

Safe Drinking water is a right for all!

Safe drinking water is a concern faced by many communities today. In order to build the capacities of individuals and organizations to address safe drinking issues, three like-minded organizations joined hands to share the know-how on issues and sustainable solutions. The Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology (CAWST), Canada, a pioneer in the design and promotion of the biosand filter, and S M Sehgal Foundation (Sehgal Foundation), a rural development organization, in association with India Water Partnership (IWP), a network organization for advocacy and promotion of safe drinking water, collaborated in conducting training event on sustainable solutions for safe drinking water.

The biosand filter designed by CAWST in precast concrete removes 98.5 percent of the biological contaminants, iron, and turbidity from water. Sehgal Foundation further adapted the model to suit Indian conditions and integrated the germicidal properties of copper to remove 100 percent of the biological impurities and zerovalent iron technology to remove arsenic from water. The stainless steel model, being light in weight, makes it more portable on village roads and hilly locations.



The training event included three day training on WASH issues and Household Treatment and Safe Storage, fourth day was dedicated for field visit to villages around Samastipur. Total forty participant trainees represented regional, national and international organizations across eight Indian states and Nepal that work on water and sanitation.



Topics covered included a discussion of global and local water and sanitation issues, water quality, and health. These sessions made a strong case for household water treatment and storage (HWTS) solutions to ensure that individuals, families, and communities are able to access safe drinking water. The training provided an overview of the multi-barrier adaptation and different water treatment technologies available to make drinking water safe at household levels. Participants were familiarized with HWTS project aspects such as its implementation framework, demand creation, behavior change, supply of products and services, and monitoring.

The workshop emphasized on the technology of biosand filter, how it works and its operation and maintenance, and how to implement. The workshop provided hands-on experience for preparing the filter media, and installing the newly developed stainless steel water filter JalKalp. Practical sessions included the Role Plays around community sensitization and awareness building, influencing behavior change and dynamics of water pollution. Finally during the field visit participants had a chance to interact with the households which adopted the water filter JalKalp to see the impact of process of sensitization and awareness building we carried out. Participants also arranged the filter materials and performed the jar test and trial installation of JalKalp. Later they carried out installation, troubleshooting and monitored the filters on eight key filter performance indicators.

Training workshop was carried out in a participatory manner. All participants were highly satisfied with the level of knowledge and hands-on experience they received.

Glimpses from the training

