

## DDWS conducts virtual meeting on Waste to Wealth - GOBAR-Dhan 2020-21



The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti organised a virtual meeting on the pilot programme of GOBAR-Dhan 2020-21 with the Chief Secretaries, Additional Chief Secretaries and Principal Secretaries of the Departments concerned with Biogas programmes from 12 States on October 13, 2020.

One of the key components under Bio-degradable Waste Management in Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen (SBM-G)- Phase II is GOBAR-Dhan (Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan). The scheme is aimed at keeping villages clean while increasing the income of farmers and cattle owners by promoting local entrepreneurs to convert cattle dung, and other organic resources, to biogas and organic manure.

The states represented at the meeting were Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Telangana, Karnataka, Gujarat, Haryana, and Punjab. The States were selected based on the high number of Gaushalas and cattle population (20th Livestock census 2019 – Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying).

**The Need:** Both the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MPNG) implement schemes on biogas and compressed biogas.

As a result, many new business models and technologies are being developed. However, there is a need for a unified approach towards converting waste to wealth by converging all bio-gas programmes of the Government of India, under various Ministries. Hence, this pilot programme will be implemented through a unified approach with DDWS as the coordinating Department of the Government of India.

It is to give impetus to this programme and also for the formation of governance structure to implement and monitor the same, **Mr. U.P. Singh, Secretary, DDWS**, held this meeting with the Chief Secretaries of the States along with ACS and Principal Secretaries of the concerned Departments (Animal Husbandry, Agriculture, Rural Sanitation and SNAs of MNRE).

In his opening remarks, Secretary DDWS referred to the presentation made before the PM regarding the GOBAR-Dhan 2020, where different models of biogas plant projects are to be implemented in rural areas. DDWS has been given the role of the Coordinating Department.

Setting the context, **Mr. Arun Baroka, Additional Secretary, Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen, DDWS**, Ministry of Jai Shakti gave a brief presentation regarding the roles, responsibilities of different concerned Ministries and Departments and coordination of programme activities needed in the implementation of GOBAR-Dhan 2020 with the support of selected states.

**Presentations:** During the meeting, **National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)** from Anand District of Gujarat made a presentation on the cluster model of biogas plants and manure management, they have implemented in the villages of Anand District. This was followed by a presentation by the **Banas Dairy**, from Banaskantha District of Gujarat on the Centralised Anaerobic Digester (CAD) model of biogas plant where CBG is produced and used as fuel in automobiles.



Sustainability of ODF (open defecation free) Status and solid and liquid waste management (SLWM) which will lead to visual cleanliness of villages are the key focus areas of the Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen (SBM-G) Phase II.