



Designing a Toolbox to support the implementation of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for managing plastic packaging waste in low- and middle-income countries



PREVENT

PREVENT Waste Alliance

The PREVENT Waste Alliance is a multi-stakeholder partnership that brings together different actors from the private sector, academia, civil society and public institutions. PREVENT wants to contribute to minimising waste, eliminating pollutants and maximising the reuse of resources in the economy worldwide. This alliance strives to develop functioning waste management and circular economy approaches in low- and middle-income countries.

Working Group “Closing loops for packaging”

The task of this working group is to close packaging cycles by developing joint approaches for collecting and recycling packaging waste.



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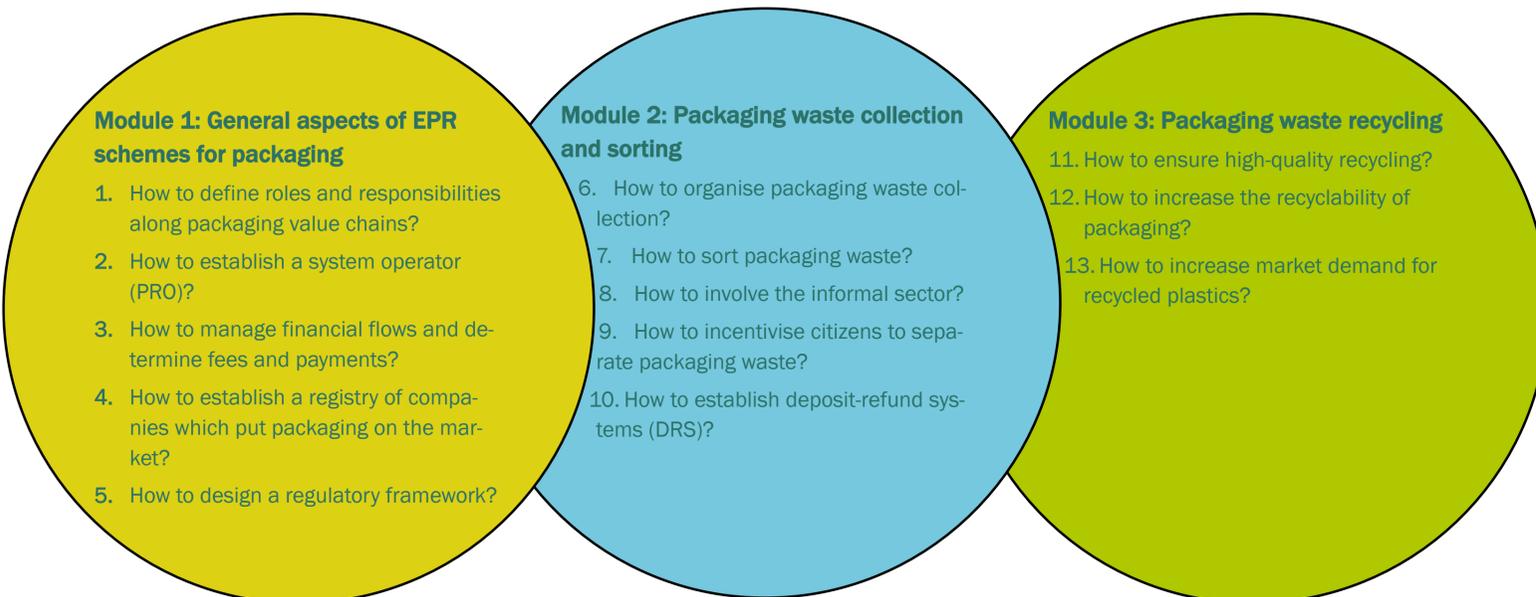
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The Challenge

Rapid increase of plastic pollution has become a growing and severe international issue since solid waste management has not kept up the pace. In many low- and middle-income countries large amounts of non-collected waste are burned, buried or dumped along streets and canals, which contributes to air, soil and water pollution, likewise to leakage of waste into oceans. To establish and maintain adequate solid waste management, often financing is missing.

The Solution

EPR systems are suggested as one possible solution to the challenge. Working group „Closing loops for packaging“ of the PREVENT Waste Alliance has developed an EPR4Packaging Toolbox that will enable packaging manufacturers, the consumer goods industry and retail to step up to their responsibility. This will help establish collection and recycling systems based on the principle of extended producer responsibility.



Objectives of the EPR Toolbox

- ⇒ providing the general knowledge, definitions and methods for EPR to support establishment of EPR in low- and middle-income countries
- ⇒ presenting a generic approach adaptable to different country conditions

Methods/Approach

To elaborate a toolbox that is adaptable to different national contexts, different steps have been taken:

- Compilation of EPR basics through cyclos experts: 3 main modules with factsheets, presentations, country examples, FAQs and exercises
- Workshop with a selection of national experts from government, private industry and NGOs in Ghana and Indonesia
- Review of draft materials through PREVENT working groups
- Written feedback from further stakeholders in low- and middle-income countries
- Feedback from German technical experts
- Adaptation of received feedback

Challenges

- Convincing stakeholders to provide feedback (e.g. for sensitive/political topics)
- Reducing feedback to a common denominator
- Handling the received feedback: Balance between generalisable facts and country specific context

Conclusions

- Various stakeholders interested in establishing EPR systems, „zeitgeisty“ topic
- Important to involve all relevant stakeholder groups, so everyone has the same understanding
- Stakeholders from partner countries were especially interested in the following topics:
 - How to establish registries?
 - How to set up and manage financial flows?
 - How to establish a PRO (system operator) as well as a legal framework?



Supermarket, Nanjing, China, photo courtesy of Pascal Renaud, GIZ

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