

GuruJal



WEBINAR PROPOSAL
gLOCAL Evaluation Week
Centers for Learning on Evaluation and Results

GuruJal : Optimized Model for Translating National Water Conservation Mandates at Grassroot Level in India



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Webinar Brief

India is a developing country that supports a population of 1.3 billion people, water is a resource that needs scavenged and saved at every point possible. Several prominent studies have been pinpointed cities and areas where ground water would be completely depleted between the years of 2025-2030. While the Indian government has taken active steps in forming various departments and passing active mandates to tackle the issue, a serious threat still looms over depletion of ground water levels, and lack of access of water. The webinar intends to highlight the various aspects of translating the laws and mandates for water management and conservation that are formulated through democratic bureaucratic setting to on-ground implementation of projects, and maintenance of those projects. The webinar would be focusing on the Water conservation initiative taken by the District Administration of Gurugram, in the state of Haryana, that is tackling issues related to water through five verticals, out of which we would be focusing on three verticals for this webinar; Support a Pond (which intends to revive existing traditional water bodies and ponds across the district), Jal Sanrakshan (a vertical actively dedicated to the protection of biodiversity of flora and fauna, essential component of saving water bodies) and Water Proofing (Building and supporting infrastructural needs to conserve water in already built-up area with emphasis on Rain water Harvesting Structures).

Primary Discussion Topics/Outline

- Water Crisis situation in India, drawing focus on the identified states with overexploited ground water resources. Then draw attention to Gurugram, where all four blocks fall under over-exploited zones of groundwater.
- Chronology and development of National and State Level mandates for water conservation. Outline the various departments central and state levels involved in formulation of mandates and how they differ from implementation agencies. End section with statistics to show gap between on-ground implementation of projects and mandates/laws in place.
- Introduce GuruJal's purpose as a Monitoring and Evaluation Program in place for the District of Gurugram, focusing on co-ordination, implementation and review of water conservation efforts between 18+ government bodies in the district. This is done by focusing attention in three different verticals: Support a Pond, Jal Sanrakshan and Water Proofing.

- Details of each vertical will be provided, which are briefly listed below
 - **Support a Pond:** Vertical focussed on rejuvenation and restoration of 320 ponds across the district
 - Understand the need to restore traditional water bodies
 - Detail the steps followed for restoring a water body
 - Various treatment systems that are being piloted on site – what innovations are being done at ground level to adapt to local requirements for treatment.
 - Selection criteria of treatment processes to take place.
 - Highlight the importance of community participation for maintenance and operation of treatment systems at grassroot level
 - Case Study: Budhera Pond Rejuvenation
 - **Jal Sanrakshan:** (Literally translated as Water Protection/Conservation) Vertical focused on building ecological sites and their role in protection of water bodies.
 - Understand the objectives for the development of Biodiversity Park and its relation to water body conservation
 - History of Biodiversity Park Developments in the region
 - Discuss Model and methods adopted for development of the biodiversity park and factors that play an important role.
 - Case Studies: Biodiversity Park in Kasan and Dumdama.
 - **Water Proofing:** Vertical focused on implementation of the Rain Water Harvesting (RWH) Structures for the conservation of water
 - Understand Government mandates in place for the implementation RWH Structures, and why they are pertinent for groundwater recharge.
 - Current situation of RWH Structures in Government buildings in the district of Gurugram: How this represents Monitoring and Evaluation efforts of the government.
 - Highlight the urgent requirement of responsiveness of the local community and government bodies to implement the government mandates

Benefits for Participants

- Learn about Governance structures and get exposure to the entire lifecycle of policy making to implementation
- Case Study discussions to offer unique insights to on-ground challenges that are different than those faced at an industrial scale
- Exposure to skills and understanding required for planning and designing for grassroots levels.
- Principles of sustainability of grassroots projects with critical landscaping and biodiversity development

Learning Objectives

- Understand the need of a solid framework for the translation of policy making to policy implementation on ground. Highlight the faults in system for gaps to exist between the two.
- The various aspects of water body conservation and protection and the efforts required for protection of water bodies at a grassroots level.
- Highlight the importance and requirement of community mobilisation for mandates to be implemented, and continued monitoring and evaluation so that policies may be adapted and made relevant for grassroots implementation.
- Challenges and lessons learnt from implementation of 'Central' policies in a local grassroots level. Factors involved in adapting technologies to match the local requirements.
- Understanding evaluation and monitoring and having a loop system for feedback and improvement is required for success of grassroots systems and programs.

Target Audience Members

- Policy Makers and Governance Individuals
- Middle- and First-Line Management/ Engineers
- Public Works Engineers
- Hydrologists
- Botanists, Zoologists, Landscape Designers
- Environmental and Urban Planners
- Water Technology Engineers
- Civil and Environmental Engineers

Biographical Data

The webinar was developed with the help of the entire GuruJal Team, with specific content developed by the following Team Members:

SHUBHI KESARWANI: PROGRAM MANAGER



Areas of Interest: Sustainability, Governance, Water Management.

Experience:

- Chief Minister Good Governance Associates Program Team
- Chief Minister Good Governance Associates Program Associate
- Youth Alliance Alumni Coordinator and Program Lead

M.Sc. Social Work – Motilal Nehru National Institute of Technology, Allahabad

Key Responsibilities:

- End-to-end planning, management, monitoring and evaluation of the program.
- Managing collaborations with Corporates, Researchers and Civil Society Organizations
- Creating and empowering maintenance and management authorities for the environmental interventions
- Leading the initiative in the district under the umbrella of District Administration to address the issues of ground water depletion, water scarcity and flooding/stagnation during the monsoons.

SACHIN KUMAR: COMMUNITY PLANNER



Areas of Interest: Water Management & Technology, Environmental Planning, Water & Sanitation

Experience:

- Sanitation Expert: Municipal Corporation Mathura-Vrindavan
- City Manager: Tethys Development Services Pvt. Ltd.
- Assistant Manager- Planning: GCRD Pvt. Ltd.
- Urban Planner: DMG Consulting Pvt. Ltd.

M. Plan – Environmental Planning, School of Planning and Architecture, Delhi

Key Responsibilities:

- Water Proofing
- Water Conscious Parameters
- Model Roads

- Pond Rejuvenation: Selection Criteria and Design of different technologies of Wastewater Treatment and Reuse

ANJALI SHARMA: LANDSCAPE DESIGNER



Areas of Interest: Landscaping, Biodiversity Management, Remote Sensing, GIS.

Experience:

- Uthaan NGO – Project Coordinator
- CTRAN Consulting Pvt. Ltd – Internship
- CSIR – CRRI: Dissertation Project

M.Sc. Environmental Science – Gautam Buddha University, Greater Noida

Key Responsibilities

- Landscaping of Ponds
- Drone survey, cadastral and contour mapping
- Establishment of Biodiversity Park and Urban City Forest

SAYANI HALDER – WASTEWATER TREATMENT CONSULTANT



Areas of Interest: Wastewater and Water Treatment Technologies, Sustainability, Water Resource Management

Experience:

- Unilever: Production Intern
- Elite Paints and Chemicals: Quality Analysis/ Research and Development Intern

M. Eng Sc. Water, Wastewater and Waste Engineering – University of New South Wales, Sydney

Key Responsibilities:

- Design of Decentralised Wastewater Treatment Technologies
- Wastewater Testing and Analysis
- Technical & Critical Reporting for Site Plans
- Research and Development