

Unified Gobardhan portal launched



With a view to monitoring Gobardhan activities across the nation, the Gobardhan portal (<http://sbm.gov.in/gbdw20>) was launched by Ministers of various stakeholder Ministries and Departments, in the national capital on February 3, 2021.

An important component of ODF Plus under SBM-G Phase 2, Gobardhan is a pilot programme for converting Waste to Wealth by converging all biogas programmes of the Government of India under various Ministries.

The portal was jointly launched by Union Minister for Jal Shakti, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat along with Union Minister, Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and Rural Development, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar; Union Minister of Petroleum, Natural Gas and Steel, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan; Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Shri Giriraj Singh; and Union Minister of State, Jal Shakti, Shri Rattan Lal Kataria at the National Media Centre (NMC).

Setting the context, Shri Pankaj Kumar, Secretary, DDWS said, "After the successful completion of SBM Phase I, we are now in Phase II of the programme which focusses on ODF Plus. Gobardhan will therefore be a transformative component under this phase to ensure effective waste management."

He also highlighted how Gobardhan encapsulates the concept of 'waste to wealth.' "The Gobardhan scheme aims at supporting villages to effectively manage their cattle dung and other organic waste. Our department will work with all the other stakeholders to implement Gobardhan, a unified approach across village," Secretary, DDWS added.



In his inaugural address, Union Minister, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, said that SBMG transformed itself into a Jan Andolan for sanitation under the guidance and leadership of Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi and achieved Open Defecation Free (ODF) rural India milestone in mission mode. Taking forward the extraordinary success, Phase 2 of the SBM (G) has been launched early last year, which focuses on ODF sustainability and Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM) aiming at comprehensive cleanliness in villages or ODF Plus status.

He added that for achieving ODF Plus goal, Gobardhan scheme was launched in early 2018 to manage the prevailing issues of bio-waste in villages including cattle waste and converting them into biogas and organic manure to improve the lives of villagers by providing economic and resource benefits to farmers and households. He hailed the new Unified Approach strategy and said that Unified Gobardhan portal will ensure close coordination with stakeholder Departments/Ministries for smooth implementation of Biogas schemes/initiatives and its real time tracking.

More than 650 entrepreneurs have been allowed to work towards the production of compressed biogas through the 'Gobardhan program, which will also produce CNG gas, said Mr. Dharmendra Pradhan, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India. "We will work to provide financial aid to guarantee long-term sales and profits to those working in the production sector through the Gobardhan programme, he added.

Also speaking on the occasion, Mr. Giriraj Singh, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying said that the pilot project of Gobardhan started under the leadership of Prime Minister will prove to be an important and useful step in the field of cleanliness. Through it, our farmers will be able to truly attain 'Kanchan from garbage'.



About Gobardhan:

Gobardhan supports the villages in safely managing their cattle waste, agriculture waste and organic waste in rural areas. It also helps villages convert their waste to wealth, improve environmental sanitation and curb vector borne diseases. Government of India provides technical assistance to every District and financial support of up to Rs.50 lakhs per District to achieve safe disposal of cattle and organic waste.

Objectives:

- Support villages safely manage their cattle waste, agriculture waste and in long run all organic waste.
- Support communities convert their cattle and organic waste to wealth using decentralized systems.
- Promote environmental sanitation and curb vector borne diseases through effective disposal of waste in rural areas.
- Convert organic waste, especially, cattle waste to biogas and fertilizer for use in rural areas.
- Promote rural entrepreneurship employment and income generation opportunities.

Stakeholders:

- Department of Agricultural Research and Education
- Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare
- Department of Rural Development
- Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation
- Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying
- Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
- Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas

Coordinated by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti, other concerned Departments and Ministries that are participating in the GOBAR-Dhan programme are: Animal Husbandry, Cooperatives, Agriculture, Rural Sanitation and Panchayat Raj; Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, and Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

States with a large bovine population that would implement pilots are Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Jharkhand, and Kerala.

The portal will provide information about:

- Functional biogas/CBG plants
- Construction completed of biogas/CBG plants
- Construction in progress of biogas/CBG plants
- Capacity of biogas/CBG plants in m³
- Capacity of slurry in litres
- Number of districts covered

Principles:

- Aggregate cattle waste and convert it to biogas for domestic and industrial purposes.
- Bio-slurry as a by-product of the biogas process, used as bio-fertilizer.
- Activity involves the community/SHG/milk coops in operation and management.
- Focus on making the process economically viable for all in the value chain.
- Entrepreneurship for the large-scale production of compressed biogas and bio-fertilizers.

Benefits of the programme:

- Effective biodegradable waste management.
- Reduction of GHG emission.
- Reduction in import of crude oil.
- Employment opportunity for the local community.
- Boost to entrepreneurship.
- Additional income for farmers/ local village community from organic waste.
- Promotion of organic farming.

Project models recommended: Individual household units, community units, cluster units and commercial units