

Ecological Sanitation -

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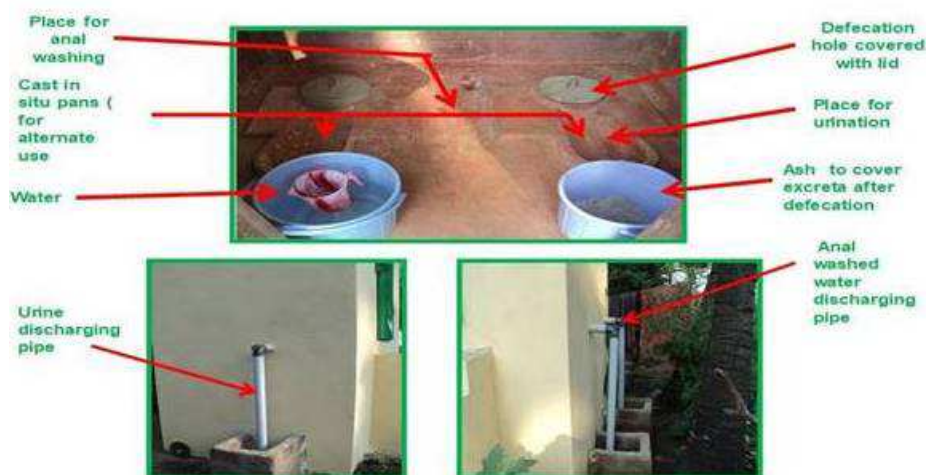
Description of good practice

Background

Terre des hommes Foundation (Tdh) in India is taking forward ecological sanitation in the flood prone regions in Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh and Sundarban in West Bengal. Ecosan toilet prevents faecal contamination to the environment and the nutrients are recycled to the soil. It is helping people to grow more vegetables, fruit plants and field crops.

Description

Urine, excreta and washed water in the ecosan toilet are segregated at points of origin. Urine is collected and used to grow homestead garden. The washed water is collected and safely managed through "canna indica plant". Excreta are safely confined in two waterproof alternating vaults (@ storage capacity of 22 cubic feet). Each vault takes 7-8 months to get filled by a family of 4-5 users. During the filling it undergoes through dehydration and decomposition through addition of moisture absorbents and alkaline materials. The filled vault with further addition of alkaline materials is kept in sealed position for 7-8 months to turn the excreta into a matured compost.



Key elements for successful implementation

Key elements for success :

- Working closely with communities and local authorities.
- Selection of beneficiaries based on their motivation to own/ use ecosan and exposure –cum- learning visits.
- Design that is user friendly (2+1+2) and leakage proof.
- Clear instruction for proper use of toilet – high degree of attention to prevent entry of water in to the chamber.

Challenges

- High level of initial resistance in adopting usage procedures of the toilet.
- Ensuring conducive condition for decomposition of excreta deposits.
- Needs intensive follow up at least for initial six months .

Conclusion & recommendations

Advantages

- Prevents faecal contamination in flood prone and high water table areas.
- Utilities (urine and compost) in the form of growing homestead garden and good quality of produces.
- Contributes in saving of INR 1500-2500 per annum through compost.

Limitations

- It is still more a NGO driven initiative.
- Demands shift in socio-cultural beliefs/ practices to handle human excreta.

Recommendations

- Selection of beneficiary must be on the basis of motivation – to own and use of toilet.
- Ensure the use of user friendly promotional materials .
- Ensure that project cycle is at least for 36 months.

Further information:

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