



Webinar series on We for Water, Water for Us to understand Water Resource Management

With an aim to inculcate a positive behaviour towards the paradigm shift from 'Use and Throw' to 'Use, Treat and Reuse' in the young minds, DA has started a Webinar series on Water Resource Management that is 'We for Water, Water for Us' so that our forthcoming generations get access to safe secure and sufficient water. It is expected to be a trigger towards identifying the importance and need of water management via Citizen Science approach.

The first session was organised on 04 June 2021, with Mr Eklavya Prasad, Managing Trustee, Megh Pyne Foundation, Bihar. He highlighted the role and efforts of youth towards water security in the Eastern states of India, described the functioning of Megh Pyne Foundation, safe and secure water process and practices, followed by the work that had been undertaken in the flood prone areas of Bihar along with the articulations of youth.

He also discussed about the challenges, strategies and technologies for rainwater harvesting, groundwater maintenance and sanitation. The local community was constructively engaged throughout the process to make the program successful. The session was concluded with a few innovations by the youth that has proved a game changer for the community, one of those is the 'ecological sanitation' which has been accepted by the government. The presentation also included short think-through activities for the participants. Participants were encouraged to ask questions and share their innovative ideas and perception.

The second session was held on 18 June 2021, with our guest speaker Dr Akhilendra Gupta, Professor from MNIT, Jaipur. He focussed on the innovation and implementation of sustainable technologies at community scale for a better health ensuring participation of the society. He stressed on the issue of rapidly degrading quality and quantity of water and their linkages with the environment and health of society at large. He emphasised that the environmental problems of developing countries are not the side effects of excessive industrialisation but reflects the inadequacy of development.

He also discussed about scalable solutions for water defluoridation including the Nalgonda defluoridation process which has helped in providing pure water to 3500 villages of Rajasthan. He also pointed out that this mass outreach was not easy to achieve, initially there were many challenges like non-acceptance of some very effective technologies due to lack of education and community awareness including other technological barriers. One of highly innovative solutions was the demonstration of an RO plant driven by a cycle pump.

He concluded the session by mentioning the efficiency of decentralised wastewater treatment technologies and constructed wetlands for proper management of discarded water. The technological solutions presented by Prof. Gupta were highly efficient in terms of scalability and replicability.

The sessions were interactive wherein the participants pursued an opportunity to address their questions, clarifications and experiences followed by brainstorming exercises through short quiz. The lectures observed participation from people of various domains comprising of Academicians, School and College students, Industrial Experts, NGO, other stakeholders in the water sector.