

**International Workshop
On**

CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN LEATHER AND LEATHER PRODUCT INDUSTRIES

**29-30 January 2026
Chennai, India**

SPONSORS AND ORGANISERS



**CENTRE FOR SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY OF THE
NON-ALIGNED AND OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
(NAM S&T CENTRE), NEW DELHI, INDIA**



**CSIR - CENTRAL LEATHER RESEARCH INSTITUTE (CLRI),
CHENNAI, TAMIL NADU, INDIA**



SCIENTIFIC PARTNER
**LEATHER AND SHOE RESEARCH INSTITUTE (LSI),
VIETNAM**

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Product Industries

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INTRODUCTION

Global leather industry encompassing leather, footwear and leather garments, holds a significant position in international trade and manufacturing. Leather is valued for its durability, aesthetic appeal and versatility, making it a key raw material for various end-use sectors including fashion, automotive, furniture and accessories. The global leather market is valued around \$100 billion, while the leather product market size is assessed to be around \$400 billion in recent years with steady growth driven by increasing consumer demand for high-quality, durable and fashionable products. Countries such as India, China, Italy, Vietnam and Brazil are among the top producers and exporters, contributing significantly to the global supply of leather and leather products. Footwear remains the largest segment within the leather industry, followed by leather garments, bags and small leather goods. The sector plays a crucial role in employment generation, particularly in developing economies where micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) dominate the value chain.

Despite its economic importance, the leather industry faces increasing scrutiny due to its environmental footprint. Traditional leather processing methods consume large volumes of water, chemicals and energy, and also generate significant amounts of solid and liquid waste containing hazardous substances such as chromium, sulfides and organic matter. The pre-tanning and tanning stages are particularly associated with high levels of pollution. The generation of hazardous sludge, emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and the dumping of leather scraps and trimmings further aggravate the ecological challenges associated with this sector.

In the leather garment and footwear industries, fast fashion trends have led to shortened product life cycles and increased pressure on natural resources. A growing volume of post-consumer leather waste ends up in landfills or incineration, leading to the loss of valuable material and contributing to carbon emissions. The lack of standardized systems for reuse, repair or recycling of leather products also hinders sustainability efforts. Additionally, leather off-cuts, trimmings and defective products are often discarded without adequate valorization.

As global markets and consumers shift towards environmentally safe products and practices, there is a pressing need for the leather and leather product industries to adopt sustainable and circular models. A “Circular Economy” approach seeks to redesign production and consumption systems to keep materials in use for as long as possible, minimize waste and regenerate natural systems. For the leather sector, this involves sustainable sourcing, cleaner tanning technologies, efficient use of resources, designing products for durability and developing mechanisms for reuse, recycling and value recovery.

Considering the importance of the above mentioned issues, **the Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre), New Delhi, India**, jointly with **CSIR-Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI), Chennai, India** is organizing an **International Workshop on “Circular Economy in Leather and Leather Product Industries”** during **29 - 30 January 2026** in **Chennai, India**. Additionally, the **Leather and Shoe Research Institute (LSI), Hanoi, Vietnam** will participate as a **Scientific Partner**, bringing its extensive expertise in sustainable leather processing and footwear manufacturing to support the goals of the Workshop.

OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

This Workshop is intended as a strategic initiative to address these critical environmental challenges while also tapping into the market potential of a “*Circular Leather Economy*”. By fostering awareness, collaboration and innovation, the Workshop aims to guide stakeholders towards a more sustainable and competitive future.

In view of the aforementioned global dynamic factors, the proposed International Workshop aims to address the following areas that are expected to play key roles in the future of the leather and leather product industries:

- o Circularity in raw materials sourcing and processing
- o Design for longevity and reusability
- o Technology and innovation towards biodegradable and bio-based alternatives
- o Waste management and value recovery
- o Digital tools in tracing and monitoring circular leather and product value chains
- o Role of AI in achieving “Circularity in Leather Sector”
- o National and international regulations supporting “Circularity”.

PROGRAMME OF THE WORKSHOP

A tentative programme of the International Workshop is given below:

Date	Programme			
	09.00-10.30	11.00-12.30	13.30-15.00	15.30-17.00
28 January 2026	Arrival of Delegates in Chennai, India			
29 January 2026	Inauguration, Group Photo	Technical Session – I	Technical Session – II	Technical Session – III
30 January 2026	Technical Session – IV	Demonstrations/ Technical Session – V	Panel Discussion & Adoption of Chennai Resolution	Concluding Session - Distribution of Certificates, Group Photo
31 January 2026	Departure of Delegates*			

A detailed Session-wise Programme with names of speakers and paper titles will be made available before the Workshop.

*** The India International Leather Fair (IILF) is likely to be scheduled from 1st February 2026 to 3rd February 2026 at the Chennai Trade Centre, Chennai. Participants may consider visiting the fair at their own costs.**

IMPORTANT DATES

ACTIVITY	DATES
Dates of the Workshop	29-30 January 2026
Submission of Application Starts	October 15, 2025
Last Date for Submission of Applications along with Abstract of Paper to be Presented	November 26, 2025
Last Date for Submission of Full Manuscript	12 January 2026

**English will be the official language for the Workshop.*

VENUE

The Workshop would be organized at the CSIR- Central Leather Research Institute, Chennai, India.

ABOUT THE ORGANISERS

CENTRE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE NON-ALIGNED AND OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (NAM S&T CENTRE)



The Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre) is an Inter-Governmental Organisation with a Membership of 47 countries spread over Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America. The Centre was set-up in 1989 in New Delhi, India, based on decisions taken during various NAM Summits and is mandated to undertake a variety of programmes, including organization of international workshops, training programmes and training courses and implementation of multilateral collaborative projects. It also offers short-term fellowships programmes to scientists and researchers from developing countries in association with the Centres of Excellence in various countries. The Centre also brings out technical books, monographs, fact files and other scientific publications in different S&T subjects of interest to developing countries. The Centre's activities provide opportunities for scientist-to-scientist contact and interactions, familiarizing participants on the latest developments and techniques in the subject areas, identification of the requirements of training and expert assistance, locating technologies for transfer between the non-aligned and other developing countries, and dissemination of S&T information etc. In addition, the Centre encourages Academic-R&D-Industry interactions in the developing countries through its "NAM S&T-Industry Network". The Centre is giving special focus on helping the NAM S&T Centre Member Countries in their capacity building to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals – 2030. More details about the Centre are available at www.namstct.org.

CSIR- CENTRAL LEATHER RESEARCH INSTITUTE



Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI), Chennai was established in 1948 as a constituent laboratory of the Council of Scientific Industrial Research (CSIR), New Delhi to serve as the National Apex body for leather, leather products, leather chemicals and allied areas. The institute through the years has served as partner in providing the industry with appropriate technological solutions for their processes, products, testing, certification and other requirements. On 24 April 2022, the institute entered into 75th year of service to the nation. The institute catalyzed the growth of Indian leather industry from approximately USD 80 million worth raw hides/skin and semi-finished leather export in 1944-45 to ~USD 5.26billion export of finished leather and leather products in 2022-23. In this growth process, the CSIR-CLRI provided technological support for major structural changes, which included the technology readiness to comply with various environmental norms and bringing in paradigm shifts in the processing strategies adopted in India and elsewhere in the world. Today, the CSIR-CLRI continues to guide the Indian Leather Industry and also various developing countries including the countries from the African continent to achieve sustainable growth.

PARTICIPANTS

The Workshop Programme has been primarily designed for scientists, technologists, researchers, academicians, industry representatives and policymakers working in the relevant areas of footwear, footwear components, leather and leather products.

The selection of the applicants will be made strictly based on merit and relevance of their current responsibilities to the subject of the Workshop as well as the quality of the extended abstract of the paper submitted by them along with the completed application form.

A pre-condition for participation in the Workshop is that the participants must submit the full manuscript of their papers, in **MS-Word format**, at least **14 days** before the commencement of the programme.

RESOURCE PERSONS

The resource persons for the Workshop will comprise eminent experts and professionals in the relevant field.

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION

Experts and scientists desirous of participating in the Workshop, except those from India, should submit their application **electronically** directly to the **NAM S&T Centre** (at namstcentre@gmail.com) as early as possible, but latest before **Wednesday, 26 November 2025**.

Applicants from India should, however, submit their requests to the CSIR - Central Leather Research Institute, Chennai (Tamil Nadu), India.

Following documents must be submitted as **e-mail attachments**:

- a) Filled in **Application Form** (Blank form **enclosed**).
- b) An **Opinion** (a short paragraph; **in MS Word format**) on how the applicant qualifies to participate in the Workshop.
- c) A **Short Biography** (to be written in third person) highlighting the current engagement, area of expertise, major achievements, academic qualifications and professional experience as succinctly as possible.
- d) An Abstract (**about 250 words, in MS-Word only**) of the Paper that would be presented at the Workshop.
- e) Copy of the **relevant pages of passport**.

Note: The documents (b), (c) and (d) above must be in **MS-Word format only**; **PDF or image files will not be accepted**. Hard copies of the Application Form and the above attachments are **NOT REQUIRED** to be submitted.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

Each participant will be **required** to present a “Country Status Report” and/or a research/scientific paper on any of the themes appropriate to the Workshop.

LOCAL HOSPITALITY AND TRAVEL

Local hospitality in Chennai, including accommodation, meals and local transport for the foreign participants arranged by the NAM S&T Centre will be provided from **28 January 2026 to 31 January 2026**(i.e. from one day before to one day after the completion of the Workshop). **The participants are requested to book their flights accordingly; otherwise, they will have to make their own arrangements of stay beyond these dates.**

*****Participants who would like to attend The India International Leather Fair (IILF) 2026 (February 1 to February 3, 2026); and would be staying beyond the dates of the Workshop, will have to book hotel beyond 12 Noon, 31 January 2026 which will be chargeable. The additional booking may be done by the participants directly with the hotel.***

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR TRAVEL

The financial terms and arrangements for international travel of foreign participants will be conveyed to individual applicants on receipt of the Application and other documents.

ENTRY FORMALITIES AND IMMIGRATION

Participants of the Workshop must be in possession of a current passport or any other internationally recognized travel document, which must have a period of **validity of at least six months** beyond the period of stay in India and must be endorsed for travel to India.

Participants should have a valid visa for entry into India. The Indian diplomatic mission located in the country of the participant should be approached for obtaining an entry visa. For a large number of countries, however, online visa application is required. If required, the organisers will facilitate the issuance of visa by providing the participants with an official letter of invitation.

OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION

The weather in Chennai during the Workshop period is likely to be sunny and slightly humid with the expected temperature to be ~30°C during the day time and ~25°C during the nights.

Indian Standard Time is **+05.30 hours ahead of GMT**.

The Indian Currency is Rupee (INR); the present current exchange rate is US \$1 ~ 88 INR.

NOTE:

- ***The governments / institutions of the selected participants will be required to bear the following costs:***
 - *All expenses in the home country incidental to travel abroad, including expenditure for passport, visa fee, required medical examinations, vaccinations and miscellaneous expenses such as internal travel to the airport of departure in the home country.*
 - *Salary and other related allowances for the participants during the period of the Workshop.*
 - *Cost of medical insurance to cover the period of participation in the workshop.*
- ***The organizers of this Workshop will not assume responsibility for the following expenditure in connection with the participant's attendance in the Workshop:***
 - *Expenses incurred with respect to any insurance, medical bills or hospitalization fees.*
 - *Compensation in the event of death, disability or illness of participants.*
 - *Loss of personal belongings or compensation for damage caused to them by climatic or other conditions.*
 - *Other costs, including airport tax and excess baggage.*

SECRETARIAT AND ENQUIRIES

NAM S&T CENTRE

Dr. Amitava Bandopadhyay,
Director General,
Centre for Science & Technology of the Non-Aligned and
Other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre),
Core - 6A, 2nd Floor,
India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road,
New Delhi –110003, **INDIA**
Tel: +91-11-24645134, 24644974
E-mail: namstcentre@gmail.com
Website: <https://www.namstct.org>

CSIR-CENTRAL LEATHER RESEARCH INSTITUTE (CLRI)

Dr. P. Thanikaivelan,
Professor, AcSIR; and
Chief Scientist & Group Leader,
Advanced Materials Laboratory
CSIR-Central Leather Research Institute
Adyar, Chennai – 600 020, **INDIA**
E-mail: thanik.clri@csir.res.in

**CENTRE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE NON-ALIGNED AND
OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
(NAM S&T CENTRE)**

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

On

**CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN LEATHER AND LEATHER
PRODUCT INDUSTRIES**

29-30 January 2026

Chennai, India

APPLICATION FORM

**PLEASE TYPE OR USE BLOCK CAPITALS (NO
COLUMN SHOULD BE LEFT BLANK)**

PHOTO

SECTION –A

(To be filled in by the Applicant)

1. First Name (Prof. /Dr. /Mr. /Mrs. /Ms.):
Middle Name: Last Name:
(As in Passport)
2. Father's/Spouse Name:
3. Designation (Position held):
4. Nationality:
5. Date of Birth: Place of Birth (City) (Country).....
6. Passport No: Place of issue:
Date of Issue: Valid up to:
(Please attach copies of the relevant pages of your Passport)
7. Name of the Parent Institution (Employer):
Full Address (Office):
.....
Phone: E-mail:

8. Full Address (Home):

 Mob:
 E-mail:
 9. Educational Qualifications: Highest Degree.
 Year of Award: University:
 Field of Study:
 10. Brief Bio - data (CV):
(Maximum two pages, in MS Word)
 11. Abstract of your paper proposed to be presented in the Workshop. **(About 250 Words, in MSWord; to be attached on separate sheet)**
 12. What in your opinion qualifies you for participation in this Workshop?
(To be attached on separate sheet)
- Date: Signature:

SECTION –B

ENDORSEMENT BY THE NOMINATING AUTHORITY

(Applicants from a Member Country of the NAM S&T Centre and NAM S&T – Industry Network Member must get the Application Form endorsed by the Focal Point of the Centre in their countries/organisations if they wish to take financial benefits extended to the official nominee of the country/organisation. For the list of member countries and names/addresses of the Focal Points please visit the Centre's official website; www.namstct.org).

Signature:
 Name (in full):
 Designation:
 Date:

SEAL

Enclosures:

- 1) A Write-up (a short paragraph) on what qualifies the applicant to attend the Workshop.
- 2) A Short Biography (to be written in third person, maximum 1 page; in MS-Word document) highlighting your current engagement(s), area of expertise, major achievements, academic qualification and professional experience as succinctly as possible.
- 3) An Abstract (about 250 words; in MS-Word) of the Paper that is proposed to be presented by the applicant.
- 4) Copy of the relevant pages of valid passport.
