

Faecal Sludge and Septage Management (FSSM)

Overview of the scheme

Handling faecal sludge and septage has now been revamped with better treatment infrastructure, regulations, awareness, capacity building & community engagement across 114 ULBs of Odisha. The right usage of machinery and equipment has made it easier to treat black water and has been providing a more dignified space for sanitation workers. FSSM operations and maintenance are being done with the aid of communities.

Scope

A clear set of guidelines has been laid down under the Model Faecal Sludge and Septage Management Regulations, 2018 regarding the treatment and disposal of black water. A structured system is being put in place in accordance with the guidelines across all 114 ULBs of Odisha where each will have at least 1 cesspool vehicle. The scope of this mission expands to the establishment of 119 septage treatment plants that can collect and treat over 2,057 kiloliters per day.





Key features of the programme

- **CONSTRUCTION OF SEPTAGE TREATMENT PLANTS (SETPS)**

Unlike rural areas with a larger space for septic tanks, urban areas have smaller septic tanks that need constant emptying and maintenance due to space constraints. This has to be followed with the safe disposal of black water to ensure water bodies or the environment are not polluted in any way. The aim of constructing septage treatment plants (SeTPs) in all ULBs of Odisha was set by the Hon'ble Chief Minister in 2018. Following this, a total of 120 Faecal Sludge and Septage Plants (FSTPs) have been planned across 114 ULBs of Odisha and a work order for 119 FSTPs has been issued as well. A total of 100 SeTPs were commissioned in 2021-22, followed by 10 SeTPs in 2022-23.

- **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FOR OPERATIONS AND MANAGEMENT OF FSTPS**

The beauty of Odisha is often enhanced by the proactive involvement of citizens in matters of public interest. Even in terms of the managerial level, communities like Mission Shakti Groups and Transgender groups have been engaged and provided with training for the operation and management of the FSTPs in 87 cities of the State. This comes as a bold statement in a society where men are often restricted to physical and mechanical work. The mission simply strikes two birds with the same stone. One, bettering the sanitation system and two, bringing in a perspective of equality. Meanwhile, minority communities enjoy a stable income through a dignified job. Currently, 5 trans person groups are engaged in managing the treatment plans. The members of 55 Mission Shakti Group were trained and engaged for the O&M of 55 FSTPs during the financial year 2022-23. Needless to say, they have been successfully carrying out the task.

- **STRENGTHENING OF DESLUDGING OPERATION**

Desludging is an easier task only when the sanitation workers are provided with the correct equipment. In Odisha, smaller capacity cesspool emptier vehicles are the talk of the household as they can navigate through narrower lanes and streets. As of now, the ULBs have procured 187 cesspool vehicles. Odisha has now achieved 98% safe sanitation for the state's urban population, with 114 Urban Local Bodies having access to at least one cesspool vehicle.



Plan ahead

- 9 Faecal Sludge Treatment Plants will be commissioned by June 2023 whose tender has been floated. The project completion target is set for October 2023.
- Berhampur, Bhuban, Chandbali, Jaleswar, Keonjhar, Kodala, Polasara, Pipili, Udala and Umerkote to be the beneficiaries of 10 FSTPs commissioned in 2022-23.

- 20 ULBs will be deploying mechanised sweeping systems whose request for proposal is under process.
- Odisha will be procuring 172 cesspool vehicles of 500 litres capacity and 47 cesspool vehicles of 100 litres capacity by August 2023 and June 2023 respectively.
- Faecal Sludge Management (FSM) is to be implemented through the urban-rural convergence model, meeting the needs of specific areas.
- To use FSM DIGIT for ease of service delivery
- Biosolids and Wastewater will be reused across all the plants. In 2022-23, 45 Technical Resource Persons were trained and engaged in the laboratory of the SeTPs.
- Further 37 Technical Resource Persons will be trained and engaged in the laboratory of the FSTPs by June 2023.



Recognition and awards

- In the year 2022, Odisha has received ISC-FICCI Sanitation award in the following categories:
 1. Best Faecal Sludge and Septage Management model - Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation.
 2. Women Changemakers in Sanitation - Sasmita Barik, Swachha Saathi, Bhadrak Municipality.
 3. Best Skilling initiative for sanitation award to Jajpur District.
- In November 2021, Dhenkanal Municipality, bagged the award for Best Faecal Sludge and Septage Management Model (Urban) from India Sanitation Coalition (ISC)-FICCI for demonstrating successful urban rural convergence in FSSM.
- The decentralised non-sewered and inclusive sanitation model adopted by Odisha is now an example to the nation and other countries.