

THE TNUSSP QUARTERLY

July - September 2024

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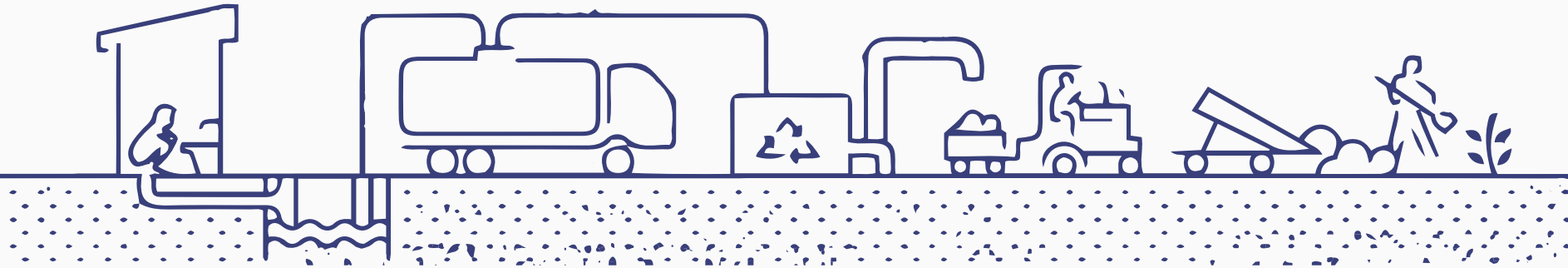
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INTRODUCTION





The IIHS-led Tamil Nadu Urban Sanitation Support Programme (TNUSSP) has been working with the Government of Tamil Nadu (GoTN), as a Technical Support Unit (TSU) since 2015, to ensure universal access to safe sanitation by scaling up Fecal Sludge Management (FSM) in the state.

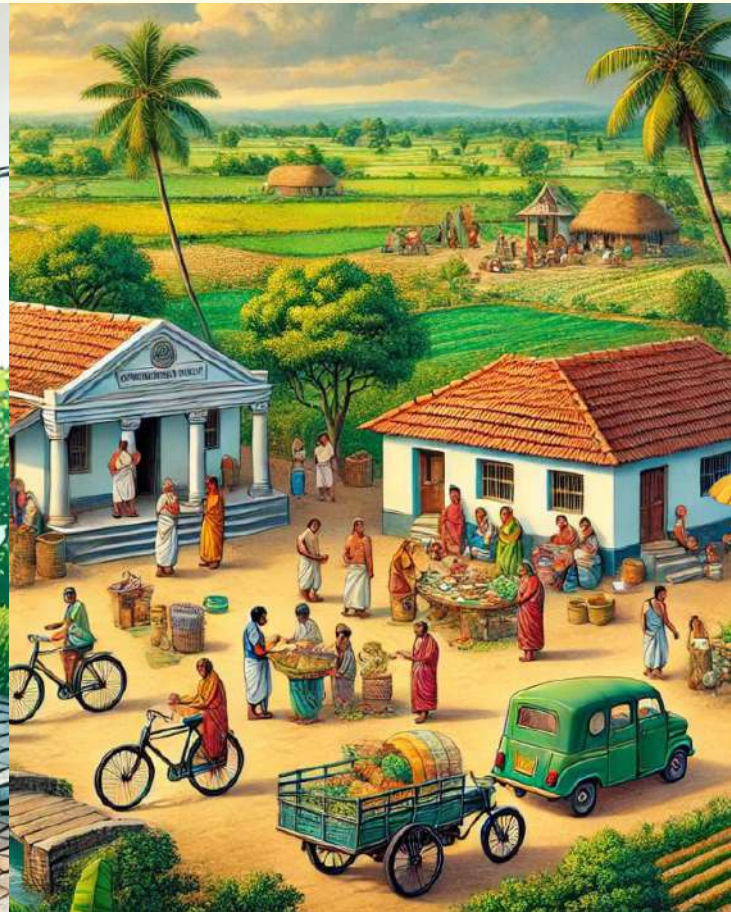
Through the years, TNUSSP has successfully demonstrated the viability of FSM as a sustainable solution for urban sanitation. The current focus of the programme is on strengthening the sanitation ecosystem by integrating inclusive sanitation across

government systems, and establishing knowledge repositories to create a self-learning environment for Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and other stakeholders.

In this edition of The TNUSSP Quarterly, we present highlights of our work from July to September 2024, including initiatives, campaigns and events. We hope you find it informative and engaging.

Thank you for your continued support and interest in our work.

TNUSSP PROGRAMME UPDATES



FSM Training for SBM-G District Coordinators and SIRD, RIRD&PR Representatives

IIHS-TNUSSP conducted an FSM training session on 'Fecal Sludge Management: Strategy and Urban-Rural Convergence' in Maraimalai Nagar, Chengalpattu, on 2 August 2024. The training was part of the State-level Training Programme on Swachh Bharat Mission–Gramin (SBM-G) held from 1-3 August 2024.

Sasikumar Eswaramurthy, IIHS-TNUSSP Senior Specialist, led the FSM training session. 45 district coordinators and resource persons from SIRD (State Institute of Rural Development), and

RIRD&PR (Regional Institutes of Rural Development & Panchayat Raj) attended this training.

Capacity building of various stakeholders of SBM-G is the key to sustain the Open Defecation-Free (ODF) status of villages, and ensure effective management of solid and liquid waste to attain ODF Plus status. To implement this, an action plan was prepared in the Annual Implementation Plan 2024-25, to conduct training for trainers at the State and District levels, including training on FSM.



Orientation on Mechanical FSTP O&M and FSM Indicators at Kuzhithurai, Tirunelveli Region

Kuzhithurai, in Kanyakumari, is the third municipality in Tamil Nadu to set up a mechanical Fecal Sludge Treatment Plant (FSTP), and has initiated a trial run to treat 40 KLD (kilo litres per day).

On 10 July 2024, at a cluster meeting and on-field training session organised by the Municipality, TNUSSP oriented officers on the operation and maintenance (O&M) of a mechanical FSTP. The event saw participation from officers of three cluster municipalities

and 10 town panchayats, including Executive Officers, Sanitary Officers/Inspectors, and Animators from the cluster and host ULBs.

Following this, on 11 July 2024, another session was held in the Tirunelveli region to orient 21 host and cluster ULBs on FSM indicators that measure progress through increased accountability and transparency. Plans for periodic review meetings chaired by the Regional Director of Municipal Administration have been developed.



Strengthening FSM in Tamil Nadu: TNUSSP's Impact on Revised Guidelines and Implementation

The state of Tamil Nadu (TN) is a pioneer in FSM. It was the first state to issue Operative Guidelines (OG) for Septage Management in 2014. With the support of TNUSSP, TN revised the OG in 2023. TN also became the first state to amend its Municipal Acts to introduce regulations on FSM through its Tamil Nadu Urban Local Bodies and Chennai Metropolitan Area Septage Management (Regulation) Rules, 2022.

These guidelines and rules are vital in streamlining FSM practices, elaborating the provisions for regulated de-sludging that deter open disposal. This includes detailing processes, penalties and empowering authorities.



Further, TNUSSP has supported the state in amending the Bye-law for Septage Management to enable urban-rural convergence, maintain consistency with recently amended Acts and newly issued Rules, and strengthen FSM implementation at ULBs.

The Office of the Director of Town Panchayats (DTP) has approved the amended bye-law and a directive has been issued to all Town Panchayats in the state for its adoption. A similar directive is to be issued by the Office of the Director of Municipal Administration (DMA) to all municipalities in the State.

Regional Orientation on FSM KPIs and O&M of FSTP, Thanjavur Region

On 4 September 2024, an orientation session and exposure visit were conducted at Mannargudi FSTP in Thanjavur region. The focus was on enumeration of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) of FSM and sustaining O&M of FSTPs. The Commissioner and Sanitary Officer of Mannargudi Municipality chaired the session, in which 37 representatives from nine ULBs participated, including Sanitary Officers, Sanitary Inspectors, Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) Supervisors, SBM Animators, FSTP operators, and the regional SBM Project Implementation Unit (PIU) team.



The session was jointly organised by the Office of the Regional Directorate of Municipal Administration (RDMA), Thanjavur, and the TNUSSP TSU of the Municipal Administration and Water Supply (MAWS) department of GoTN. Fayaz Ahamed and Prithivi Mohan of IIHS facilitated the training.

Participants learned about safety protocols, effective management practices for treatment plant, and key indicators to monitor the performance of the FSTP and its cluster.

TNUSSP Leads DPR Preparation Training for FSTP in Maraimalai Nagar

On 12 September 2024, TNUSSP members conducted a one-day training session on Detailed Project Report (DPR) preparation for FSTP at the State Institute of Rural Development & Panchayat Raj (RDPR) in Maraimalai Nagar, Chengalpattu District.

The training session was part of the training programme conducted by RDPR aimed at building capacity of Rural Local Body (RLB) officers and other key stakeholders in sanitation. 42 people, including Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE), Assistant Engineer (AS), SBM District Coordinator, SBM Block Coordinator, and SBM District Specialists, participated in the training.



**STATE INSTITUTE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYAT RAJ
MARAIMALAI NAGAR, CHENGALPATTU DISTRICT**

TNUSSP Leads DPR Preparation Training for FSTP in Maraimalai Nagar

The training began with an overview of FSM, covering the full cycle of sanitation (FCS) – collection, conveyance, treatment, and reuse. Participants were introduced to resources and tools available for FSM, with insights from TNUSSP's work across Tamil Nadu. Officers from ULBs gained a deeper understanding of FSM operations and the initiatives implemented by TNUSSP.

The second half focussed on the preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs), which are essential for obtaining administrative and technical sanctions before constructing

FSTPs. The session covered key aspects of DPR preparation, including design, cost estimation, treatment models, and methodologies. This helped participants understand how to structure their reports to ensure seamless project approval and execution.

To provide practical insights, participants visited an operational FSTP at Chengalpattu Municipality, where they observed its functioning and learned how to account for key details like material use, quantity, and quality in their DPRs.



CAMPAIGN HIGHLIGHTS



Sanitation Spotlight: Featuring Innovative Solutions across the Global South

The #SanitationSpotlight campaign focusses on ground-breaking sanitation technologies, solutions and services that enhance access to clean water and sanitation across the Global South.

The series will showcase success stories and case studies of innovative approaches that address challenges such as poor waste management, water scarcity and pollution, and menstrual hygiene barriers. By promoting awareness

of these key developments in the WaSH sector, we aim to foster action and solidarity among various stakeholders.

So far, the Spotlight has featured two key initiatives: IIHS' intervention to improve the containment structure at Trichy's RMS Colony public toilet, and 'AfriSan Elite', an innovative waterless toilet design by African Sanitation Outsourcing Pvt. Ltd., South Africa.



Stories of Change: A Transformational Campaign on 'Women in Sanitation'

As part of our ongoing [Women in Sanitation](#) initiative, now in its fifth year, we are proud to introduce 'Stories of Change'. This new series celebrates the journey and accomplishments of Tamil women making a significant impact in the sanitation landscape.

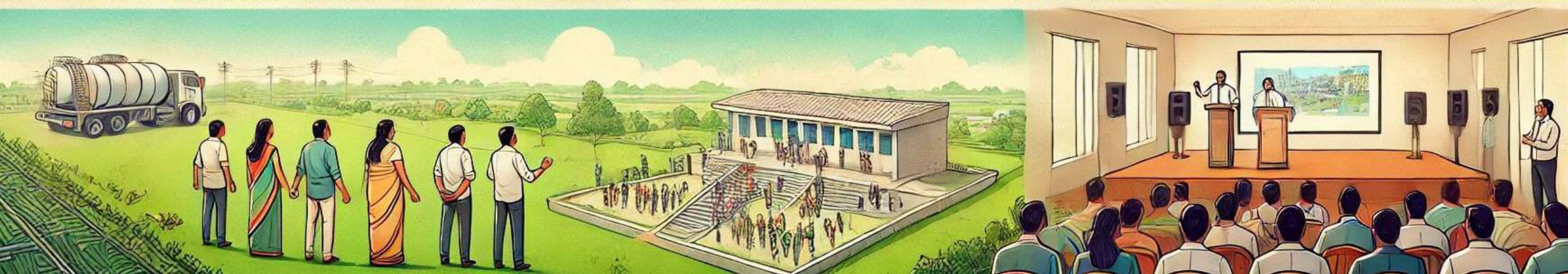
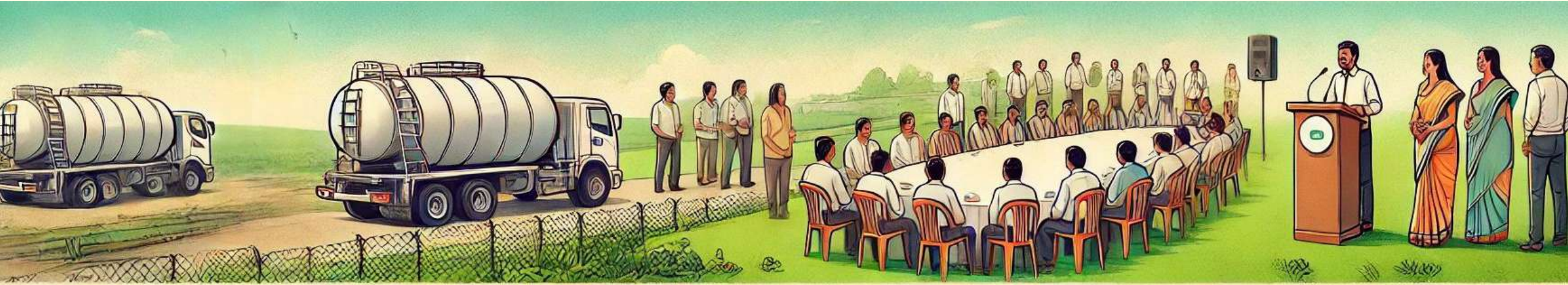
Through impactful articles, Stories of Change amplifies the often overlooked voices of women, who play diverse roles across the sanitation chain. The series highlights their personal triumphs and the profound impact on their communities.

We are always on the lookout for inspiring stories to feature. If you know a woman sanitation professional with a compelling story, please contact us at tnussp@iihs.ac.in.

Follow and engage with these campaigns on TNUSSP's social media handles ([Instagram](#), [X](#), [LinkedIn](#)) and [blog](#) to spread the word and drive positive change in the sanitation sector.

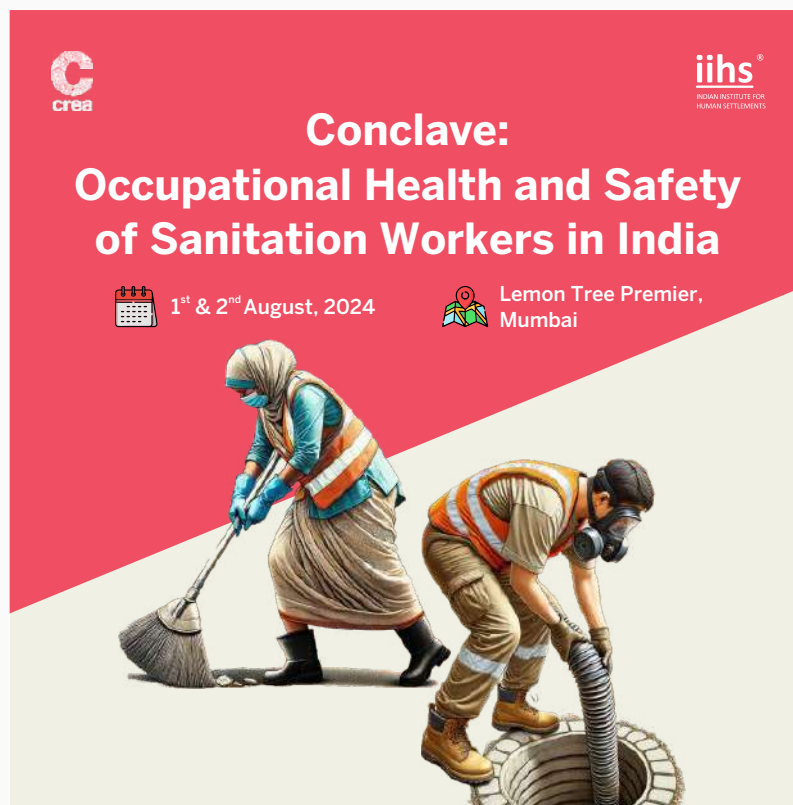


EVENT SPOTLIGHTS



Empowering Sanitation Workers: A Conclave on Health, Safety, and Rights

CREA and IIHS co-hosted a conclave on the Occupational Health and Safety of Sanitation Workers in India at Hotel Lemon Tree Premier, Mumbai, on 1-2 August 2024. Sanitation workers in India face severe occupational hazards, often leading to long-term illness, disability, and a high risk of accidental death, particularly during sewer and septic tank cleaning and maintenance.



The conclave addressed these issues by bringing together experts from diverse fields, including sanitation workers from various Indian cities, medical professionals, legal experts, mental health activists, civil society organisations, and representatives from the World Health Organisation and International Labour Organisation. The discussions focussed on integrating caste, gender, and other perspectives into the discourse around sanitation workers' occupational health and safety concerns.

Empowering Sanitation Workers: A Conclave on Health, Safety, and Rights

Day 1 centred on occupational safety, hazard identification, use of AI in risk management and efficacy of legally mandated personal protection equipment (PPE). A special session facilitated sanitation workers to share their experiences of how everyday work hazards become risks, and the available coping mechanisms.

Day 2 emphasised occupational health, stigma and discrimination, policy and governance, and inter-movement dialogue involving thematic experts and panel discussions. Niladri Chakraborti, Senior


Lead - IIHS Practice Programme, moderated the panel discussion on policy and governance involving the Centre for Budget Governance and Accountability; Center for Water And Sanitation (CWAS); Urban Management Center (UMC); and Hasiru Dala.

The conclave concluded with an acknowledgement of the complexities involving sanitation workers' occupational health and safety in India, and a renewed commitment to address the issues in a systematic manner.



Tamil Nadu's Experience on IEC/ BCC Shared at CSE's Consultation Workshop

The Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) organised an online IEC (Information Education Communication) Consultation workshop on 5 July 2024. The keynote speaker, Mr. P.K. Srivastava, Additional Mission Director of AMRUT from the Government of Uttar Pradesh, addressed ULB officials about the upcoming IEC campaign and AMRUT initiatives. Various States, including Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha and Tamil Nadu, shared their strategies and experiences in using Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) as one of the enablers for sustaining FSSM initiatives.



ONLINE CONSULTATION

FSSM AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

What has been the experience in India?

Date: July 5, 2024

Time: 11.00 AM-12.30 Noon (India Time) | On Zoom

We know that FSTPs and co-treatment plants are effective ways of safely managing faecal sludge and septage in non-sewered areas. But scaling up of affordable and inclusive faecal sludge and septage management (FSSM) requires long-term strategy to work on both demand and supply sides. On the demand side, one important aspect is to ensure overall citizen engagement in the process. For this, building awareness in the community plays a vital role. Recently, Uttar Pradesh has rolled out one round of an IEC campaign for FSSM in selected cities for community mobilisation; more rounds have been planned.

There are other states in India that are working towards awareness generation in communities. This creates an opportunity for UP to learn from others, and vice versa. Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) invites you to join its online consultation of experts focused on awareness campaigns on FSSM, and what have been the learnings on this from across the country. Experiences of citizen engagement strategy, challenges and achievements from Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Maharashtra as well as UP are expected to enrich the discussions. The webinar will present a pathway for engaging citizens at the level of those local governments in India and the Global South that are beginning their journey towards FSSM.

REGISTER HERE

Abhilaasha Nagarajan, Consultant, IHS Practice Programme, presented the 'Kakkaman' campaign on behalf of Tamil Nadu. She detailed IHS' approach to understanding the need for BCC, devising targeted strategies for specific stakeholder groups, and developing campaigns in collaboration with the government. Her presentation included insights into creating simple yet impactful messages, robust media plan, implementation guides, and ideas for institutionalising BCC efforts within existing systems.

About Us

The Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS) is a national education, research, practice and capacity development institution, committed to equitable, sustainable and efficient transformation of Indian cities and settlements.

A proposed Institution of Eminence (IOE), IIHS aims to transform the current nature of urban education as one of the most important drivers for India's national development and sustainable global future. Its interdisciplinary approach to research and practice helps build new global knowledge and train urban professionals.

Since 2016, the Tamil Nadu Urban Sanitation Support Programme (TNUSSP), a consortium led by the Indian Institute for Human Settlements, has been proactively supporting the Government of Tamil Nadu in making improvements along the entire urban sanitation chain in cities. We work towards strengthening septage management as an economical and sustainable complement to network-based sewerage systems and aim to scale fecal sludge management across 649 towns in the state, covering a total urban population of 30 million.

Visit our [website](#) to know more about our work.

in association with

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