Dehradun is an expanding town, the state capital of Uttarakhand. There are 8 STPs existing in the town. Yet, it is estimated that a significant proportion of households are dependent on septic tanks based sanitation systems that require emptying of tanks on a regular basis. A viable solution to address the sanitation requirements of the population is to combine the sewered and non-sewered sanitation systems in Uttarakhand, which is predominantly a hilly state. The handling of faecal sludge and septage (FSS) generated from non-sewered sanitation systems such as septic tanks require a dedicated treatment plant. However, this is found to be a capital intensive activity and requires large land area. For a densely populated city like Dehradun, a middle ground has been realized by co-treating the FSS with sewage in the existing sewage treatment plants (STPs). The STP at Kargi Chowk in Dehradun was commissioned in 2013 and has a treatment potential of 68 MLD. However, the utilization of this STP was only 30% due to difficulties in laying down of sewerage network. At the same time, the waste from OSS systems needs to be treated safely. By transporting the sanitary waste from OSS systems to Kargi Chowk STP, two major benefits will be realized: (i) reduction in the environmental pollution by limiting the discharge of faecal sludge and septage into ‘nallahs’ or open drains, and (ii) increasing the utilization of the Kargi Chowk STP which will lead to improvement in its overall performance.

*Views are expressed in consultation with city officials during field visit*