

Positioning FSTPs as Resource Centres

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Context

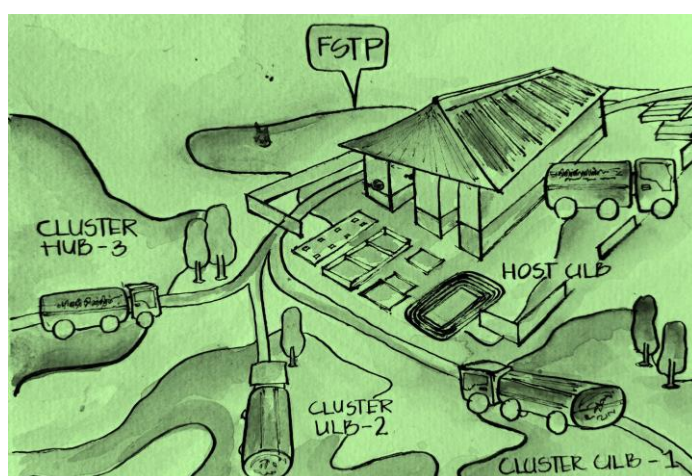
The Government of Tamil Nadu (GoTN), with the support of Tamil Nadu Urban Sanitation Support Programme (TNUSSP) is scaling Fecal Sludge Management (FSM) across **663 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)** covering a total urban population of **25 Million**



The state is scaling treatment through:

Clustering ULBs around both existing and potential treatment facilities

- Co-treatment at 50 Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) (and existing sewer networks)
- 59 Fecal Sludge Treatment Plants (FSTPs)
- Standard Licensing agreement for minimal regulation & market-led model
- MoU for the shared use of the treatment facility by cluster ULBs



Approach

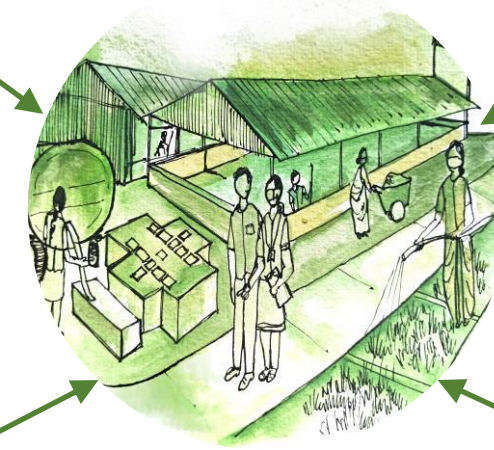
Some prevailing issues:

Treatment facilities are not seen as spaces for the public

Certain 'stigma' associated with treatment facilities

Lack of hands-on resource centres for knowledge dissemination around FSM

Lack of forums to propagate information about safety, welfare and health to sanitation workers



Leveraging the fact that 'FSTP' is a new concept in TN, a **pilot** was taken up at the **Periyanaicken-palayam FSTP** to position it as a **resource centre**

Landscaping
Indigenous crop patches & plants, nurseries, pedestrian pathways, seating areas



Facilities for visitors
Sex-disaggregated toilets, visitors information centre & exhibition area, wall paintings and hoardings about the FSTP and site layout, re-use & landscaping



Facilities for Sanitation workers
Sex-disaggregated toilets, resting spaces, wall paintings and hoardings about safety, welfare and health



Objectives

- Address the 'Negative perception'** around waste treatment facilities - odour, dust and noise
- Enabling treatment facilities** to be designed as **resource centres for FSM**, leveraging statewide scale up
- Familiarise FSM** amongst the **stakeholders:** Government officers, sector professionals & the public
- Valourise Sanitation workers** Establish a platform to highlight their role in FSM & create awareness amongst them about their health, safety, and welfare.

Outcomes

Based on the pilot, a **suggestive guideline** for ULBs to support **landscaping & aesthetic improvement** of FSTPs was developed for implementation across the state

Suggestions include:

- Landscape and hardscape:** indigenous plants according to soil type, paver material, and site analysis guide
- Making FSTPs user friendly:** circulation plan for pedestrians & vehicles and visitor-friendly facilities
- Sample **communication and awareness material**

FSTPs have been repositioned as **safe and informative working environment** for sanitation workers

Exposure visits and events (E.g.: World Toilet Day) are being conducted at FSTPs, especially for students and government officers

The guidelines have been passed on to the GoTN, and are **currently being implemented** in some of the upcoming FSTPs



Early learnings & Challenges

This model can be **adapted and applied to other treatment facilities** such as STPs and decanting stations

Buy-in from local governments were obtained by **exposure visits** to the pilot location

Maintenance, budgetary allocations and **skilled execution of proposed plans** remain a challenge

