

BAVARIA OPTIMIZES NATURAL RESOURCES

Bavaria SABMiller produces more beer with less water

Early in the 90s, the brewery used 11 litres of water to produce one litre of beer; now it uses 5 litres to produce the same quantity.

Following the provisions contained in a policy regarding environmental awareness and appropriate use of natural resources, Bavaria SABMiller is currently producing more beer with less water.

This is how the brewery produces 23 million hectolitres of beer with an annual consumption of 11.5 million cubic metres of water, after reporting 17.9 million hectolitres and 19 million 690 thousand cubic metres early in the 90s, respectively. In other words, it presently uses 8 million 190 thousand cubic metres less of water per year.

The ratio is such, that the reduction is equivalent to the daily supply of the precious liquid for one year, in a population of approximately 150 thousand inhabitants. An example is the urban hub of Tunja or Riohacha.

Bavaria SABMiller has joined the efforts due to multiple benefits, which include costs savings. The large quantities required for the production of beer imply more expenses and less profitability.

Another advantage has to do with the reduction of contaminated water for treatment, and reduced need of treatment system infrastructure which, in turn, implies less investment and operation costs.

Good Practices

The actions undertaken by Bavaria SABMiller are associated with activities like the good practices, the reutilization of water and the technology enhancement.

In the first activity, the company focuses on the training and awareness of the operative resource of contractors and, in general, of all company workers, with emphasis in the production areas, which are the ones that mostly impact the industrial levels. Likewise, it fulfils tasks aimed at minimizing consumption, controlling leaks, and avoiding cleaning waste, among others.

As to water reutilization, the purpose is to reutilize the treated liquid in operations where quality does not demand the same levels as those for purified water; for example, floor and case cleaning and watering.

Along these lines, Bavaria is still innovating its technological approach as the equipment deplete their useful life or are replaced for others with better water or power use efficiencies. The specific cases include the bottle washers and the pasteurizers.

Priorities

For Bavaria SABMiller, water is one of the priorities because the organization needs to ensure its continuous supply to prepare its products.

Its collection must be framed within the local geographical, environmental and social conditions that determine their use at the riverbed. Therefore, it is important to ensure sufficient water reserves to avoid competing with the community, the agricultural sector or any other industries for the supply, in addition to maintaining enough flow at the riverbeds for the appropriate ecological management -, explained the company.

According to the Ministry of the Environment Housing and Territorial Development, the investment of the industries, which include a more neat production and the appropriate use of natural resources, is fundamental.

This is why the company has focused on this task for the past ten years and has fully complied with the standards established by the entity that governs the matters pertaining to the rational resource management and utilization. This entity also defines the policies and regulations about recovery, preservation, protection, organization, management, use and utilization of renewable natural resources.