

# Separate Note

## Progress of Faecal Sludge Management (FSM) under SBM(G) Phase-II (Since 2020), Challenges Faced and Way Forward

### 1. Background

Under Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) Phase-II, Faecal Sludge Management (FSM) has been prioritized to ensure safe containment, collection, transportation, treatment, and disposal/reuse of faecal sludge in rural areas. Since 2020, the District has undertaken various initiatives to establish FSM systems with the objective of making all villages FSM-compliant and sustaining ODF Plus status.

### 2. Progress Achieved Since 2020

- Baseline assessment of sanitation systems in villages, including types of on-site sanitation systems (septic tanks and pits).
- Identification of desludging requirements and mapping of existing desludging service providers.
- Awareness generation among households on safe desludging practices and avoidance of manual scavenging.
- Establishment/identification of Faecal Sludge Treatment Plant (FSTP)/co-treatment facilities at nearby urban/local body level.
- Initiation of scheduled desludging and safe disposal practices in selected villages.
- Integration of FSM activities with ODF Plus and Solid/Liquid Waste Management initiatives.

### 3. Challenges Faced

- Inadequate availability of mechanized desludging vehicles and trained operators.
- Limited access to functional FSTPs and long transportation distances in some areas.
- Low awareness among households regarding periodic desludging and safe disposal.
- Informal and unsafe desludging practices persisting in certain pockets.
- Insufficient funds and clear O&M mechanisms for sustained FSM operations.
- Need for stronger institutional arrangements at Gram Panchayat and Block levels.

### 4. Way Forward to Achieve FSM-Compliant Villages

- Preparation of a village-wise FSM action plan to cover all residual villages.
- Ensuring availability of mechanized desludging services at block/cluster level through procurement or empanelment.
- Strengthening linkages with nearby FSTPs/co-treatment facilities through formal agreements/MoUs.
- Promotion of scheduled desludging and user awareness through IEC/BCC campaigns.
- Prohibition and strict monitoring to eliminate unsafe desludging and manual scavenging.
- Convergence with other schemes and local bodies for infrastructure and service delivery.

### 5. Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Arrangements

- FSM services to be managed through Gram Panchayats/Block level arrangements with defined roles and responsibilities.
- O&M costs to be met through SBM(G) Phase-II funds, user charges, Gram Panchayat resources, and convergence with other schemes.
- Engagement of trained operators and SHGs/private service providers for desludging and transport.
- Regular monitoring, record-keeping, and reporting at Block and District levels.
- Capacity building and periodic training of functionaries for safe FSM practices.

### 6. Conclusion

With systematic planning, strengthened infrastructure, formalized service delivery, and sustainable O&M arrangements, the District aims to ensure that all residual villages become FSM-compliant and contribute to long-term sanitation and environmental sustainability under SBM(G) Phase-II.



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