



Fostering Stakeholder Engagement through Focus Group Discussions

A focus group discussion (FGD) with farmers was conducted under the PANI Water project - TARA, Development Alternatives Group in Delhi NCR to understand the current practices of treated wastewater used in agriculture as well as the drinking water, on 3 January 2020 at Ranhola Gaon, Chander Vihar (**Keshopur**) in Delhi. 21 farmers attended the FGD which included cultivators.

The objective of the FGDs was to understand the drinking water and wastewater practices among the farmers and to capture their views on irrigation through treated wastewater and its effect on agriculture and their health.

It was observed that though use of treated wastewater was very common among farmers, they were not aware about the safe handling practice and use of protective equipment. Thus, further awareness needs to be made among the cultivators and the farmer's community.

The farmers belong to a low-income group and due to the hike in prices of vegetables, most of them prefer consuming vegetables grown in their fields. They also complained about the cooked vegetables getting rotten if not heated every 2-3 hours irrespective of the season. Giving a comparative idea between vegetables grown using freshwater and treated wastewater, they observed that consumption of vegetables grown by treated wastewater gives them mild acidity whereas they do not face any such issue while consuming vegetables grown using freshwater.

The cultivators in Ranhola village rely on public source for their drinking water. The farmers store their water in plastic bottles or buckets during winters whereas in summers they store the water in clay pots or stainless-steel pots to keep the water cool.

EVENT 2020

More FGDs will be planned in other villages of Keshopur region to have a detailed understanding of the use of treated wastewater in agriculture and also to map the difference in opinions towards usage of wastewater.