The National Workshop on FSSM, organised in Bhubaneswar, Odisha on October 26th - 27th October, 2018 was the first formal convention after the National Policy on FSSM was released in February 2017. The two-day Workshop – organised by the Govt. of Odisha, NFSSM Alliance and Ernst & Young aimed at sharing the experience of Odisha and learning from other states. It brought together National and International experts on one platform who shared their expertise with participating states for implementing FSSM.

The Hon. Chief Minister of Odisha during the National FSSM Workshop announced scaling up of faecal sludge and septage management services to all the 114 ULBs in the state along with modern faecal sludge and septage management treatment facilities. As a result, the government of Odisha has taken steps to establish additional 26 SeTPs besides the existing 11 SeTPs constructed in the first phase.
To make urban areas ODF and to achieve ODF+ and ODF++ status, the ULBs need to effectively implement FSSM programme. The Housing & Urban Development Department (H&UDD) formulated the Model FSSM Regulations 2018 in October to ensure 100% safe containment, emptying, transportation, treatment and disposal of faecal sludge and septage to prevent contamination of drinking water sources and protect the environment from pollution. Odisha is the first State where the FSSM Regulation will be adopted by all the ULBs in the State. The FSSM regulations are now being notified by the individual ULBs. Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) is the first ULB the State to have notified the Model FSSM Regulations 2018 in the Official Gazette following which it is being enforced now.

**FSSM Regulations (2018), Odisha**

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- Focuses on containment, its desludging, septage transport vehicles, designated disposal sites, SeTPs, violations & penalties.
- Provides a regulatory framework & enforcement mechanism for onsite sanitation.
- Every latrine should be connected to a containment unit or STP through sewer connection.
- All septage desludging service providers and their vehicles to be registered with ULB.
- Containment unit to be cleaned through only registered desludging service provider, who ensures use of personal protective equipment.
- No one to deploy manual methods for emptying pits/ tanks.
- Gives powers of inspection to ULBs. In cases of contravention of the regulation, power is given to ULB to levy penalties and fines.
Deep Row Entrenchment (DRE) consists of digging deep trenches, filling them with septage and covering them with soil. Additionally, trees can be planted on the top which benefit from the organic matter and nutrients that are slowly released from the septage. DRE is a simple, low cost solution having limited O&M issues and produces no visible nuisances.

An interim solution for safe and temporary disposal of septage

In Odisha, DRE is being promoted as a temporary solution for safe disposal of faecal sludge. For towns with available land and a need for temporary disposal of faecal sludge, DRE is proven to be a viable solution.

Currently, 84 towns have functioning DRE sites in Odisha with several other towns in the process of adopting the intervention as an interim measure before moving to FSTP or SeTP.

Prior to the implementation of DRE in Odisha, no interim solutions were used for safe disposal of faecal waste in India. Most harmfully, indiscriminate disposal of faecal waste is done in agricultural fields, where the disposal could lead to health impacts through contamination of food crops.

Limitation of DRE

- Not appropriate for high groundwater table or near surface water body
- Sites should have low probability of inundation
- The approach is redundant during monsoon season
Mainstreaming vulnerable populations through livelihood opportunities within the sanitation sector is crucial for their empowerment and progress. Among the successful social entrepreneurial activities undertaken under the Odisha National Urban Livelihoods Mission are engagement of women SHGs in the O&M of community toilets.

Berhampur has taken a lead by engaging 26 Self Help Groups (SHGs) engaged in the O&M of 36 community toilets. SHGs in Berhampur are also engaged in motivating households for mechanised cleaning of septic tanks for which they are given incentives based on every desludging service. Other towns such as Balasore, Bhadrak, Bhubaneswar and Cuttack have adopted similar interventions.

In Cuttack and Bhadrak, male SHGs of sanitary workers from a vulnerable community are being engaged for O&M of cesspool emptier vehicles in the ULB. The workers are provided with all the personal protective equipment to avoid any occupation health hazard.