

## **Proceedings: Orientation Workshop: Preparation of Excreta Flow Diagrams (SFDs)**

Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), India and Water Research Commission (WRC), South Africa jointly organised an 'Orientation Workshop: Preparation of Excreta Flow Diagrams (SFDs)' on 21 July, 2021 from 10:00 AM to 12 Noon (SAST). The workshop was organised as a launch for the Brown Drop Initiative by the WRC, which aims at institutionalising SFDs in South Africa. The orientation workshop is aimed at familiarizing the interested parties to SFDs and faecal sludge management sector players.

The workshop was attended by a total of 41 participants, which included representations from organisations who have submitted an Expression of Interest (EOI) to WRC to be a part of the National SFD Programme, and other practitioners and researchers.

The workshop was inaugurated by Jay Bhagwan, Executive Manager, WRC where he shared the issues and challenges in the urban water and sanitation sector in South Africa, and the role of SFDs in addressing these issues. He shared his views on how SFDs can be mainstreamed in South Africa by incorporating it in the academic curriculum of universities. Dr Suresh Rohilla, Senior Director, CSE shared his experience and research in developing capacities for preparation of SFDs across India, and in other parts of South Asia and Africa, and the role of SFD as an advocacy and monitoring tool for sustainable sanitation practices and FSM progress at city-level and national level.

The first technical session was delivered by Dr Sudhir Pillay, Research Manager: Sanitation, WRC. He shared the baseline status of Faecal Sludge Management (FSM) in South Africa, and the issues related to various hard and soft infrastructure across the sanitation value chain. He talked about how the sanitation systems need to evolve, and the need for mainstreaming FSM in South African cities and towns. He also shared his views and experience on the benefits of SFDs, the need of contextualizing SFDs for South Africa and scaling up SFDs under the Brown Drop Initiative.

This was followed by a session on 'What is an SFD' by Mr Harsh Yadava, Senior Research Associate, CSE. He gave a brief overview on how to interpret SFDs, and the steps in preparation of the same, including the nature and source of data, and the triangulation methodology. He discussed on the various levels of SFD Reports, and the resources that go into preparing reports of different levels. The session was concluded with a brief demonstration of the SFD Graphic Generator.

Mr Dhruv Pasricha, Programme Officer, CSE shared the journey of SFDs in India, and the key learnings from the SFD Promotion Initiative (PI). He showcased how CSE has contributed in reforming the agenda and discussion around septage management in cities, and the role of SFD as an advocacy tool for mainstreaming FSM in India. Mr Pasricha also discussed the importance of assessing cumulative SFDs to address basin-level issues related river pollution due to unmanaged faecal sludge and wastewater. He shared the key learnings of SFD Phases 1 and 2, and how more than 500 SFDs have been developed in India, with CSE preparing 100+ SFDs and developing capacities of more than 250 practitioners in developing SFDs.

Mr Pasricha also shared that the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Govt. of India has issued guidelines for preparing City Sanitation Plans, where SFD is used as a baseline tool, and a monitoring tool to map progress of CSPs. He also showcased the latest development in SFDs: Preparation of SFDs for low-income settlements and peri-urban areas; and how these can address local issues in the sanitation value chain.

Following the technical sessions, a brief discussion was held on the data collection and methodologies for preparation of SFD. In addition to this, a detailed discussion was held on the Way Forward with the Brown Drop Initiative and future 'Training of Trainers' for practitioners and future trainers. The format of training was also deliberated upon, with options including a module-based self-paced training in combination with virtual sessions. The workshop was closed with a vote of thanks by Jay Bhagwan, WRC and Dr Suresh Rohilla, CSE.