

Faecal Sludge Management (FSM) Action Plan for 901 Villages of Agra

1. Introduction

The Faecal Sludge Management (FSM) Action Plan for the 901 villages of Agra aims to provide a sustainable, safe, and efficient sanitation system to manage faecal sludge, reduce environmental pollution, and improve public health.

2. Objectives

- Ensure safe collection, transportation, treatment, and disposal of faecal sludge.
- Minimize groundwater and surface water contamination.
- Promote decentralized FSM systems.
- Strengthen institutional capacity for FSM.
- Encourage community participation and private sector engagement.

3. Proposed FSM Strategy

3.1. Faecal Sludge Collection and Transportation

- Identify villages with existing 35469 septic tanks and prioritize desludging needs.
- Deploy vacuum tankers for scheduled and demand-based desludging services.
- Introduce a desludging service fee based on affordability.
- Engage local entrepreneurs and private service providers for efficient collection and transport.

3.2. Faecal Sludge Treatment and Disposal

- Develop decentralized treatment facilities (FSTPs) at strategic locations.
- Utilize co-treatment at existing Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) where feasible.
- Promote nature-based solutions such as constructed wetlands for sludge treatment.
- Ensure treated sludge is used in agriculture as soil conditioner or disposed of safely.

3.3. Institutional and Regulatory Framework

- Define roles and responsibilities of Gram Panchayats, district authorities, and private operators.
- Establish a monitoring and reporting mechanism for FSM activities.
- Develop local FSM policies and integrate them into existing sanitation plans.

3.4. Financial Sustainability and Cost Recovery

- Develop a cost-sharing model involving government, private sector, and user contributions.

- Introduce desludging fees, cross-subsidies, and viability gap funding.
- Leverage national and state sanitation schemes (e.g., SBM 2.0) for funding.

3.5. Community Awareness and Capacity Building

- Conduct awareness campaigns on FSM importance and desludging frequency.
- Train local service providers and municipal staff in FSM best practices.
- IEC strategies to promote toilet usage and safe sanitation practices.

4. Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Arrangements

4.1. O&M for Collection and Transportation

- Establish a desludging schedule based on population density and sludge generation.
- Maintain a database for regular tracking of septic tanks and desludging frequency.
- Ensure timely maintenance and servicing of vacuum tankers.

4.2. O&M for Treatment Facilities

- Appoint trained operators for FSTP operations.
- Conduct periodic desludging and maintenance of treatment units.
- Implement a sludge quality monitoring system.

4.3. Institutional Support for O&M

- Set up a dedicated FSM unit within the local administration for coordination.
- Develop Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) for long-term O&M sustainability.
- Establish grievance redressal mechanisms for FSM service complaints.

5. Monitoring and Evaluation

- Develop FSM performance indicators and conduct regular audits.
- Utilize digital tools for FSM service tracking and data management.
- Conduct periodic impact assessments to measure environmental and public health benefits.

6. Conclusion

The FSM Action Plan for the 901 villages of Agra presents a comprehensive strategy to ensure safe and sustainable faecal sludge management. A collaborative approach involving government authorities, private stakeholders, and local communities is essential for effective implementation and long-term sustainability.