

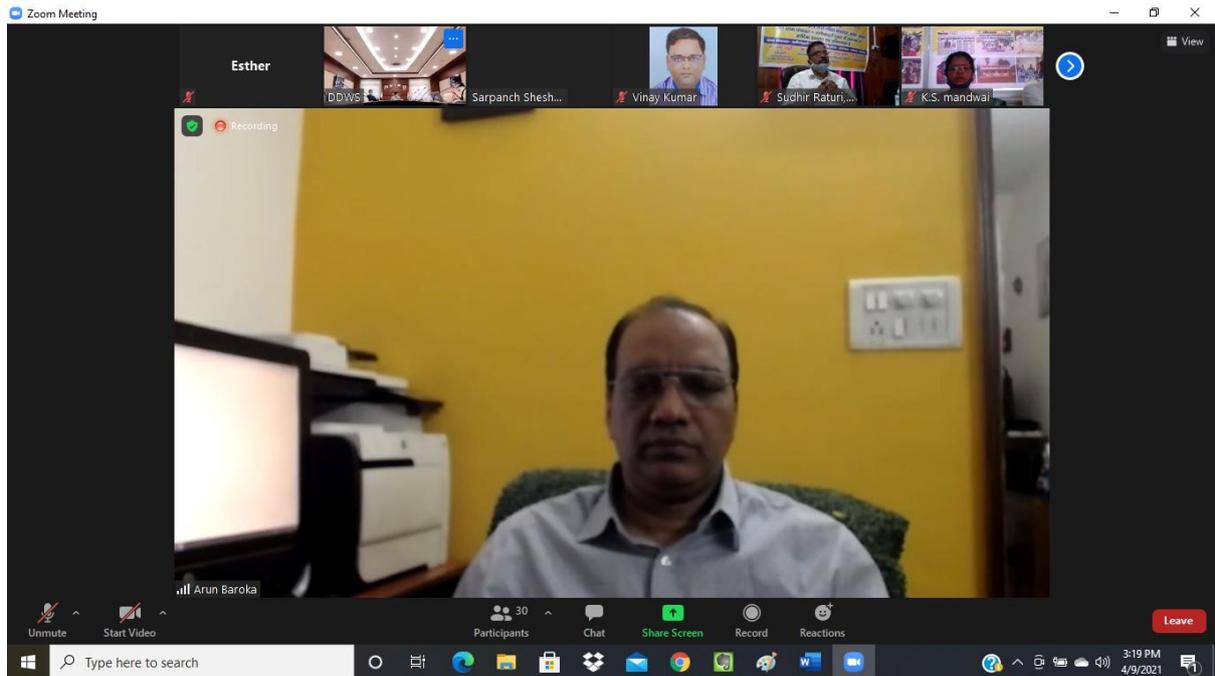
## Sarpanches discuss ODF Plus initiatives



Efforts taken to sustain ODF status, maintain their community sanitary complexes, and manage their solid and liquid waste, while specifying practices unique to their villages, were among the topics discussed by the Sarpanches that participated in the Sarpanch Samvad on April 9, 2021.

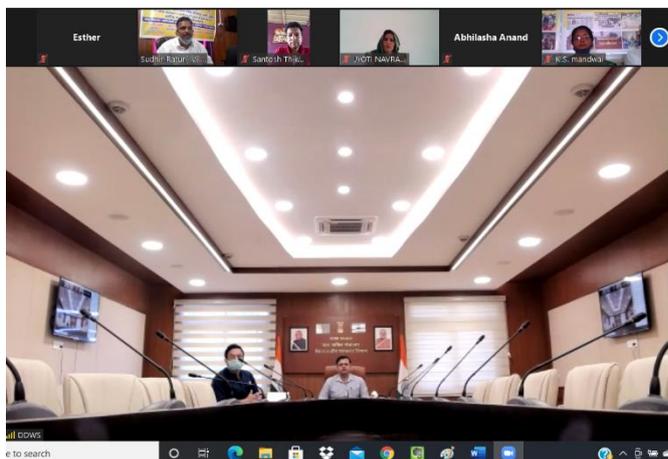
Sarpanch Samvad organised by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti was chaired by the Additional Secretary, DDWS, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Mr. Arun Baroka.

The Sarpanches from the States of Punjab, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, and Uttarakhand discussed their future plans of action, and the village development plans of their respective villages.



Welcoming the participants, Additional Secretary, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Mr. Arun Baroka thanked the sarpanches involved in the Sarpanch Samvad programme and urged everyone to work unitedly to create an ODF Plus India.

To achieve ODF Plus, we must effectively manage solid and liquid waste and ensure proper disposal of cow dung and use ponds to store water to avoid future water crisis, he added.



Offering his comments, Director – Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen, Mr. Yugal Joshi advised all Sarpanches to keep safe and abide by all covid protocols such as social distancing, using masks and sanitising. He called for their commitment to fulfil the requirements of ODF Plus which include toilet usage, solid and liquid waste management, and visual cleanliness.

On their part, the Sarpanches discussed their good practices both to sustain ODF (open defecation free) status and manage solid and liquid waste. They also discussed how they would spend funds received under the 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission. In their presentations, they talked about their activities and best practices that worked for their community.

Sarpanches present at the meeting were:

State	Name	Special initiatives taken
Punjab	Ms. Sheshandeeep Kaur Sarpanch, Bhatinda (Panchayat Awardee of 2021)	Wastewater management
	Ms. Pallavi Thakur, Sarpanch, Pathankot	Waste management
Maharashtra	Shri Santosh Tikekar, Sarpanch, Pune	Gobardhan, SLWM
	Shri Sanjay Nikhare, Sarpanch, Gadchiroli	Good work in Naxal area
Rajasthan	Ms. Jyoti Navratan Yadav, Sarpanch, Alwar	SLWM activities
	Ms. Dimple Kanwar, Sarpanch, Rajsamand (youngest Sarpanch)	Waste management
Chhattisgarh	Ms. Lusi Grace Minzi, Sarpanch of first ODF Plus GP of District Jashpur	Gobardhan
	Shri Jeevan Lal Kanwar, Sarpanch, Rajnandgaon	SLWM
Uttarakhand	Shri Sudhir Raturi, Pradhan, Dehradun	Solid waste management

**Mr. Jeevan Lal Kanwar, Sarpanch, Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh:** "We inspired people to use waste water in our village for domestic gardening, and advised them to construct soak pits within their premises if there was no space for gardening."

**Mr. Santosh Tikekar, Sarpanch, Pune, Maharashtra:** "Our village became open defecation free in 2007. Waste management is being done through the biogas plant in our village and the fertilizer generated from it is made available to the farmers."

**Ms. Jyoti Navratan Yadav, Sarpanch, Alwar, Rajasthan:** "There is no problem of filth and waterlogging anywhere in our village. We go door-to-door to encourage people to refrain from defecating in the open. Community toilets have been constructed for homes that do not have toilets."

**Mr. Sudhir Raturi, Pradhan, Dehradun, Uttarakhand:** "We have constituted a committee for the management of solid and liquid waste, under whose supervision this operation is being carried out. We distributed dustbins to all household so they can segregate waste at source."

"Small and big vehicles are used to collect garbage from all households in our village. People are constantly taking part in the waste management activity as we have made them aware of the importance of reducing, reusing and recycling waste."

**Ms. Lucy Grace Minji, Sarpanch, Jashpur, Chhattisgarh:** "Our Panchayat was the first in the district to begin the Gobardhan scheme as well as menstrual hygiene management. We are currently taking positive steps towards waste management."

**Ms. Pallavi Thakur, Sarpanch, Pathankot, Punjab:** "For solid waste management, we have raised awareness among the people. After securing Panchayat land, we have employed women who take care of garbage segregation. It has provided a livelihood opportunity for them."

**Mrs. Seshandeep Kaur, Sarpanch, Bhatinda, Punjab:** "I am pushing people in our village to build a biogas plant for disposal of cow dung. And soak pits are being constructed in homes for the management of waste water."

