



Webinar Series: We for Water, Water for Us

Organiser: Development Alternatives

Development Alternatives is organising a webinar series for the promotion of efficient management of water resources and involving citizens in managing this important resource for sustainable development in urban and peri-urban areas.

The webinar series started on 04 June 2021, World Environment Day. This 6-month long webinar series conducts one webinar every fortnight, and provides a platform to school and college students, researchers, practitioners from CSOs and NGOs from across the globe to come together and discuss the best practices, challenges and opportunities for water management.

This webinar series tends to cover various range of themes to understand and appreciate multiple dimensions of water management, like low cost technologies, social issues, community-adapted measures, demand side management, citizen science approach, political economy of water, etc. The webinars start with the introduction of Development Alternatives and the works done by DA in water sector, brief introduction of speaker, interactive session between distinguished speaker and the audience on a specific theme and followed by a short quiz. This helps in exchanging ideas and thoughts, capacity building of various stakeholders for sustainable use of water resources, inculcates positive behavior among citizens to promote circularity in water sector, and training youth and communities to adopt innovative methods, techniques and technologies for efficient management of water and wastewater treatment.

The webinar series aims to augment citizen-led data collection and monitoring, management of their local water systems and resources, making systems efficient, achieve water circularity to adapt to

climate change and build resilience against water stress. The speakers interact on one of the themes or any topic of their interest in resonance with the objective of this series.

The fifth webinar of this webinar series was conducted on 30 July 2021, on 'Water Sensitive Design and Planning-Nature Based Solutions for In-situ Water Augmentation'. The guest speaker for this webinar was Dr. Suresh Kumar Rohilla, Senior Director, Centre for Science and Technology.

This webinar focused on sustainable development of ecosystem, green infrastructure, blue infrastructure, and current scenario of human settlement reporting flooding, depleting water table, hydrogeology potential of India, the water challenges in India, the flooding situation in Indian cities, growth of built up area, history of water management and social discipline, water management in metros, class-I, II cities, water sensitive designing and planning, and the scope of Water Sensitive Urban Designing and Planning.

The sixth webinar was conducted on 13 August 2021, on 'Mukhyamantri Jal Swavlamban Abhiyan: A Success Story of Community Mobilisation in Rajasthan'. The guest speaker for this webinar was Mr. Arun Surana, National Consultant, Policy and Knowledge, WASCA (Water Security and Climate Adaptation in Rural India) Project, GIZ.

This webinar focused on the successful journey of the Rajasthan state, that started with facing and acknowledging issues like land subsidence, the vulnerability of the state due to large temperature ranges and scarcity of water, depleting ground water, high drought frequency, to recognising the alternatives solutions like Rainwater Harvesting, Starting MJS Abhiyan a movement, providing sustainable water to 21,000 villages, community mobilisation, use of IT enabled technologies, combining traditional knowledge with new age solutions, and an example of institutional mechanism for success.

The seventh webinar was conducted on 27 August 2021, on 'Bulandshahr Legacy: Jal Jeevan'. This webinar was held with a different format, wherein a panel discussion was conducted and moderated by an external person- Dr. Rajeswari S. Raina, Professor, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Shiv Nadar University, Delhi NCR.

The panelists included Ms. Leenika Beri Jacob, Managing Trustee, Kala Chaupal Trust, Bulandshahr; Mr. Raman Kant, Founder & Director, NEER Foundation, Bulandshahr; Mr. Aryan Gaur, Head, Ganga Warriors, Bulandshahr; and Dr. Moumita Karmakar, Assistant Professor, Shiv Nadar University, Delhi NCR.

This webinar focused on the collective ownership and responsibility to find the solutions for preserving our heritage and reviving our natural resources rivers, lakes like Kali Nadi, Neem Nadi in Bulandshahr, how to live with nature, knowledge and capacity building requirements, understanding our own natural systems, new ideas and thoughts and how stakeholders and actors can engage with the team of Bulandshahr Legacy.

In the last leg of the webinar, DA team released an issue brief 'Fostering Resource Circularity and Efficiency in the Management of Urban Water System in India', which is based on the studies of water flow assessments and water-energy nexus in tier II Indian cities.

The brief reflects on the potential of resource circularity in urban water systems while enhancing efficiency, equity, and resilience of urban water systems by adopting Integrated Urban Water



Management (IUWM). Also, accommodating decentralised and nature-based solutions in municipal systems.

The final report of this Webinar series will highlight the different issues and solutions for water management, key takeaways from each webinar, type of stakeholders engaged in the sessions and how the solutions and learning can be implemented on-ground.

The outcome envisaged is the new associations with speakers, organisations and individuals for action research and for development of some kind of programmatic intervention for cities.

