

Inter Disciplinary Urban Sanitation Research 2020

Request for Proposal

Background:

Capacity Development for Faecal Sludge Management (FSM) was always integrated into a sanitation systems perspective in SCBP. If Capacity Development is understood as more than individual training and skill building, then institutional development and an enabling environment/policy is also Capacity Development. With this larger understanding of Capacity Development, research and documentation is a major focal point of the Sanitation Capacity Building Platform (SCBP), based out of the National Institute of Urban Affairs.

In the first phase, SCBP supported 8 research studies, focussing on the urban sanitation status of some 7 states(be accessed at <https://scbp.niua.org/research-reports>).

For the Research in the current phase, SCBP has conducted a Research Agenda Roundtable Discussion on 12th May 2020, in which 21 credible researchers, academia and institutions took part. The roundtable discussed the current priorities of urban sanitation, with some relevance with decentralized and non-sewered sanitation in India (mentioned in the subsequent section of this RfP).

1. Purpose:

Explore next generation of Urban Sanitation, Waste Water and Faecal Sludge Management challenges of India. With the purpose of contributing to the developing a body of knowledge that will serve the larger Urban Sanitation Sector in India and abroad.

In the first phase of the SCBP Research initiative we undertook state level studies on urban sanitation with specific reference to the practice and potential of FSM. The purpose was to contribute to the learning agenda of Capacity Development of SCBP, generate advocacy learnings at national level for FSM promotion and foster peer learning among the Alliance members(NFSSM Alliance). Hence 7 state level studies and one town level research were done.

For the second phase of the SCBP work, based on the May 2020 Research Agenda Roundtable Meeting, it was decided that the next level of Urban sanitation research should contribute to a deeper understanding of waste water and FSM, its social, technical and institutional context. Instead of single state and single issue based research.

Only inter/cross disciplinary research projects that are preferably across different scale of towns and geographies, adhering to the topics mentioned below and having some context link with FSM, will only be considered :

- Research on core urban sanitation, understanding of waste water.
- Contribute to the scientific gaps in norms and standards for waste water treatment, sludge solid waste standards and re use standards for waste water and sludge.
- Emerging challenges and some recent initiatives of using waste water for productive use in agriculture and industry.

- Link research with Covid response or rather emergency response to WASH or Water and Sanitation crisis.

More contemporary research agenda/topics, done by teams working together on topics, will get preference.

The research should generate learning outcomes besides a Report and a PPT, in terms of short lectures as outputs, for SCBP Trainings and for wider digital dissemination.

2. Thematic Research Areas:

Research Proposals will therefore be invited for an inter-disciplinary thematic and team-based research in the broad area of urban sanitation with some relevance to Faecal Sludge Management (FSM).

Each research proposal/RfP should include more than one of the following themes and any related themes:

1. *Town Planning:*
 - a. Inclusive and community centric planning
 - b. Master Plan, Regional Plans and City Development Plans and emerging urban sanitation and water priorities
 - c. Gaps in planning and implementation
 - d. Hurdles to integration of FSSM in the priorities of government
2. *Urbanization:*
 - a. Effect of urbanization and availability of water and sanitation services
 - b. Affordability of urban water and sanitation services and impact of subsidy and free water supply
3. *Technical:*
 - a. Sludge characterization
 - b. Effective usage of the treated water and sludge, for agriculture or other purposes
 - c. The barriers in reuse of treated water and sludge (economical, quality, social acceptability etc)
 - d. Grey water treatment
4. *Standards:*
 - a. Norms and standards for faecal sludge and septage handling, transport and treatment and disposal/reuse across different cities and states
 - b. Occupational health hazards and safety in FSSM, in line with the legal provisions on eliminating manual scavenging
5. *Social inclusion:*
 - a. Gap identification between official planning and community needs
 - b. Gender inclusion in sanitation and initiative by different States
 - c. Inclusion of children or other vulnerable populations in sanitation planning
 - d. Socio-living status of sanitary workers, inclusion of informal sector, challenges and opportunities
6. *Municipal financing and the urban sanitation imperative*
 - a. The challenges faced by ULBS for managing sanitation services, their capacities and capabilities in doing so
 - b. Other institutional and policy challenges

3. Report structure

Research outputs must include:

- Final Report in Word Format with all Annexures
- Presentation of the Research work, Findings and Recommendations
- Three Lectures in an AV Format that we can use for capacity building work. Recorded at a quality level fit for broadcasting.

The report should include:

- Executive Summary
- Purpose and Objectives
- Methodology
- Key Findings
- Recommendations
- List of all contacts with their email ids that were made for the study

4. Deliverables and Timeline

S. No.	Deliverable	Content	Time of submission
1.	Inception Report	Research Objectives, Research Plan and Methodology Draft Report Structure	1 st Month
2.	Information Fact Sheets	Findings from Secondary literature review : related to the topic	2 nd Month
3.	Presentation : Findings from study and field work	Field Level Findings	4 th Month
4.	An AV reporting that can be used as Lecture Series input by SCBP	Three AV Recorded Lectures : Self recorded : on the research work and findings	5 th Month
5.	Interim Report	Main Findings Conclusions Recommendations Final Report Structure/Table of Contents	6 th Month
6.	Draft Final Report	Report with Executive Summary PPT Online Lecture curated as a You Tube presentation	8 th Month
7.	Final Report and PPT	Final Report with an Executive Summary Power point Presentation, Online Lecture	9 th Month

Any deviation from the above suggested timeline must be clearly stated in the proposal and reasonable justification must be provided.

5. Budget & Timeframe

A total of 3 projects will be awarded.

Each grant will be for Rs. 12 lakhs (inclusive of all taxes, travel and reimbursements).

Duration: 9 Months from start in September 2020. For completion of all work listed in Point # 4.

6. Who can apply and process of selection

Preference will be given to a group/consortium of individuals and organisations who have a demonstrated experience of working on water and sanitation issues in India, linking a field based research with sound theoretical constructs.

In consortia proposals, the principal person in charge must be clearly stated.

All proposals will be evaluated and shortlisted by a Committee at NIUA and an interview will follow for the final selection. Shortlisted team leads may be asked to do an online meeting or a short presentation. Expertise in undertaking research, experience of working in the state where the research is to be done, qualification of the principal consultant/CV and will be the key considerations for selection.

Only successful applicants will be informed.

7. Application Process

A Proposal should not be more than 5-8 pages long(max 3500 words). Stating the Purpose, Methodology and Outputs. All credentials should be included as annexures.

Evaluation of proposals will be done based on the justification of the research, feasibility of conducting it as described in the methodology, potential to generate new knowledge, and the credibility of the team and the outputs promised.

All applications should be sent by email to hari@niua.org and copied to akumar@niua.org

Last date of sending the proposal – 5th Sept 2020

The selection process will include initial shortlisting by SCBP team, followed by a final selection by a panel of NIUA Senior Team.

8. Terms and Conditions : as per NIUA contracting.