

Introduction to the FSM Toolbox

Date: 23-25 January 2017

Venue: KSPCB, Bengaluru

Shramana Dey, Research Consultant, CSTEP, and Sujaya Rathi, Principal Research Scientist, CSTEP, attended a training workshop titled “Introduction to the FSM Toolbox” on January 23-25, 2017. The workshop was co-organised by Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP), EMPRI, Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) and CEPT University at the office of the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) at Church Street, Bengaluru. This event was held for dissemination of the FSM Toolbox, which is developed together by AIT, CSTEP and CEPT University. The major focus of this workshop was to introduce the participants to the FSM Toolbox and the tools contained therein. The workshop also included a half-day visit to the Faecal Sludge Treatment Plant (FSTP) located at Devanahalli, near Bengaluru.

The inaugural address was given by Mr. B.N. Ramesh Kumar, Chief Environmental Officer, KSPCB. Attendees included officials from various ministries such as Chittaguppa, Bidadi, Anekal, etc.; engineers from the Bengaluru Water Supply and Sanitation Board (BWSSB); consultants from the sanitation sector, such as CDD Society, Ernst & Young; and representatives from non-governmental organisations such as Dasra and Leaf Society.

Faecal Sludge Management (FSM), which refers to the safe handling and disposal of the effluent from onsite excreta storage facilities, is both a challenge and a potential solution for many Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in the sanitation sector in India. Often overlooked as a solution and underserved as a service, examples of successful FSM implementation in India are few and far between. In order to assist the ULBs with executing successful FSM projects, AIT, CSTEP and CEPT University have jointly developed the FSM Toolbox, which is a ‘one-stop database’ for key players involved in the sector.

The toolbox outlines the entirety of the general FSM program workflow, from understanding the current FSM situation in an area to evaluation of the project to assessing whether the set targets were achieved, based on critical review of FSM projects and engagement of experts in the sector. At every stage, the toolbox equips the users with various forms of resources including, but not limited to, tools, guidance manuals, sample documents, templates, plans, etc. The feedback obtained from the attendees will be analysed and used for further training workshops, to be held for municipalities from other states in India.