2018 was an important move towards legalization of the industry but it was partially successful. Since the size of mica dump was huge and also the pricing of the same was very steep, it was very challenging for the industry to participate in the auction process. Representatives from the mica industry mentioned that

⁹<https://in.reuters.com/article/india-child-labour/india-begins-legalising-mica-mining-after-child-worker-deaths-expose-idINKBN1802AD>

¹⁰<http://envfor.nic.in/legis/forest/forest2.html>

¹¹ According to the Bihar Mica Act, 1947, mica dump means any collection of refuse consisting wholly or largely of mica

since this was a positive move from the state government's side, the industry participated in the best way possible. But due to steep pricing, this may not be a feasible option in the near future. Industries formed congregation in their respective regions and participated in the auction. The Department of Geology and the Department of Mining/ Jharkhand State Mineral Development Corporation¹² (JSMDC) are working together to initiate further auctions of the debris sites and identify new mica blocks in the state. Legalising and organising the mines, along with strict lease conditions, could facilitate the implementation of good practices and control systems. Although legalising the mines is a decisive step, the full extent of the positive impact it can have is dependent on how it is conducted and managed.

3.2 About the supply chain of mica in Jharkhand

The flow of mica comprises 2 categories of actors: (i) supply chain actors and (ii) non supply chain actors. The supply chain actors are directly engaged in the mica industry viz. local pickers, collectors, community representatives, processors, traders, exporters and user industry.



Fig 10 & 11 above shows villagers picking and collecting mica from the soil in Koderma region

The non supply chain actors are indirect stakeholders of the mica sector viz. Government agencies /institutions (district, state & national), industry associations, policymakers, research organizations etc.

¹² More info at <http://www.jsmdc.in/>

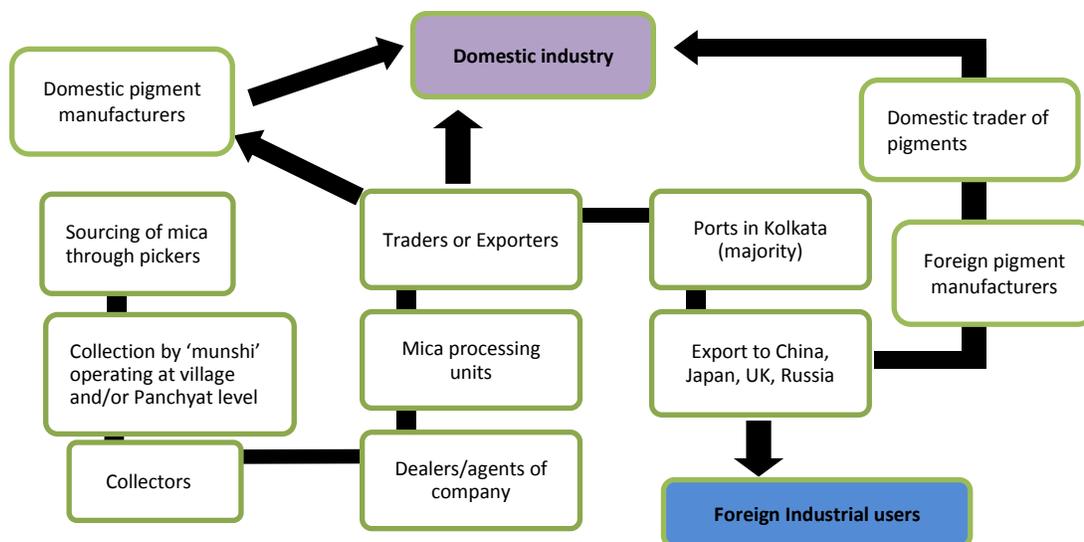


Figure 12 shows the supply chain of mica originating in Jharkhand

A number of discussions with various relevant stakeholders in the state and elsewhere were held as well as secondary research was undertaken to understand the supply chain of mica from Jharkhand, and current status of the flow of this mineral. The same has been explained in brief below:

- i. **Sourcing and Collection of mica from dhibras:** The sourcing of mica is primarily being done by 'pickers' who belong from the community and picking mica from the debris in the villages and neighbouring areas. After picking and basic sieving of mica, the mica is collected by 'munshi' who usually from the village itself or Panchayat.
- ii. **Processing of mica:** These collectors from the villages/Panchayat sell the mica to dealers¹³/agents of companies that process mica into various kinds of mica products
- iii. **Processors and Traders:** These processors sell/trade various products made from mica to the domestic as well as international market. Majority of the mica is being used domestically by the pigment manufacturing industries. Rest of the mica is being exported through the ports of India; mostly from Kolkata ports to various countries like China, Japan, UK and Russia. Exported mica was used by mostly the pigment industry and other industry users. This pigment (mostly manufactured by China) is again imported by India and supplied domestically as well as internationally to various industry users.

¹³ 'Dealer' means any person who carries on the business of buying' storing selling, supplying, trading, transporting, distributing or delivering for sale of minerals and mineral products and includes the following:

(a) Persons, who buy and process mineral or mineral products for sale or for utilization for their own purposes beyond any lease area; and

(b) Any person, who owns a mining lease granted under the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 or the Jharkhand Minor Mineral concession Rules' 2004 issued by the Government' under the "Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act' 1957" ;

Non supply chain actors of the mica sector in Jharkhand

Sustainable supply chain systems have been initiated and are managed mainly by the market and civil society, without directly involving the government. During the last decade, a growing number of multi-actor governance systems aiming for sustainable production have emerged in the international supply chains. Market and civil society actors play a dominant role in initiating and governing these systems, while governments seem to be on the sideline.

3.3 Sustainability issues in the supply chain

Jharkhand has been a leading producer of mica since long. But due to various legal and environmental conflicts related to mining and processing of mica, the sourcing of mica has become a challenge in Jharkhand – and therefore has had a ripple effect on the entire supply chain. In spite of the closure of mica mining due to the above reasons, a considerable volume of mica still finds its way out through the ports of Calcutta and Chennai, which suggest the existence of illegally mined mica. For most other metals and minerals, mining companies use advanced technologies, adopt comprehensive environment protection measures, sensitize their personnel on sustainability issues and progressively try to improve their environmental performance. But in case of mica, the sector is dwindling for existence. Lack of adequate checks and balances and political interference at the local level, the situation has turned grim for those people engaged in this sector. Sustainability principles have application for all stages of mining life cycle – exploration, mine planning, construction, mineral extraction, mine closure and post-closure reclamation and rehabilitation. Two main pre-conditions for achieving sustainability are *good governance* and *self-regulating mining enterprises* which are economically viable, financially profitable and technically efficient.

Sustainable and Inclusive Mica sector in Jharkhand

Balancing interest of the State, business and people

Environmental

- Zero waste mining (resource efficiency, environmental mitigation)
- Forest Protection & conservation

Social

- Labour standards
- Community engagement

Economic & Governance

- Policy and legal environment
- Ethical and Responsible Business Practices
- Scientific Exploration and Mineral Development

Figure 13 depicts the overall framework of the roadmap based on the broad sustainability pillars and parameters for respective pillars: environmental, social and economic & governance

4. Roadmap for a sustainable and inclusive mica sector in Jharkhand

4.1 About the Roadmap

The table below is an indicative rolling roadmap for the sustainable and inclusive mica sector in Jharkhand and refined based on the on-ground progress and development of the sector. The roadmap has been designed keeping in mind sustainability is a path of learning and not a destination. Hence, the management concept of capability maturity model (CMM) has been used to define the stages of the mica industry from current scenario to a sustainable model. Capability is a more fundamental concept that has applicability across various contexts¹⁴. It guides the development efforts to build a culture of learning and collaboration that ensures the projects/processes are executed the “right way.” The goal is to conduct short-term improvement activities in such a way as to incrementally build the components of a robust system that can help guide the company to develop a more sustainable business model¹⁵.

The parameters indicated in the roadmap are based on the inputs received from various stakeholders and has been prioritized accordingly. The roadmap incorporates elements of SDF formulated by the Ministry of Mines, SDGs, and UNGPs. The roadmap is based on the capability maturity model and divided into phases of maturity:

1. **Initial:** Stage 1 or current stage; characterized by unpredictable, poorly controlled, reactive processes
2. **Transition:** Stage 2 or transition stage; derived Capability maturity model. As per the traditional model, the stage can be further divided into defined, managed and quantitatively managed. The transition of the scenario from reactive to being proactive; from uncontrolled unpredictable to being controlled and measured; from do not harm to beyond compliance. The traditional CMM stages has been compressed into one stage for easy understanding and implementation
3. **Optimised:** last and ideal maturity phase where processes and policies are defined, managed, controlled and measured and focused towards continual improvement

¹⁴ <https://www.pmi.org/learning/library/maturity-model-implementation-case-study-8882>

¹⁵ <https://www.lifecycleinitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/LCM-CMM-Workbook-24.10.2015.pdf>

4.2 Roadmap for a sustainable and inclusive mica industry in Jharkhand

Indicators for Sustainable and Inclusive Mica Supply Chain	Supply Chain	Initial (Year 0) <i>Starting point; Unpredictable, poorly controlled, reactive processes</i>	Transition (1-4 years) <i>Transition phase, characterized by steps being taken to ensure movement towards controlled and measured</i>	Optimized (4-7 years) <i>Ensuring and maintaining focus on continual improvement, achieving stability</i>
Policy and legal environment	<i>Sourcing</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enforcement of Forest Protection Act 1980 leading to stoppage of underground mica mining and non-renewal of leases • No rights of local communities vis-a-vis collection of mica from the 'dumpsites' (near abandoned erstwhile mines) in forest areas • Illegal mica mining continues especially in forested areas, across the two districts (Koderma and Giridih), and trucks loaded with mica are regularly confiscated • Auction of either mica dumps or underground mining process does not involve any stakeholder 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Committee under the Chair of Chief Secretary, Govt. of Jharkhand to review Policy and Legislation pertaining to Mica sector, and initiate required Reforms • Clarity on roles and responsibilities of relevant Government departments, industry associations as well as other stakeholders in the reform process • Foolproof monitoring mechanism to keep a check on any illegal sourcing of mica especially from forested areas • Centralised Electronic Database with full details of each dumpsite maintained by JSMD • Auction process is discussed and planned with local institutions - Panchayati Raj 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% of the umps auctioned; win-win situation for community, government as well as private players • 100% adoption of elements of STAR Rating scheme in underground mining sites • Scientific Reforestation and reclamation done in all the sites • Centralised Electronic Database updated with all information of all dumpsites

		<p>engagement or consultation. Primarily driven by state government (Department of Mines issues leases). Few mica dumps outside forest areas have been auctioned, implementation challenges remain. No information on local employment generation, wages being paid</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private mica entrepreneurs (SMEs) find the pricing too high (large mica dumps) to participate in the auction (and demanding 'smaller mica dumps to be auctioned'; quantity of mica available is difficult to predict • Area and price too high for individual industry to bid; • Financial risks high since the quantity of mica available is not proportional to the price being paid by industries; will be exhausted in very less span • JSMD and Department of Geology have 	<p>Institutions (PRIs) are involved to ensure local benefits (local employment with minimum wages, adequate Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) measures, revenue sharing with PRIs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 'Price Setting Mechanism' is in place in the State, with representatives of industry, government, mining experts, NGOs, to ensure consistency, transparency and accountability in setting of price for mica (both sourced from mica dumpsites and underground mining) • Smaller sized dumps are auctioned; this will not only lessen the price of dumps but also encourage more local industries to participate and invest; • Upto 50% of the dumps auctioned. Scientific reforestation and reclamation done in these sites where dump is removed • Underground mining is undertaken, drawing elements from STAR rating scheme (integrated in auctioning of blocks) to meet 	
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		<p>initiated a process towards identification of new mining blocks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little or no information in public domain. Not much information about coordination with other relevant Government Departments and process of price setting of blocks 	<p>social, economic and environmental objectives</p>	
	<i>Processing & Trading</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industry observers feel anomalies in the Bihar Mica Act 1945 pertaining to size of mica and area of the dumps have to be addressed at the earliest. Need to address other gaps considering the other rules and notifications • The Jharkhand Mineral Dealer's Rules 2007 to regulate the possession, storage, trading and transport of minerals and mineral products and to check the evasion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address the framework of transportation of mica from source with a valid dealer license; enlisting and GPS tracking of vehicles to be formalized to ensure legal sourcing of mica • A decentralised system of monitoring the effectiveness of the reforms in trading and movement of mica is established at the Block Level (of important mica producing blocks of Giridih and Koderma) - achieve 75% reduction in cases of 'non-registration' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% registration achieved and maintained • Incentives for good performers among mining lease holders

		<p>of royalty or seigniorage fee, stopping of illegal mining and transportation in the State; mandates registration of dealers; process is cumbersome and time taking;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As per Jharkhand Minerals (Prevention of illegal mining, transportation and storage) 2017 all entities granted registration under these rules have been authorized to store, engage in transaction to buy and sell mica. The registration process has been slow and cumbersome (requiring multiple clearances), further there is considerable information asymmetry about registration process among mica industry actors; • On 31.07.2018, an EoI has been launched for Empanelment of Vendors to Enlist Vehicle Tracking Devices for Mineral Transporting Vehicles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Streamline the dealer registration process especially for individuals dealers; online challan system should be promoted; a Help Desk can also be very useful to facilitate the process especially for less educated people engaged in the trade • System of obtaining registration for trading is made simple 	
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		in the State; for bringing efficiency to logistics and prevent illegal mining; For this purpose, installation of Vehicle Tracking Device (VTD) in all trucks registered for transportation of minerals in the state will be made mandatory		
	<i>User industry</i>	Mica and mica-based products are used by a number of industries especially cosmetics, paints, automobile, plastic, electric and electronic. There is little or no awareness among these users about the source of mica and the challenges in Koderma and Giridih (Jharkhand). Therefore, there has been no engagement of these industries (and their respective Industry Associations) on policy and legal issues in Mica.	(i) Industry Associations from the user industry commits to using 100% 'legally sourced' mica from Jharkhand (ii) User companies starts engaging with their suppliers/vendors to develop systems on 'traceability' (iii) User companies and/or Industry Associations engage with relevant State Government departments on the issue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industry Associations uses a 'Carrot & Stick Approach' to ensure user industry continues its commitment on 100% legally sourced mica and engages with supply chain actors to monitor impacts on local communities from sourcing • Industry users maintain a robust system to monitor the source of mica being used and sustainability issues in supply chain (especially around sourcing)

Zero waste mining (resource efficiency, environmental mitigation)	<i>Sourcing</i>	<p>Currently, mica dumps are being utilised for sourcing of mica. No information available about impact on local environment and stabilisation need for the dump area through reforestation, or any other means, once dumps are cleared</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proper and innovative technology to minimize waste generated during the process of dump clearance • Reclamation processes initiated in all dump sites based on scientific assessment (help sought from Institutions like Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad) focused on soil, water conservation and afforestation • Proper and innovative technology to minimize waste generated during the process of mining is adopted in underground mining. High standards of safety and management of mines (drawing reference from STAR Rating, Ministry of Mines) • Suitable waste management techniques in place to use/reuse/recycle waste as much as possible • Use of MIS/ GIS/ Mining Planning software for optimum resource exploitation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substantially reduce waste generation in underground mining (Performance assessed vis-a-vis STAR rating indicators) • Underground mining is done with the principle of 'zero waste mining' by adopting the 5Rs (Reduce, reuse, recycle, recovery and residual management)
	<i>Processing & Trading</i>	<p>Currently, mica dumps are being utilised for sourcing of mica. No information available about impact on local environment and stabilisation need for the dump area through reforestation, or any other means, once dumps are cleared</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proper and innovative technology to minimize waste generated during the process of mining is adopted in underground mining. High standards of safety and management of mines (drawing reference from STAR Rating, Ministry of Mines) • Suitable waste management techniques in place to use/reuse/recycle waste as much as possible • Use of MIS/ GIS/ Mining Planning software for optimum resource exploitation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substantially reduce waste generation in underground mining (Performance assessed vis-a-vis STAR rating indicators) • Underground mining is done with the principle of 'zero waste mining' by adopting the 5Rs (Reduce, reuse, recycle, recovery and residual management)
	<i>User industry</i>	<p>No information available to user industry about environmental impact of mica sourcing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support in financing for use of innovative technology in mining activities • Enable access to technology for the local mica processors to 	<p>User industry works with supply chain actors including miners and processors to promote high environmental performance standards</p>

			minimize waste and energy use	
Forest Protection & conservation	<i>Sourcing</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enforcement of Forest Protection Act 1980 leading to stoppage of underground mica mining and non-renewal of leases • No rights of local communities vis-a-vis collection of mica from the 'dumpsites' (near abandoned erstwhile mines) in forest areas • Illegal mica mining continues especially forested areas, across the two districts (Koderma and Giridih), and trucks loaded with mica are regularly confiscated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reforestation is undertaken in reclaimed land, planned and executed by dumpsite/mine owners and district forest department • Soil and water conservation interventions undertaken through cooperation among relevant district level departments in reclaimed land 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful soil and water conservation interventions in mining areas • Successful reforestation on reclaimed land, lead to increase in forest cover in block/district
	<i>Processing & Trading</i>			
		<i>User industry</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • User industry mostly unaware of the complications at the sourcing level in this regard 	

Labour standards ¹⁶	<i>Sourcing</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No information related to wages levels • Labour standards are mostly not met due to the disputable nature of the industry • Lack of Safety Measures including PPE (gloves, shoes, jackets, masks etc) make mica pickers highly vulnerable to health risks • Unsafe working conditions and frequent deaths in the occupation; information on compensation during such accidents not found • Negative health impacts on workers and their families due to unsafe working conditions and lack of awareness on those issues • Lack of access to proper health and medical facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legalization will directly impact the wages of the workers; minimum wages norms is observed (skilled, semi skilled and unskilled workers) • Department of Labour to monitor wages and benefits for workers • All Miners and processors achieve Zero-Accident in their premises • Frequent awareness activities pertaining to Occupational Health and Safety held • Regular check-up and medical support provided by District Health Department for mine workers to minimize health risks and provide health (and nutrition) support • Pickers and workers to be covered under appropriate insurance and other benefits in case of any mishap • Grievance mechanism is made simple and accessible for workers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum wages and benefits for all workers • Zero-Accident is maintained across all mines • All Workers are linked up with prevailing government programmes, schemes for benefits for them and their families • Grievance mechanism is functional and effective • Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all
	<i>Processing & Trading</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As per information, minimum wages are being paid to the workers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of District Mineral Foundation funds in Koderma and Giridih for welfare of mine workers 	

¹⁶ Covers freedom of association and collective bargaining; elimination of forced or compulsory labour; abolition of child labour; elimination of discrimination in employment and occupation, OHS; labour administration; employment policy; working time; wages, social security, migrant workers; based on ILO standards

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pickers and workers mostly unaware of the health impacts 	and communities near mining areas (focusing on 'priority needs' viz. mine safety, education, healthcare, water and sanitation)	
	<i>User industry</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of traceability, responsibility and accountability in the supply chain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote transparency and accountability across the suppliers • Adoption of zero tolerance towards any human rights violation • Build capacity of suppliers to ensure meeting the standards and compliances of labour standard • Ensure compliance with international labour core standards 	
Community engagement¹⁷	<i>Sourcing</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People and their families living near mica dump sites/abandoned mines still dependent on collection of mica for living (illegal miners use this to carry on mica collection, unlawfully) • School drop-outs common, schools have infrastructure related problems, low teacher to children ratio • Little or no 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community representatives (under the aegis of PRIs) are engaged in planning of mica collection (for both dump auction and mining process) to ensure local communities get benefited, and fairness in process and outcomes • Livelihood programmes are drawn up to improve alternative livelihoods of communities - especially engaging youth and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All children of school going age attend school regularly and are also provided nutritious 'mid-day meals' • Effective functioning of healthcare and sanitation programmes and coverage of all families • Successful and widespread implementation of livelihood programmes, especially improving and empowering youth and women (Jharkhand Livelihood Mission, as a nodal agency extending

¹⁷ Covers social feasibility, fairness in process and outcomes, trust building, face to face engagement, complaint management) and benefit sharing (local jobs & procurement, livelihood promotion, benefit programmes, employee volunteerism, innovative financing)

		<p>alternative livelihood opportunities for families</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stoppage of mica sourcing will adversely affect communities and their families income; directly impacted 	<p>women (Jharkhand Livelihood Mission programmes are extended to these communities)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Groups are formed by villagers (under PRIs) and manage collection, transportation and trading of mica from their areas 	<p>support)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community groups are formed in each of Koderma and Giridih districts which are involved in sourcing and trading of 'legal' mica and are officially part of legal/organized supply chains
	<i>Processing & Trading</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Villagers involved with transportation of mica are caught by local authorities (forest and police) if they don't possess valid documents for transportation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formation of SHGs to especially empower women in the communities • Use of District Mineral Foundation funds in Koderma and Giridih for welfare of mine workers and communities near mining areas (focusing on 'priority needs' viz. mine safety, education, healthcare, water and sanitation) 	
	<i>User industry</i>	<p>Little or no information available about issues and challenges in communities near mica dumpsites and erstwhile underground mines</p>	<p>Leading user companies engage in some of the communities for undertaking CSR programmes focused on healthcare, nutrition, water, sanitation and livelihood</p>	<p>Successful implementation of CSR programmes by user companies - which demonstrate benefits to communities</p>

Ethical and Responsible Business Practices	<i>Sourcing</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non recognition of sourcing related issues among the businesses especially at the user industry level • Non compliance issues with regards to policies and laws with respect to social issues • Very little information and clarity in this regard • Reports of child labour has done fair bit of damage for the sector • NGOs, government and industries working towards child protection and prevention of child labour but still a long way to go 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Putting in place processes, policies and management systems for efficient monitoring and evaluation of business operation; moving towards effective compliance and beyond compliance; covering all aspects of responsible business (social, economic and environmental) • Practice responsible sourcing and bring about elements of sustainability across the supply chain • Introduction of a 'Code of Conduct' by user companies for all supply chain actors that encourages responsible mining - and its implementation through partnerships among supply chain actors • Strict implementation of rules that protect children and women from any adverse effect of mica mining, trading or processing • Safeguard in place to prevent and take necessary actions in case of collusive practices in mica mining, trading or processing • Introduce formal codes of practice, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms, especially in the supply chain • Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle • Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities • Facilitate knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality in the region • Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour
	<i>Processing & Trading</i>			

			<p>existing guidelines, voluntary initiatives, monitoring and reporting practices, regulatory framework, and information related to human rights issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define role and responsibilities of a corporation for human rights along with role and responsibilities of the state and community 	
	<i>User industry</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • User companies cover information pertaining to implications on mica mining communities (in their supply chain) as part of their Annual Sustainability Report, GRI Reporting 	
Scientific Exploration and Mineral Development	<i>Sourcing</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Underground mining is currently banned • Department of Geology and Department of Mines, Govt of Jharkhand are using GIS for exploration of mica mining blocks, that are likely to be licensed in the near future • No further information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientific methods are adopted for exploration of mica (including from underground mining), and the information is used to determine prices • Investment in innovative technology and infrastructure to meet highest levels of mining safety (Zero accident) • Scientific information is used to develop a time-specific mica exploration and development plan (to ensure there is 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective implementation of the mica exploration and development plan • Transparency and Accountability is achieved across the mining and processing segments of the industry (using scientific evidence and methods)

			<p>transparency and information to industry players)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial institutions come on board and assist local industries in mining and processing (ensure human rights and environmental risks are mitigated) 	
	<i>Processing & Trading</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modernisation of local processing industry, based on financial support and incentives available to the local entrepreneurs • Development of a Centre of Excellence on Mica (Koderma or Giridih) to inspire local industry actors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of Mica Sector is recognised as a 'good sector case' and inspires similar strategies in other Minor Minerals
	<i>User Industry</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • User industry engage closely with the local processing industry and mining companies to share 'good practices' 	

To enable full implementation of the roadmap, the integration of sustainability values has to be at three levels across the mica value and supply chain. This is essential for greater coordination, collaboration, learning and innovation in the sector-all indicators of thriving business growth.

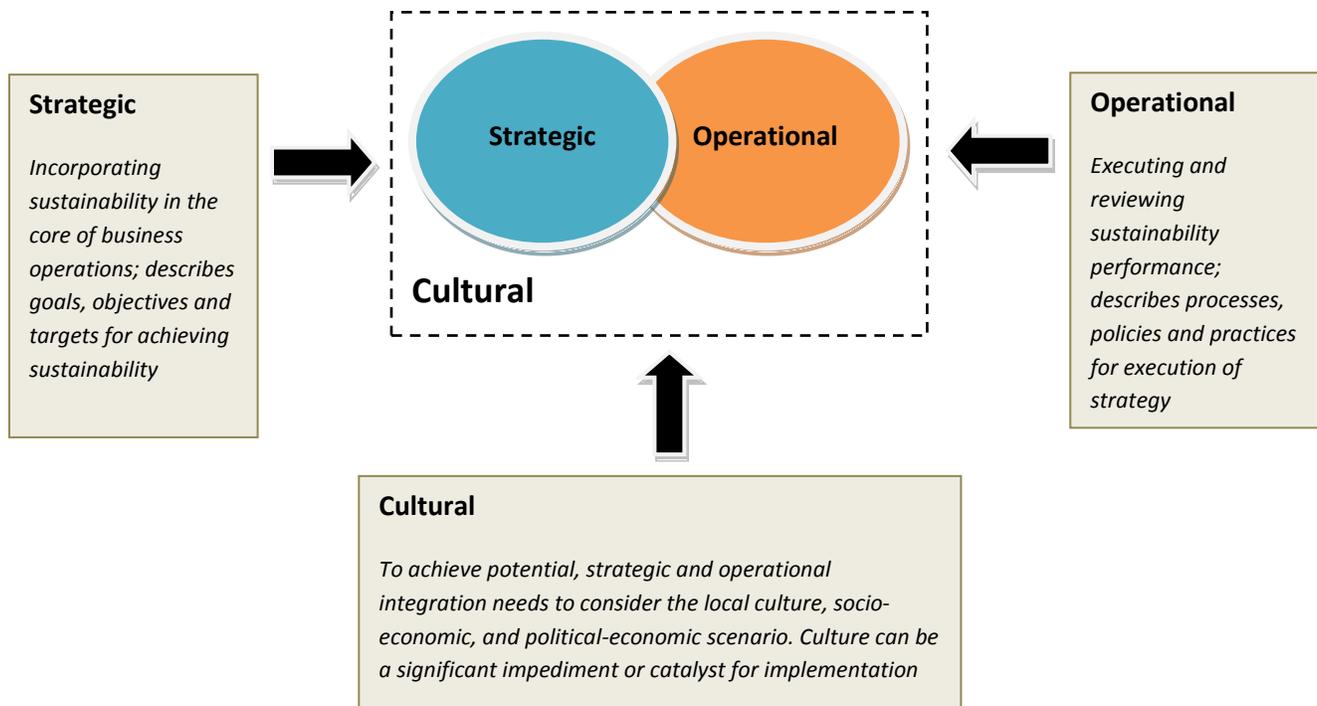


Figure 14 shows integration of sustainability values has to be at three levels across the mica value and supply chain: Strategic, operational and cultural

5. Operational Plan for the Roadmap & Multi stakeholder forum on Responsible Mica in Jharkhand

5.1 Operational strategy for the roadmap

The operational strategy provides an overall idea on how the roadmap can be implemented at a ground level which has to be further refined based on inputs received from relevant stakeholders. Flowchart below shows how different aspects of the roadmap can be addressed and taken forward.

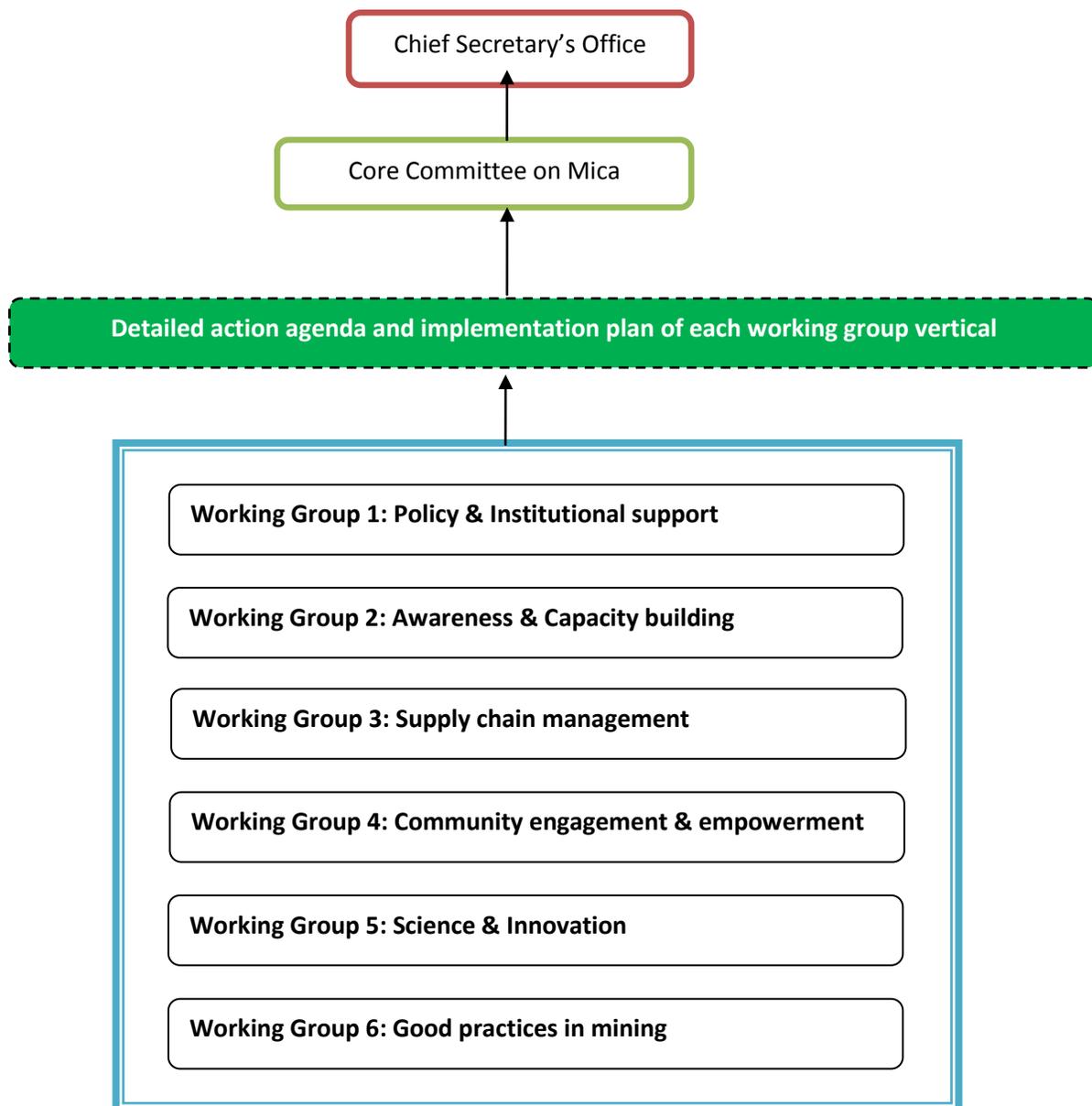


Fig 15 shows the overall operational framework required for the implementation of the roadmap in Jharkhand

Based on the current situation of the sector and expected milestones to be achieved in the next 7 years (please refer to table 1); six 6 programme verticals are identified to enable the implementation of the roadmap. They are as follows:

i. Policy & Institutional support:

- Need for certain policy reforms for survival of the industry; Reforms especially with regards to hassle free dealer registration, forest protection and conservation and safe mining and legal procurement of mica
- Specific roles of Government at various levels (district, local, state and central); central govt can provide the push to the state government for policy reforms and state govt further provide impetus to implementation at the ground level by coordinating with the local administration
- Collaborative efforts and interaction with strategic stakeholders (central, state and local governance, industry, NGOs/CSOs and other actors) jointly develop innovative solutions toward sustainability while exchanging knowledge and enhancing effectiveness

ii. Awareness and Capacity building of the supply and non supply chain actors:

- Level of awareness and recognition of issues of responsible sourcing still in its nascent stage among the private sector
- Recognition of the issues related to the survival and sustainability of the industry
- Need for discussion at micro level across the supply chain
- Ensure greater coordination among the value chain actors starting from the community to the user industry, information sharing

iii. Supply chain management:

- Overall improve the sustainability performance of the mica supply chain.
- Fast paced growth of user industries (especially - automobiles, ICT/ electronics, electrical, paints, plastic and cosmetics) indicating considerable demand for mica both domestically and internationally; hence need for organization of the supply chain in Jharkhand to ensure consistent supply and competitiveness
- Need for responsibility, accountability and transparency across the supply chain

iv. Community engagement & empowerment:

- Ensure greater coordination among the value chain actors starting from the community to the user industry, information sharing, capacity building and participatory process; Community engagement being the cornerstone in this process
- Empower the mining communities to improve the status and living standard

v. Science & Innovation:

- Scientific methods adopted for exploration of mica
- Investment in innovative technology and infrastructure to meet highest levels of mining safety
- Modernisation of local processing industry, based on financial support and incentives available to the local entrepreneurs
- Development of a Centre of Excellence on Mica (Koderma or Giridih) to inspire local industry actors

vi. Good practices in mining:

- Protection of labour and human rights along with enhancing global competitiveness and economic benefits
- Exchange of information and knowledge sharing on good practices across the globe in the mining sector
- Ensure ethical and responsible practices across the supply chain

From the operational point of view, the above mentioned six verticals can be constituted into six working groups who would be responsible for developing the strategy, planning and implementation of the verticals. Each working group will comprise a Convener along with professionals and subject experts who would formulate the action and implementation plan for the vertical. Each working group will further submit their programmatic action and implementation plans to the Core Committee. The Core committee will then be responsible for finalizing the same and submitting the plans to the Chief Secretary's office. The Core Committee may also comprise the conveners from each working group, over and above other relevant members.



Fig 16 shows the steps to be taken for implementation of the roadmap for the programme verticals

5.2 Multi stakeholder forum on Responsible Mica in Jharkhand

India has the potential to play a significant role in driving sustainable practices in the mica sector. It is proposed that a coalition be established to facilitate collaboration across the value chain both in the domestic production and import markets to promote the inclusive growth of the mica industry. The forum will work towards addressing barriers and challenges by taking into consideration the unique characteristics of the sector in India focusing on aspects including policy, production best practices, trade linkages and consumer sensitization to sustainability.

Goals

Promote responsible and inclusive industrial growth and trade of mica and its derivatives in India along the supply chain, through industry collaboration, ensuring:

- Adherence to applicable laws, acts, statutes and policies
- Adoption of best practices and commitment to continuous improvement
- Commitment to conserving natural resources, biodiversity and broader environment
- Respect for human rights and ethical treatment of affected stakeholders including workers and employees
- Commitment to transparency and disclosure at all levels of supply chain
- Commitment to ethical and fair business practices
- Commitment to long term economic and financial viability

Objectives

Improve overall sustainability performance of companies operating across the supply chain by:

- Establishing broad-based dialogue on supportive policy environment and regulation
- Creating broader industry and consumer awareness on sustainability issues and commitment to responsible sourcing policies and practices
- Building sustainable trade and responsible business partnerships through links with similar platforms in user industries and countries

Core committee & Action Plan

The core committee will ensure the overall functioning of the multi-stakeholder forum and comprise of six working groups based on the programme verticals as discussed previously. To ensure positive momentum, it is suggested that the forum prioritize focus areas and develop and implement action plans through these working groups. The committee may include, but not limited to, the following kind of stakeholders to ensure balance of opinion and inputs:

- Convener of each programme verticals
- Government officials/leaders
- Influencers in the domain

- Industry associations
- Community based organisations
- Supply Chain Actors: End Users & Experienced entrepreneurs from local mica industry
- Local administrators

About Centre for Responsible Business

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Social Accountability International (SAI) and Business Social Compliance Initiative (BSCI) partnered through a three-year (2010-2013) development partnership project in India to incubate a centre of excellence for development of capacity building initiatives in the domain of business responsibility and voluntary standards. The incubated centre was registered as a not-for-profit entity, Centre for Responsible Business (CRB), in November 2011 under the Indian Societies Registration Act, 1860.

The Centre for Responsible Business (CRB) is an independent centre of excellence, working with business and stakeholders to promote responsible business strategies, policies and practices. Based out of New Delhi and global orientation, CRB's activities are organized under four verticals in CSR and Sustainability domains:

- Customized Advisory Services
- Action and Policy Research
- Training and Capacity Building
- Convening Knowledge Forums

Our foundation is driven by these four verticals that facilitates an ecosystem for uptake on sustainable business practices and create impact on the ground. Over the years, we have pioneered multi-stakeholder engagement on sustainable business related issues in India. CRB finds the framework of voluntary sustainability standards as a prime tool to adhere to with sustainable business practices. CRB's commitment towards promotion of responsible business practices lies in developing tools and linkages of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

For more information on the report, please contact us at sohini.gupta@c4rb.org