

HWTS Network, India

In the present time, Water is one the most important constituent of WASH that has been most important than ever. Keeping this perspective in mind, Sehgal Foundation, India in collaboration with National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), India and Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology (CAWT), Canada conducted a Learning Exchange workshop in February 2020 on **Sharing Technologies and Experiences** related to **Household Water Treatment Storage** (HWTS) and to develop a strategy to scale up HWTS in India focusing on safe drinking water.

Workshop participants expressed the need for a Household Water Treatment and Safe Storage (HWTS) network for India. The group wanted to take advantage of the diversity of the members who come from different educational and professional backgrounds, and a variety of organizations and geographic locations.

The following is the summary of group work on envisioning the network.

Vision of the network

All Indians must consume affordable safe drinking water.

Goal of the network

Network shall contribute to increased safe water coverage in India, specifically in rural, remote and peri-urban areas, with a focus on the poorest of poor people through implementation of household water treatment.

Objective of the network

To increase knowledge and build capacities of members on appropriate and affordable HWTS technologies, products, research, and HWTS project implementation.

Activities of the network

1. Participate in policy discussions.
2. Facilitate knowledge-sharing with a clear focus on the gaps.
3. Conduct capacity building workshops.
4. Provide technical support through emails, phone calls, and personal visits.

5. Engage the members by occasional letters/emails.
6. Connect with the global HWTS network and exchange knowledge and updates.
7. Develop thematic group of expert to help the members in need.
8. Create opportunities for members to come and work together for building each other's capacity.

Roles and Responsibilities

Since finances, people, and time are not allocated for this purpose, the network shall keep the structure simple and informal. Network intends to work with a Hub and Spoke model. Keeping this in mind at this point, as discussed in the workshop Mr. Lalit Sharma of Sehgal Foundation will coordinate the network.

Sehgal Foundation will conduct an annual learning exchange workshop, within their means. NIRD expressed willingness to make their venue available for the learning exchange. CAWST will provide technical and knowledge support to Sehgal Foundation in organizing the learning exchange.

Membership

Organizations working or interested in HWTS for drinking water can join the network for free by [clicking here](#). It is expected that all members will cooperate and coordinate with Sehgal Foundation.

Action Plan

During the Learning Exchange workshop participants identified many challenges hampering the scaling up of HWTS. Out of identified challenges followings were selected to be addressed by the Network to start with.

- Lack of knowledge about the available products in the market
- Resigned attitude and Reluctance for change of users
- Focus on centralized systems by the policy makers
- High pricing of available solutions.

The suggested strategies for scaling up are:

- To make right data available on drinking water sources
- Engage local entrepreneurs

- Link with microfinance
- Need to have government extension workers across the country who will carry out the community education like agriculture extension workers
- Need of testing and analyzing water at the point of use too
- To form a HWTS network to promote proper technologies, products and projects.

Journey so far

Membership: HWTS Network, India has 207 members registered nationally and internationally. 186 different organizations have been a part of the network since 2020. Each member has been an asset for strengthening the network across India to reach the last mile.

Sehgal Foundation in partnership with CAWST has

- **Conducted:**
 - 46 trainings to 343 organizations. The network has trained 1377 community members in the subject of Biosand filter technology, Household Water Treatment and Safe Storage (HWTS), Community WASH Promotion (CWP), Drinking Water Quality Testing (DWQT) and Ceramic Pot Filter Technology.
 - 7 webinars where 760 participants participated in the session
 - Provided 96 technical consultations to 50 organization
 - 2 certificate course have been conducted on the subject Introduction to Household Water Treatment and Safe Storage (HWTS) for different audience (water practitioners, organization and academic students). First batch of Drinking Water Quality Testing (DWQT) has been started this month as a pilot batch with limited expertise.
 - 3 Learning exchange workshops have been conducted. One in person and other two virtually, owing to restriction with COVID-19 travel. In all, 90 participants have attended in all three Learning exchanges and over 16 network members have shared their learning or technologies for the betterment of different stakeholders, water practitioners on HWTS.
 - Certified series of sessions on Water Knowledge Exchange has been initiated with an aim of disseminating knowledge on different subjects. First two sessions focused

on knowing about microbial contamination in drinking water where 25 participants have gained knowledge in the subject.

- **Facilitated:**

- JalKalp Biosand filter Adoption: 15 Indian NGOs and 3 Social Entrepreneurs have adopted JalKalp Biosand filter technology after getting trained on the subject. Over 12,000 JalKalp have been installed out of which 3,000 have been installed by Sehgal Foundation and remaining have been done by trained partner organizations in Bihar, UP, Andhra, Himachal, Nagaland, Haryana and Rajasthan.
- MatiKalp ceramic pot filter production and promotion: 5 Production units of MatiKalp Ceramic Pot Filter has been installed. 461 MatiKalp filters have been installed in households in Bihar.
- HWTS technology widespread: 30,000 people benefitted from safe drinking water by adopting suitable water filters.

- **Sensitization and Awareness Building Session**: Over 300,000 community members have been educated on WASH issues.

Here are few snapshots of the activities done under HWTS Network, India.







