



MINUTES OF THE FOURTH MEETING FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2022-23 OF MANAGING COMMITTEE OF ACTION ALLIANCE FOR RECYCLING BEVERAGE CARTONS "AARC" HELD ON THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 2023 AT 11:45 AM VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING

The meeting was held via video conferencing due to outbreak of COVID-19

Time: 11:45 A.M to 12:40 P.M

MEMBERS PRESENT:

NAME	ORGANISATION
Mr. Ashutosh Manohar – Chairman of the Meeting	Tetra Pak India Private Limited (Tetra Pak)
Cdr. Amitabha Ray	Schreiber Dynamix Dairies Private Limited (Schreiber)
Mr. Tusar Ranjan Pattnaik	Dabur India Limited (Dabur)
Mr. Rohan Mishra	Coca-Cola India Private Limited
Mr. Ashish Agarwal	Parle Agro Private Limited
Mr. Ganesh Narayanswami	John Distilleries Private Limited

SPECIAL INVITEES:

NAME	ORGANISATION
Dr. Praveen Aggarwal	CEO of AARC
Mr. Rajat Kumar & Ms. Garima Tewari	Volunteers of AARC
Mr. Sharad Sharma & Mr. Himanshu Priyadarshi	Tetra Pak India Private Limited (Tetra Pak)
Mr. Aditya Vasishtha	Coca-Cola India Private Limited
Ms. Divya Pahwa & Mr. Hemant Yadav	Invitees



1. QUORUM AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

Dr. Praveen Aggarwal, CEO of AARC opened the meeting welcoming the Members of Management Committee and ascertained the quorum of the meeting.

Mr. Ashutosh Manohar was elected as Chairman of the Meeting.

Members of the Managing Committee attended the meeting through audio-visual mode.

No confirmation on attending the meeting was received from Ms. Swathi Reddy, Authorised Representative of Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF). Hence, leave of absence was granted.

The agenda for this meeting, as already circulated, was placed and read for discussion with the members.

2. TO REVIEW & CONFIRM MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MANAGING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 21ST DECEMBER, 2022

Minutes of the previous meeting held on 21st December, 2022 were placed for perusal and the same were read and confirmed.

3. UPDATION ON DATA UPLOADING ON EPR PORTAL OF THE CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD (CPCB)

Dr. Praveen Aggarwal apprised the members about the information being asked by CPCB from registered PIBOs to upload the transaction details on EPR portal for plastic packaging through issuing notice dated February 21, 2023. As this process was quite complex with having strict timelines, AARC had reached out to CPCB and Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of India (MoEFCC) to provide relaxation as well as help in getting the data upload in a less complex way.

He further briefed that a meeting with Additional Secretary was held on March 10, 2023 after diligent follow-ups, thereafter the industry was given assurance of support by the Ministry. Further, AARC had also taken up the concerns of the industry related to uploading GST invoices & challenge of confidentiality with member Secretary. This delegation was led by Mr. Sharad from Tetra Pak and Mr. Ashish from Parle.

He further stated that after considering AARC's constant efforts and request, MoEFCC had issued an Office Memorandum dated March 13, 2023 providing an extension till May 31, 2023 for uploading the said data for FY 2022-23 on EPR portal. Also, it was clearly stated that there is no need of uploading of GST invoices but a format would be provided by CPCB and same shall be required to be uploaded. However, CPCB may ask for few invoices, in case, required for clarification purposes.

He then stated that this had provided a much needed relief to the entire industry.



4. DISCUSSION ON BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR (FY) 2023-24

Dr. Aggarwal presented the budget estimates for FY 2023-24 in terms of projected income & expenses, administrative expenses and awareness project expenses estimates. Thereafter, detailed discussion was held on this matter.

On projected income, it was briefed that as Tetra Pak & SIG will contribute enhanced membership fee amounting to INR 10 Lakh as producer member, which has been agreed by both the members, shall be an additional income. He stated that AARC is expecting new members from the industry to join soon which would increase the projected income accordingly. Further, more funds are expected through organising workshops and other awareness activities during the upcoming financial year by requesting current members to contribute to the extent of INR 15 Lakhs.

The Chairman highlighted the need of support from the members for the required amount of funds. Mr. Aggarwal then stated that Tetra Pak has been a great support and the Company has been giving a major grant of INR 40 lakh / year to AARC. He then stated that AARC expect the same in this year also as this voluntary contribution helps to create a corpus.

After this, he further briefed on projected expenses, administrative expenses which have already been approved and are recurring in nature which includes project management & coordination expenses paid to Consocia Advisory, Social Media campaign and Legal & professional charges paid to KrayMan Consultants LLP and awareness project expenses which includes organising webinar for ecosystem, awareness & advocacy workshops in select states, travelling expenses related to excise policy matters, secretariat etc., and participation in events / exhibition. The MC approved the minor increase of the fees paid to Consocia Advisory for to Rs. 3,30,000 Rs. 3,80,000 per month and also approved the budgeted income and expenditure.

Members were then presented with tentative calendar of activity chart for upcoming FY (23-24) which includes the following activities:

- Awareness workshops in States
- Webinars
- Events & Exhibitions
- Advocacy with Central Government
- Alignment with CPCB
- Advocacy in select States

AARC team briefed the members on these activities. He explained that AARC is proposing to have one awareness workshop & one webinar in each quarter and stated the selected states for undertaking workshops which includes Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Delhi etc. AARC is looking to engage in any of the activities around World Environment Day in June after getting MC's approval and likewise in coming quarters also.

Dabur team appreciated the same and suggested to include Himachal Pradesh in selected states for undertaking awareness activities as this state is facing lot of problems. MC Members were



aligned with Mr. Tusar's views and further suggested to prioritise Delhi along with Maharashtra. Coke team recommended prioritising Delhi as well. Dr. Aggarwal agreed on this.

5. UPDATION ABOUT DISCUSSION WITH UP DISTILLERS' ASSOCIATION

The members were briefed about the meeting held with UP Distillers' Association (UPDA). Dr. Aggarwal further apprised the members that beverage cartons were initially not allowed in the packaging of alcoholic beverages and also stakeholders including Excise commissioner were misinformed about the collection & recyclability of the cartons. Therefore, AARC conducted a webinar with UPDA on February 7, 2023, wherein AARC presented and discussed the EPR regulations, latest policies mandate and the operational aspects of the collections & recycling of Paper-based beverage cartons and it was attended by all the major Alco-Bev players of UP. He further apprised that post this interaction, AARC secretariat have been assisting UPDA about the waste management agencies and recyclers working in the area to help them in their EPR projects.

6. UPDATION ON MEMBERSHIP DRIVE OF AARC

AARC team explained that AARC had been looking to expand its base through membership drive. He further stated that for upcoming FY, AARC has been targeting to include at least 2 new members from Producers & Brand owners and AARC secretariat had already reached out to following big brands to become a member of AARC.

1. GLS Elopak,
2. InBrew Beverages
3. Uflex

He apprised the members about their meeting with Elopak. He stated that AARC had visited their office in the month of January' 23 and had a great engagement with their leadership & operations team. Later on, Dr. Aggarwal had a meeting with the CEO of Elopak as well and Elopak had shown interest to become a part of AARC in the membership category for manufacturer of packaging material.

He then apprised the members about their meeting with InBrew Beverages wherein the leadership team including their sustainability head had been briefed about AARC and currently they have been reviewing the PPT which was shared with them. AARC is expecting a physical meeting in April to discuss the details. Similarly, AARC had been in touch with Uflex's team from past few months and they had shown a favourable response. Hence, a positive outcome may be expected soon.

Dr. Aggarwal then invited comments / views from the members present. Members were generally positive to the proposal.

7. AARC'S NEXT STEP ON THE MATTER RELATED TO TETRA LIES AND FORMATION OF APPELLATE COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL MEDIA ISSUES



To continue the discussion on fake and misleading information that Tetra Lies has been spreading about carton category over social media and the false claims, CEO further apprised that MEITY has launched a Grievance Appellate Committee (GAC) for a faceless dispute resolution mechanism. Hence, AARC has been working with the legal experts Anant Law, a law firm to file a representation to GAC for their examination of our appeal with the inclusion of the recent revival of Tetra lies. AARC shall approach High Court in case of receiving non-favourable response from GAC.

The Chairman stated that AARC should follow the experts advise and must follow the steps as prescribed.

8. OTHER AGENDA ITEMS

Dr. Aggarwal took up other agenda item with the permission of the Chairman.

A. AARC'S NEXT STEP ON POLICY ADVOCACY ON EPR

Dr. Aggarwal apprised the members about the upcoming issues / challenges that had been identified for the industry and which should require immediate attention in the times to come which were also mentioned in SGM dated 31st Jan'23.

He further stated below three challenges that should be approached on priority-

- I. With beverage cartons credentials to establish it as a recyclable category and identify it as a sub-category of category III, advocate to distinguish cartons from non-recyclable MLP which currently goes for incineration and would get covered under the EOL category
- II. Establish carton's correct recycling identification code (RIC) as #84 which has been recognized in several EU geographies and now by Sri Lanka
- III. Continue policy advocacy to allow PLA straws being integrated to cartons for normal collections and recycling into existing value stream instead of industrial composability as required

One of the members came forward and gave his views on challenges being faced by PLA vendors. He stated that as per the rules, PLA straws comes under category 4 and in order to supply these straws, the suppliers & producer of PLA need to register themselves separately for the compostable category.

After this, detailed discussion took place between the members on this matter.

B. UPSCALING THE RECYCLING RATE

Dr. Aggarwal apprised the members that this matter was also taken up in the previous All Hands Meeting also dated January 31, 2023. He stated that from April 1, 2023 onwards, the target for recycling rate must be 100% for beverage cartons.

He then invited members' views on this matter.



The Chairman stated that this target can be achieved by the producers and brand owners to ensure the compliance.

Mr. Tusar stated that Dabur has been achieving this target from the past few years and they are hopeful for this year also.

Mr. Ashish also had the positive approach towards this process. He also stated few challenges being faced by them through the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) as they have asked to deal with the recyclers directly without any intervening support from WMAs, i.e, by eliminating the WMAs from the entire value chain and directly work with the recyclers and their representation to the concerned government authority. Dr. Aggarwal, on this, stated that this is a good cause to be taken on behalf of the industry. He then assured that AARC may take this additional issue also.

9. VOTE OF THANKS

The Chairman and Cdr. Amitabha Ray made the closing remarks.

Cdr. Amitabha Ray appreciated the budget proportions and stated that these should be implemented in the areas which involve AARC's activities in supporting the industry and selected states.

The Chairman emphasized on the need of having more funds & support from different brand owners and contributors with the expansion of the activities of AARC. He then stated that AARC should continue to work in a way they have been doing.

There being no other business to transact, the meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Date:

Place:

Chairman