

Dr. N. Kalaiselvi, Director General, CSIR and Secretary, DSIR, visited the eco-rejuvenation site at Koradi Thermal Power Station, where the Eco-Rejuvenation Technology (ERT) developed by CSIR-NEERI has been successfully implemented for the development of a green belt over identified fly ash disposal areas. Under this initiative, approximately 1,16,000 saplings of selected bamboo species have been planted across 29 sites covering nearly 290 acres and are being systematically maintained. The green belt has played a significant role in stabilizing fly ash dumps, mitigating dust emissions, conserving biodiversity, and acting as a carbon sink for CO₂, a major greenhouse gas. During the visit, Dr. Kalaiselvi interacted with self-help groups comprising around 580 women, with nearly 20 women engaged at each site for 3–4 hours daily, earning approximately Rs. 5,000 per month and contributing to both environmental restoration and livelihood generation.

Dr. Kalaiselvi appreciated the activities being undertaken by the self-help groups and encouraged them to explore independent employment opportunities and entrepreneurship pathways, emphasizing the importance of community participation in sustainable environmental management.



