

National workshop on improving small-scale sewage treatment in India: 05 April, India Habitat Centre (Gulmohar Room), New Delhi

Title:

A Roadmap for Small-Scale STPs in India: Fulfilling their Potential for Healthy and Water-Secure Cities

Intro:

There has been an exponential growth in the number of small-scale sewage treatment plants (STPs) serving from 10 to 1'000 households in India's rapidly expanding urban areas. An estimated 20'000 such systems have been built in India to date, providing an alternative to conventional, large-scale centralised systems. However, a majority of these systems are underperforming owing to poor planning and weak monitoring systems, poorly trained personnel and lack of recognition for small-scale sanitation as a potential solution by State authorities. In some Indian cities this has recently made the headlines as new small-scale sanitation and water reuse policies faced the wrath of building owners and apartment associations, highlighting the need for pragmatic and evidence-based solutions.

The "Small-Scale Sanitation Scaling Up" (4S) project is a joint research initiative conducted by Eawag (the Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology), the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras, BORDA, Germany, and CDD Society in Bangalore. The objective of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation-funded research project is to develop policy recommendations to increase the success rate of these systems and fulfil their potential to relieve the environmental burden in India.

About the event:

The workshop on 5 April will provide a platform to discuss the elements that need to be put in place to provide a successful scaling-up of small scale sanitation systems that can achieve a triple win: (i) ensure public health; (ii) protect the environment, and (iii) provide safe water for reuse. The discussions will address the following issues at stake: institutional and regulatory frameworks, financial and management schemes, cost effective technologies, the potential for private sector engagement and the role and constraints of building owners.

Who will attend?

Over 100 participants, including: Sector Ministries, Central Public Health and Environmental Engineering Organisation, State Water and Drainage Boards, Urban Local Bodies from various States, Water Supply and Sewerage Boards, private sector technology providers, NGOs and academic institutions, the World Bank and bilateral donors active in India's water sector.

The bottom line:

Main goal of the event is to discuss evidence-based policy recommendations for improved sector governance and better operations and maintenance of small-scale STPs.

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More information and workshop materials (after the event): www.sandec.ch/4S