

## Green Shift - Shaping a Plastic-Free Future of Cafeteria and Shops on Campus:

The SCIP Plastics project successfully organized a workshop titled "Green Shift - Shaping a Plastic-Free Future of Cafeteria and Shops on Campus" at the Knowledge Transfer Hub building on 27 January 2024. The workshop aimed at fostering sustainable practices within the KUET Campus. The event was organized and conducted jointly by the Working Group V (WGV) members and the Awareness Centre (AWC) team. A total of twenty-one participants, comprising hall chefs, shop and tea stall staffs, and cafeteria staffs, actively took part in the workshop. Besides Jenya Parvin, Coordinator, and Sadia Islam, Accounts Officer representing the Green Nari Kalyan Foundation, also attended the program.



Prof. Rafizul in his inaugural speech

### Objectives of the program:

- Increasing awareness about plastic pollution.
- Promoting jute as an eco-friendly alternative.
- Facilitating knowledge exchange about potential plastic substitution by jute.
- Inspiring commitment to a plastic-free future.
- Developing practical plans for jute implementation.

**Tools/Methods:** Presentations, Knowledge Exchange Session (Word café), Provision of Resources

**Main Event:** The workshop kicked off with an insightful speech by Prof Dr. Rafizul Islam, Project Director, who warmly welcomed the participants and expressed gratitude for their time. Prof. Dr. Khondoker Mahbub Hassan, Scientific Supervisor, followed with a brief address, extending a warm welcome to each participant for their valuable time. Subsequently, members of WGV introduced themselves, and representatives from the Awareness Center and Knowledge Transfer Hub also presented their introductions.



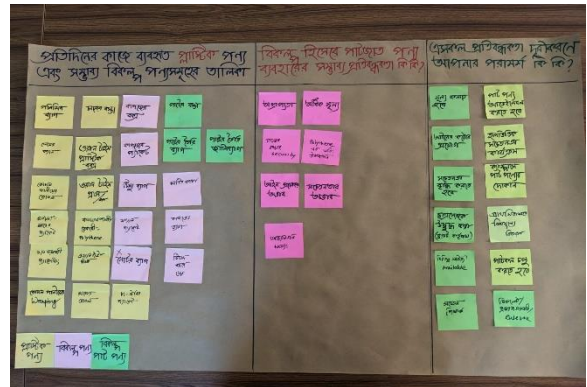
Presentation by Dr. Farjana & Mehedi

Dr. Farjana Khan, Research Associate, initiated the first presentation focusing on plastic pollution and its effects. Md. Mehedi Hassan Masum, Research Assistant, also contributed to helping participants grasp the subject. The presentation covered crucial topics, including an overview of plastic pollution, the current scenario, advocating for the use of jute instead of plastics at KUET Hall, the benefits of using jute bags, a comparison between jute and plastic bags, and a call for motivation to commit to working together.

After break, the Awareness Centre Team conducted a Knowledge Exchange Session in a word cafe format. Participants were divided into two groups: Group A and Group B. Sheikh Enjamamul

Haque, Head of Awareness Centre; and Fahima Akter, Environmental Education Assistant/Trainer moderated Group A, while Ankon Singh, Secretary of Awareness Centre; and S. M. Nahin Rahaman, Communication Designer moderated Group B. Each group discussed three questions: identifying plastic products used in everyday life and their alternatives, obstacles to using jute products as plastic substitutes, and ways to overcome these obstacles.

After a 20-minute discussion, the groups were interchanged to share their perspectives for another 10 minutes. It was evident that participants were enthusiastic about incorporating jute bags into their shops and sought guidance on implementation.



Knowledge Exchange Session by AWC Team

Ankon from the Awareness Center finally presented the summary of the findings of the session before the participants, emphasizing the importance of participants' valuable opinions and suggestions. The findings of the Knowledge Exchange Session is summarized on the next page for a quick overview.

**Findings of Knowledge Exchange Session by AWC Team**

<b>List of plastic products used in daily life and possible alternative products</b>	<b>What are the potential drawbacks of using jute products as an alternative?</b>	<b>What are your suggestions to overcome these obstacles?</b>
<p><b>Plastic Products:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Polythene bag</li> <li>• Rice sack</li> <li>• Vegetable carrying bag</li> <li>• Egg cage</li> <li>• Oil jar</li> <li>• One-time box</li> <li>• One-time cup</li> <li>• One-time spoon</li> <li>• Rope</li> <li>• Drinks Bottle</li> <li>• Drinks bottle wrapper</li> <li>• Bakery product packet</li> <li>• Salt pot for table</li> <li>• Jug</li> <li>• Salt and masala packet</li> <li>• Sauce's pot</li> <li>• Vim's packet</li> <li>• Net Bag</li> <li>• Tea and sugar packet</li> </ul> <p><b>Alternative Jute Products:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jute sack</li> <li>• Jute bag (variety size)</li> <li>• Jute rope</li> <li>• Fiber Net Bag of Jute</li> </ul> <p><b>Alternative Other Products:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paper box</li> <li>• Paper packet</li> <li>• Clothing bag</li> <li>• Tissue bag</li> <li>• Foil packet</li> <li>• Clay cup/paper cup</li> <li>• Tin oil jar</li> <li>• Glass bottle for drinks</li> <li>• Vim liquid in bottle</li> <li>• Salt pot of glass</li> <li>• Glass jug</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Costly: Potential increase in the final product price with jute bags</li> <li>• Lack of awareness</li> <li>• Behavioral problem</li> <li>• Unavailability of jute products</li> <li>• The inner layer of the rice sack bag is made of plastic</li> <li>• Lack of law enforcement</li> <li>• Overproduction and oversupply of polythene</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Free distribution of jute bags for a limited period</li> <li>• Availability of various sizes of jute bags</li> <li>• On-Campus Availability of Jute Products</li> <li>• Revitalizing the Jute Mills</li> <li>• Strengthening law enforcement measures</li> <li>• Enhancement of public awareness initiatives</li> <li>• Conducting awareness activities within the halls</li> <li>• Active involvement of KUET authority</li> <li>• Provision of low-cost jute bags</li> <li>• Installation of a jute shop on the KUET campus</li> <li>• Launching an awareness-raising campaign for both teachers and students</li> <li>• Distribution of leaflets and rulebooks</li> </ul>

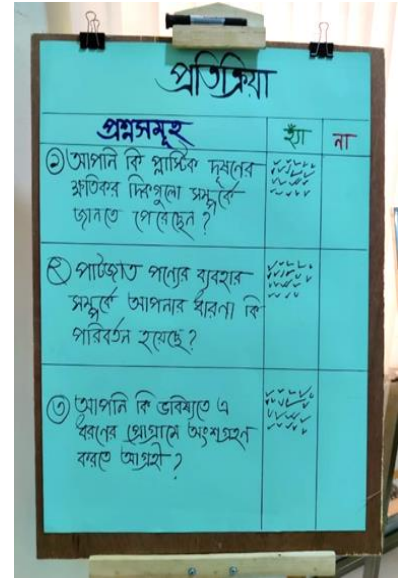
Nishat Tasnim Nisha, Research Assistant then gave her presentation, focusing on creating a friendly environment, social responsibility, ensuring a better environment for future generations, and practical steps like requesting shops to provide only jute sack bags, using jute carrier bags while shopping, and encouraging customers to choose jute bags.

The program concluded with a feedback session where participants expressed their opinions using tick and cross signs. Jute bags and honorariums were distributed as a gesture of appreciation.

In conclusion, there is now an urgent need to prepare a comprehensive plan for the implementation of jute shops, building on the momentum generated by the workshop.

**Outcomes of the program:**

- ✓ Raised awareness about plastic pollution and its environmental consequences.
- ✓ Promoted the use of jute as a viable alternative to plastic products.
- ✓ Generated ideas about the general requirements for implementing jute bags on the KUET campus.
- ✓ Inspired a commitment to behavioral change and social responsibility among attendees.



Feedback from the Participants