



## **Workshop: Sharing Experiences and Technologies on Household Water Treatment and Storage (HWTS)**

Date: February 27–28, 2020

Venue: NIRDPR, Hyderabad (India)

### **Introduction**

The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR) and S M Sehgal Foundation (Sehgal Foundation), in a knowledge partnership with the Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology (CAWST), Canada, are offering a two-day workshop on Household Water Treatment and Storage (HWTS) for WASH professionals and organizations/institutions working in this area.

This workshop will provide a platform to technology developers, technology providers, and practitioners to share experiences, demonstrate technologies, learn from each other, and discuss strategies for scaling up, including advocacy.

### **Rationale**

India has the most people in the world without access to safe drinking water (133.9 million). Many studies indicate that poor and marginalized populations are the worst affected from waterborne diseases resulting from the consumption of contaminated water. The issue warrants urgent attention as each year over 140,000 children under age five die from diarrheal diseases alone. Although many agencies, including major donors, governments, and international aid agencies, are working in the water sector, the focus has largely remained on water supply systems and less on water quality issues.

The recently announced *Har Ghar Jal* (tap water to every household) scheme of the government aims to connect every home with piped water. However, the quality of water to be supplied will need special attention due to the risk of secondary infections in the distribution systems and the source contamination. HWTS holds huge potential to overcome these safety issues. The World Health Organization considers HWTS to be a viable option for providing safe water to vulnerable households, thus the need for knowledge and experience sharing, networking and advocacy to promote the scaling up of this initiative in India.

### **Objectives**

- Share and exhibit available HWTS technologies,
- Exchange success stories and challenges faced by implementers on ground,
- Identify facilitators and impediments in implementation and discuss feasible solutions,
- Share updates on new research and development in HWTS,
- Motivate organizations to implement and advocate HWTS options across India, and
- Create an advocacy brief for policymakers and key stakeholders for promoting the inclusion of HWTS in government policies on access to water

## **Expected Outcomes**

Increased knowledge and skills of WASH professionals and organizations working on HWTS will lead to increased implementation of HWTS options that will eventually result in the provision of safe water to people in need. This learning exchange on HWTS will help in sharing available technologies, lessons learned, and challenges faced by existing developers/implementers.

- Knowledge sharing on HWTS and related modalities to enable scaling up
- Learning from the challenges faced in project implementation at the grassroots
- Creating an action group for experience sharing and learning to promote access to safe drinking water in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG6)
- Publication and dissemination of an interactive policy action brief prepared from the experiential exchange of workshop participants

## **Organizations' Background and Role**

### **Host Organization: NIRDPR**

The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, an autonomous organization under the Union Ministry of Rural Development, is a premier national center of excellence in rural development and panchayati raj. Recognized internationally as one of the UN-ESCAP Centers of Excellence, it builds capacities of rural development functionaries, elected representatives of PRIs, bankers, NGOs, and other stakeholders through interrelated activities of training, research, and consultancy. The institute has been actively engaged in training, research, training, and documentation of various aspects pertaining to water and sanitation over the years. Through the Rural Technology Park, NIRDPR has adopted various initiatives to promote appropriate technologies such as water conservation, rainwater harvesting, water treatment technologies, vermicomposting, biogas technology, and sanitation models. The Water and Wastewater Treatment Centre established in collaboration with Sehgal Foundation is actively engaged in work related to water treatment and rainwater harvesting.

NIRDPR will provide active support for organizing, coordinating, and managing the event and will also provide critical inputs to the network, which will be established after the workshop.

### **Lead Organization: S M Sehgal Foundation**

S M Sehgal Foundation (Sehgal Foundation) is a public, charitable trust registered in India since 1999, with a mission is to strengthen community-led development initiatives to achieve positive social, economic, and environmental change across rural India. Sehgal Foundation envisions every person across rural India empowered to lead a more secure, prosperous, and dignified life. The foundation team works together with rural communities to create sustainable programs for managing water resources, increasing agricultural productivity, and strengthening rural governance. The team's emphasis on gender equality and women's empowerment is driven by the realization that human rights are central to developing every person's potential. Sehgal Foundation works with national and international partners including the Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India, National Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development, Coca-Cola Foundation, and Bayer Foundation, etc.

Sehgal Foundation will carry out the preparatory activities for the workshop, coordinate the workshop, and develop and manage the network, acting as network

secretariat with CAWST as a knowledge partner. This network is committed to scaling up the HWTS in new areas to build access to clean water by inducting new network partners and building their capacities to implement HWTS in their geographic focus areas.

### **Knowledge Partner: CAWST**

The Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation (CAWST) is a Canadian charity and licensed professional engineering firm established in 2001. CAWST is a global centre of expertise in WASH for the poor in developing countries. Its mission is to provide technical training and consulting and act as a center of expertise in water and sanitation for the poor in developing countries. CAWST's vision is a world where people have the opportunity to succeed because their basic water and sanitation needs have been met.

CAWST, a WASH knowledge-based organization with long global experience, uses education to catalyze action to help people gain the skills they need to access clean water, sanitation, and hygiene for healthy homes. More than 1,290 clients from all over the world have received training and technical support in implementing WASH projects.

CAWST will be the knowledge partner for the workshop and the network to be established after the workshop. CAWST will contribute the knowledge backed by the latest research being done globally and will also support the network through collaborating in facilitating training programs when required. Additionally, CAWST will provide the necessary technical support to the organization to implement quality HWTS projects.

### **Coordinators**

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