

Household Water Treatment and Safe Storage (HWTS) Network

A Brief Note

Household Water Treatment and Safe Storage (HWTS) network for India has been envisioned by the participants of the Learning Exchange Workshop on HWTS technologies organized at NIRDPR, Hyderabad on February 27-28, 2020. The workshop was organized by Sehgal Foundation in partnership with CAWST, Canada and NIRDPR. The group wanted to take advantage of the diversity of the members who come from different educational and professional backgrounds, and a variety of organizations and geographic locations.

Based on the group work at the learning exchange workshop, here is how we define the HWTS Network.

Vision

All Indians must consume affordable safe drinking water.

Goal

Network shall contribute to increased safe water coverage in India, specifically in rural, remote and peri-urban areas, with a focus on the poorest of poor people through implementation of household water treatment.

Objective

To increase knowledge and build capacities of members on appropriate and affordable HWTS technologies, products, research, and HWTS project implementation.

Activities

1. Voice and influence policy discussions.
2. Facilitate knowledge-sharing with a clear focus on the gaps.
3. Conduct capacity building workshops.
4. Provide technical support through emails, phone calls, and personal visits.
5. Engage the members by occasional letters/emails.
6. Connect with the global HWTS network and exchange knowledge and updates.
7. Develop a thematic group of experts to help the members in need.
8. Create opportunities for members to come and work together for building mutual capacities.

Roles and Responsibilities

Since finances, people, and time are not allocated for this purpose, the

network shall keep the structure simple and informal. Network intends to work with a Hub and Spoke model. Keeping this in mind at this point, as discussed in the workshop Mr. Lalit Sharma of Sehgal Foundation will coordinate the network.

Sehgal Foundation will conduct an annual learning exchange workshop, within their means. NIRD expressed willingness to make their venue available for the learning exchange.

CAWST will provide technical and knowledge support to Sehgal Foundation in organizing the learning exchange.

Membership

Organizations working or interested in HWTS for drinking water can join the network for free. It is expected that all members will cooperate and coordinate with Sehgal Foundation.

Action Plan

During the Learning Exchange workshop participants identified many challenges hampering the scaling up of HWTS. Out of identified challenges followings were selected to be addressed by the Network to start with:

- Lack of knowledge about the available products in the market.
- Resigned attitude and reluctance for change of users.
- Focus on centralized systems by the policy makers.
- High pricing of available solutions.

The suggested strategies for scaling up are:

- To make right data available on drinking water sources.
- Engage local entrepreneurs.
- Link with microfinance.
- Need to have government extension workers across the country who will carry out the community education like agriculture extension workers.
- Need of testing and analyzing water at the point of use too.
- HWTS network to promote proper technologies, products and projects.