State Level Training cum Exposure Visit for Operations and Maintenance of FSTPs and Co-treatment Plants

Location: Bijnor
Venue: Mahathma Vidhur Sabhagar, Collectrate Bijnor
Exposure visit Location: 20 KLD Co-treatment plant at the premises of 24 MLD STP, Kherki Village, Bijnor

Training Proceedings

Figure 1: Group Image at 20 KLD co-treatment plant during exposure visit

Centre for Science and Environment, New Delhi, programme in Uttar Pradesh has been technically supporting the state government for operationalizing the 59 Faecal Sludge & Septage (FSS) treatment infrastructure projects erected in 57 cities. It is the first time the state had showed trust in ULBs on the operations and maintenance of such projects (which was previously done by Jal Nigam). CSE PSU Lucknow has taken this opportunity to educate ULBs on sustainable operations and maintenance practices for FSTPs and Co-treatment plants. The knowledge was developed based on our ground experience in successfully operationalizing two flagship projects under Namami Gange in Bijnor (co-treatment of FSS) and Chunar (FSTP) cities of Uttar Pradesh. Hence two trainings cum exposure visits were planned where engineers, executive officers and
sanitation inspectors were invited. The first installment of the training was given in Bijnor city on 25-26 September for cities of west Uttar Pradesh.

On Day-1 of the training:

The theme was to understand the scenario of treatment of FSS in Uttar Pradesh. The idea was to expose the participants to different formats of treatment infrastructure like Nature Based or Hybrid installed in these cities. The following was answered in the presentations:

- What is the basic operation and maintenance of different treatment modules?
- How O&M can be done sustainably without compromising the efficiency of the plant?
- What is the role of different departments in ULBs (like Jalkal and sanitation) in regular working of the plant?
- What are the ways officials can monitor if the plant is functioning efficiently?
- What is role of staff working at the plant?
- How to ensure regular FSS is reaching to the plant?

The second half of the day was kept for the Exposure Visit to 20 KLD Co-treatment plant installed in the premises of 24 MLD Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) in Kherki Village adjacent to Bijnor city. Participants were exposed to first Co-treatment plant in Uttar Pradesh state fully funded by Namami Gange. Mr. Harsh Yadava from CSE who has been closely involved since the beginning of the project in Bijnor explained the treatment process and modules to the participants. Mr. Vikas Kumar, the executive officer of Nagar Palika Parishad Bijnor briefed about the efforts and initiatives taken by the municipality to expedite the process of operationalizing co-treatment infrastructure. He explained about their proactive steps to quickly take handover of the plant start the treatment of FSS as soon as possible. Further he added how municipality worked rigourously to create FSSM Bye laws and put them in a gazette notification. It helped in creating a regulatory framework for FSSM in the city.

On day 2 of the training participants were divided into 4 groups. They were given a hypothetical situation where they had to give a plan of action for sustainable FSSM in the city with focus on following as main theme of the groups respectively:

A. Optimal load at treatment facility
B. Maintaining treatment efficiency of plants
C. Reuse & Resource recovery
D. Framework for monitoring

The participants were seen enthusiastically participating in all the discussions and group exercise. In the feedback the participants appreciated the efforts done by CSE to educate them also recognized the training content relevant for all sort of officials. Officials were charged up with the training and accepted it as a much
needed intervention from the state end. It helped them clearing the dark portion in understanding about FSSM and its treatment infrastructure. They were clear with the roles and responsibilities.

After the group exercise the winning group was announced by the Jury that included Mr Vikash Kumar EO, NPP Bijnor and Mr Subrata Chakraborty from CSE. The complimentary prizes were distributed to the participants. The training was concluded by Mr Subrata Chakraborty by giving guidance about the expectation of the state from the cities. He told about the following components to be streamlined in each city:

- Depute a nodal person for FSSM OR UWM
- Register all private desludgers.
- Take handover of the plant.
- Engage firm/personnel for O&M of plant.
- Notify bye-laws.
- Have helpline.
- Create system for desludging.
- City Sanitation Committee.
- City level desludging plan – ensure at least 50% utilization.
- Ensure all new toilets are designed properly.
- Mason training.
- Create a budget line.

At the end of the training a feedback session was done where participants were asked about their experience of the training. We received an overwhelming response from the participants. Participants appreciated our efforts and applauded the context and content of the training.