



Sustainable Manufacturing and Environmental Pollution

SUPPORTING SOLUTIONS FOR A CLEANER FUTURE

SMEP SUPPORTS RESEARCH AND PILOTS THAT GENERATE SOLUTIONS TO POLLUTION, INFORMING POLICY AND SCALING IMPACT ACROSS SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA AND SOUTH ASIA FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE.



LINEAPELLE 2025

Official Side Event

Partnerships for innovation and policy action for sustainable leather



TANNERIES INTERVENTION

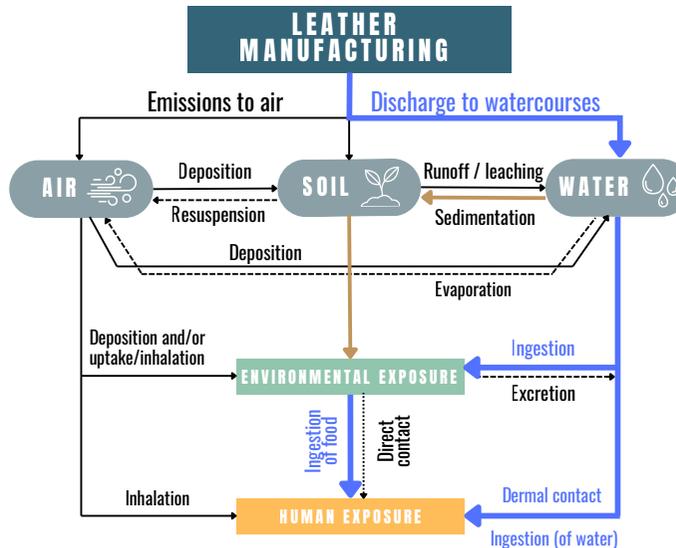
Leather production, with origins over 7,000 years ago, continues to serve as a major export sector. Derived as a by-product of the meat industry, leather is part of the **circular economy** and remains one of the most **durable bio-based products** in use today.

Despite its durability and rich heritage, leather production poses serious environmental and health risks when waste and chemicals are not properly managed. To address these challenges, **SMEP is supporting four consortiums** with targeted interventions across the leather value chain in **Bangladesh, Pakistan and Ethiopia** focusing on:

1. Capacity building for environmental and social compliance
2. Innovative approaches to waste valorisation
3. Biotechnology reducing chemical use in tanning
4. Systems enabling traceability from hide to final product

The below diagram shows the **pollution pathways associated with leather manufacture**. Blue and brown lines indicate the more important contaminant pathways (blue being the most important).

For more information and references, please refer to resources and projects



RESOURCES & PROJECTS

Please follow the QR code links to access SMEP resources and projects



Manufacturing pollution in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia



Trade-led innovative solutions for sustainable leather



Mitigating Tannery Pollution in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia

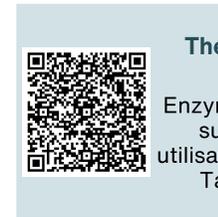


Understanding traceability and due diligence in the leather supply chain



Savar Tanneries Project:

Improving environmental and social conditions in the Tannery Industrial Estate in Savar, Bangladesh.



The Green Tannery Initiative:

Enzymatic unhairing and sustainable waste utilisation in the Ethiopian Tanneries Sector.



LeatherTrace Bangladesh:

Traceable and circular leather production in Bangladesh.



Pakistan Leather Sustainability:

Traceability, cleaner production and circularity in Pakistan's Leather Sector





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SMEP IMPACT

1,168 Tonnes PLASTIC WASTE DIVERTED

28,256 Tonnes ORGANIC WASTE DIVERTED

240 Kilolitres WASTEWATER TREATED

6,631 tCO₂e GHG EMISSIONS AVOIDED

17,642 Tonnes TRACED TEXTILE WASTE

3,590 Beneficiaries BENEFITTED FROM SMEP PROJECTS

SUPPORTING 27 PILOTS ACROSS SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA AND SOUTH ASIA

The Sustainable Manufacturing and Environmental Pollution (SMEP) Programme aims to address the environmental and human health impacts of the manufacturing sector in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, and some of the most pressing challenges associated with plastic pollution.

Funded through UK International Development, £24.6 million has been committed to deliver research and related interventions to meet Programme objectives. The SMEP Programme was commissioned in mid-2019 and will run until October 2026.



www.smepprogramme.org

SMEP TARGET GEOGRAPHY



SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

- Ethiopia
- Ghana
- Kenya
- Nigeria
- South Africa
- Uganda
- Zimbabwe



SOUTH ASIA

- Bangladesh
- Nepal
- Pakistan

The SMEP Programme is funded by UK International Development and is implemented in partnership with the UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) who provide technical support. UK International Development have appointed a Project Management Agent (PMA) to manage programme delivery. The PMA comprises a consortium partnership between Pegasys and SouthSouthNorth.

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