

## Districts are on the road to ODF Plus



District Collectors who met at the virtual Collectors' Samvad on August 13, 2021, are confident of achieving ODF Plus status for their districts soon. From active engagement in solid and liquid waste management activities that would contribute to visual cleanliness of their villages to ensuring sustainability of gains made during Phase I of the Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen (SBM-G), they have been ticking all the right boxes.

The Collectors' Samvad organised by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), is a part of a new initiative in knowledge sharing wherein all stakeholders of SBM-G Phase II share their plans. The meetings have been useful to address the ongoing challenges.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Arun Baroka, Additional Secretary, DDWS recalled the ODF journey in Phase I of SBM-G, emphasizing that the focus has shifted to solid and liquid waste management (SLWM) in a renewed manner, to achieve ODF Plus villages. Just as various segments of the community were involved in the ODF process, the Phase II would also require the entire district mechanism together with PRI institutions and the community to come together to achieve the ambitious target, he added.

Collectors who participated in this edition of the Samvad were:



**Dr. Sarveshwar Bhure Collector, Durg**

**Chhattisgarh:** Having worked with the SMB-G for the last 7 years, the District Collector admitted that the scenario has changed, and Phase II of SBM-G was a far tougher task. That said, the district administration has commenced ODF Plus initiatives along the parameters: ODF sustainability; construction of one or two community toilets per GP; toilets in all public buildings, keeping public spaces free of waste, segregation of waste at household level, plastic waste management; IEC activities on ODF Plus and faecal sludge management.

Mr. Bhure talked about the vital role played by women SHGs and Swachhagrahis who he considers have been gamechangers throughout the campaign. Thus far, Durg has 18 ODF Plus GPs and all ODF Plus initiatives are carried out in

convergence with MNGREGA, SBM-G and 15<sup>th</sup> FC.

The GPs are also earning a considerable sum by selling their dry waste to recyclers. While Faecal Sludge Management has been initiated in one GP, tie-ups have been made with cement factories to buy their plastic waste; and the district has also been involved in generating vermi compost from cattle dung, in keeping with the Narva Garwa Ghurwa Badi Yojna that is being implemented Statewide.



**Shri Chandan Kumar, Collector, Kanker,**

**Chhattisgarh:** In its endeavour to create ODF Plus villages, the district which has 8 ODF Plus villages, has set up 66 facilities for segregation of waste of which 12 are fully functional. Further, SHG women have been deployed to collect and segregate waste and thereafter use wet waste for composting and send dry waste for recycling. The activity has provided an alternative livelihood for women.

Kanker currently has 81 CSCs with 333 additional facilities in progress. Located in marketplaces, public spaces and the highway, the facility are for use during functions, events and so on. As it is difficult to collect user charges for their use, the district administration has been making efforts to link each CSC to a shop, the owner of which will maintain the facility.

As many as 5 Gobardhan plants are functional at present, the dung bought directly from farmers. Women SHGs are involved in converting the same into compost which is sold. To date, Rs. 2.46 crore worth of vermicompost has been sold. This initiative has cleaned up the streets and villages tremendously as they march towards ODF Plus.

Towards Menstrual Hygiene Management, the district administration has set up 34 sanitary pad vending machines in 34 hostels and boarding schools. In addition, 24 clusters have plastic management units and all GPs have passed resolutions to curb the use of plastics and use cloth bags instead.



**Ms. Anjali Rajoriya, CEO, Dungarpur, Rajasthan:** Of the 250 villages in the district, one GP is ODF Plus, according to the CEO-ZP. To commence ODF Plus activities, various triggering exercises with the support of an NGO were organized, bearing in mind the customs, traditions and religious sentiments of the people who are protective of their environment.

After community meetings were held in all GP to discuss the importance of segregating waste at source, dump yards have been removed through shramdaan and door to door collection of waste has started. All along, the farmers have been in the practice of using cow dung as manure and kitchen waste to feed the livestock.

So far, 543 CSCs have been constructed and sanitary pad vending machines and incinerators have been installed in certain schools, in addition to awareness on MHM. Many efforts are being made to construct soak pits to stop wastewater from flowing into the water bodies.



**Shri Musaraf Faruki, Collector, Nirmal, Telangana:** The Collector discussed the efforts being made to ensure ODF sustainability and promote SLWM activities. Across the district, all dump yards have been removed. This has gone a long way to promote segregation at source. Every GP has a tractor with a trolley where waste can be collected separately. This is taken to the solid waste management centres with sheds that

are present in 6 locations. Four personnel have been appointed for every centre and they are provided with protective gear to segregate waste, even as the dry waste is sent to recyclers.

The district has plans to construct 5000 soak pits and has also set up a faecal sludge treatment plant. It plans to transform 20 GPs in ODF Plus by October 2021 and in due course change the landscape of rural Telangana.



**Shri Adarsh Surabhi, Additional Collector, Mulugu, Telangana:** The newest district in Telangana, Mulugu has a population of 3 lakhs and 174 GPs, most of which are predominantly populated by tribal communities. As far as ODF Plus activities are concerned, work has started in 9 GPs as a pilot programme during which the waste generated from households was studied so that the average amount of

dry and wet waste per day per person could be determined.

The district has tied up with ITC which is supporting the programme with its CSR funds. Among the activities carried out are collection and segregation of waste. All 174 GPs have segregation sheds where vermi compost is generated and sold for use in plantations. Dry waste is compressed and sent to recyclers. One GP in each of the 9 Mandals has been adopted by Mandal officers to make ODF Plus.

Soak pits are being constructed on a large scale and plans are in the pipeline to have drainage attached to percolator pits. SHGs are involved in awareness activities and distribution of pamphlets to households on ODF Plus, while Mandal wise training is provided to all PRIs. One CSC for every 500 households is being planned.



**Shri Muzammil Khan, Additional Collector, Siddipet, Telangana:** Innovations in Siddipet include a Divine Compost unit where flowers and fruit from the temple are converted into compost and sold at cost to beneficiaries. Another initiative is the Swachh School where mandal officials are trained on various aspects of SLWM and learn about the best practices.

The district has also laid emphasis on 3 aspects – source segregation, regularization of waste collection and scientific disposal of waste. Towards this 2 dustbins for wet and dry waste have been distributed to all households. People have been told that waste from God made products is wet waste that can be used for composting and that from manmade products is dry waste and would need to be recycled. While dry waste is collected from households on Tuesdays and Thursdays, the wet waste is collected on other days as well.

Every GP has one tractor and mini auto that ensures timely collection of waste, the ward appointed sanitation committee ensuring accountability with even a geo-fencing system in place. In total, the district has 499 dump sheds with 2 workers each, where dry waste is collated and tied up for resale while compost is made with the wet waste. Per year, about Rs. 18 lakhs are generated per Mandal from the sale of compost and dry waste.