

Greening Detergents Industry in Pakistan

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Abstract

Greening detergents industry in Pakistan is relatively easier as the per capita detergent consumption in the country is lower, i.e. 1 kg per year relative to India, 2.7 kg per year and Malaysia, 3.7 kg per year. The overall footprint of detergent industry in the country remains unknown as the informal units in detergent production remain undocumented and unregistered. The detergent industry impacts environment indirectly as washing needs big amounts of water. Many problems generated by the detergent production and its use are obvious and have been documented well. Detergents shed microfibers and microplastics and contributes to algae formations across the water bodies in the country. Pakistan Standard Specification for Synthetic Detergent for General Purposes 2017 provides guidelines to develop green detergents while the Pakistan Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (PCSIR) has developed an eco-friendly enzyme detergent. The problem remains with the implementation of standards and lack of commitment on the part of government agencies and Pakistan Chemical Manufacturers Association.