

Udupi retrofits single pits with vermi-filter technology



The district administration of Udupi in Karnataka has retrofitted 100 single pits toilets using the vermi-filter composting toilet technology that provides a complete treatment of faecal matter. Using this system, vermi-compost of high NPK (nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium) value can be availed in a minimum of five years.

Vermi-filter toilets are a form of in-situ treatment systems that have been prevalent since 1992. The technology is considered a low cost and a high-quality primary treatment system which is simple in design. This allows the system to be retrofitted in existing leach pits. It is indeed an attractive option to convert a single pit into an in-situ treatment system thus avoiding the need for formal 'emptying-transport-treatment-reuse' infrastructure.

Identification of beneficiaries: As many as 100 beneficiaries from five different Gram Panchayats who had single pit toilets were first identified as below:

Sl.No	Block	Gram Panchayat	No. of beneficiaries
1	Karkala	Kadthala	50
2	Udupi	Ambalpadi	10
3	Kundapura	Hanglore	20
4	Kundapura	Basurur	10

5	Kundapura	Hosadu	10
		TOTAL	100



Feasibility: Thereafter, a survey was carried out by a technical representative of the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India. This was done to check the viability of the system across several GPs in Udupi district with different topography. The 100 households selected were those with a high degree of feasibility. Consent was taken from all beneficiaries to participate in the project.



Implementation: The work of retrofitting was carried out by the Engineering Division of Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department.

IEC and Monitoring: To carry out IEC activities at GP level and to supervise proper usage and maintenance of toilets, orientation meetings were held for Panchayat Development Officers at the district level. A district-level team prepared and circulated an IEC action plan and questionnaire for monitoring of toilets to GPs.

Additionally, various IEC activities were carried out at GP level.

This included group discussions to educate the beneficiaries about usage and maintenance of vermi-filter toilets; PowerPoint presentations; and circulation of handbills to every household. Households were asked to use very mild cleaning agents to clean toilets. Swachhagrahis were assigned for the door to door visits to monitor the proper usage and maintenance of the toilets.

Scope of replication: The project has been running successfully for the past 10 months. Once the monitoring period comes to an end, a detailed study will be conducted, and the same technology will be replicated in other GPs.