



SCORECARD

On Faecal Sludge Management and Sanitation in Rural Areas

A brief report on how some states in India are performing after participating in CSE's training initiatives



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BACKGROUND

The first phase of Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen (SBM-G) had focused on availability of and accessibility to toilets. With the construction of 110 million toilets in this first phase, India declared itself open defecation free (ODF).

However, these toilets were built without any focus on their containment and treatment systems. The challenge was more evident after the completion of the first phase of SBM-G in 2019 – retrofitting of faulty toilets, ensuring water in toilets, and proper treatment and disposal of the more than 100,000 tonne of faecal sludge produced daily needed immediate attention.

Keeping these challenges in mind, the government laid down the key objectives of SBM 2.0. This phase of the Mission aimed to sustain the ODF status of the villages and improve cleanliness and hygiene conditions through solid and liquid waste management interventions – the end objective was to make villages 'ODF plus' by 2024.

This is where Centre for Science and Environment's Rural Water and Waste Management programme, which has been working on faecal sludge management since 2017, stepped in. One of the key gaps that the programme has endeavoured to fill has been the need to develop capacities of stakeholders. These include officials at the block, district and state levels in the entire faecal sludge management value chain. Over a span of six years since 2017, more than 500 officials at various levels have been trained by the programme through its workshops and online and residential trainings.

Effective management of solid and liquid waste in rural areas entails that at least 80 per cent of the households and all the public places are covered through a household-, community- or a village-level technical solution. States have already started investing in building FSTPs, retrofitting



faulty toilets and managing solid waste.

CSE's Rural Water and Waste Management programme has developed this scorecard to understand the progress that the states have made after being trained by the programme's experts. In order to understand the current state of safe management of faecal sludge, an online alumni workshop was conducted by the programme to interact with the participants who have been trained by CSE. The alumni were asked to share their learnings, experiences and takeaways from the CSE trainings – essentially, how the trainings have been helpful to them in implementation of faecal sludge management initiatives. A detailed questionnaire was also prepared to evaluate the state of toilets, management of faecal sludge and the Swachh Survekshan-Grameen scores.

Data was also collected through offline interactions with state heads, as well as district and block-level officials. Below are the measures that were used in understanding the state of progress:

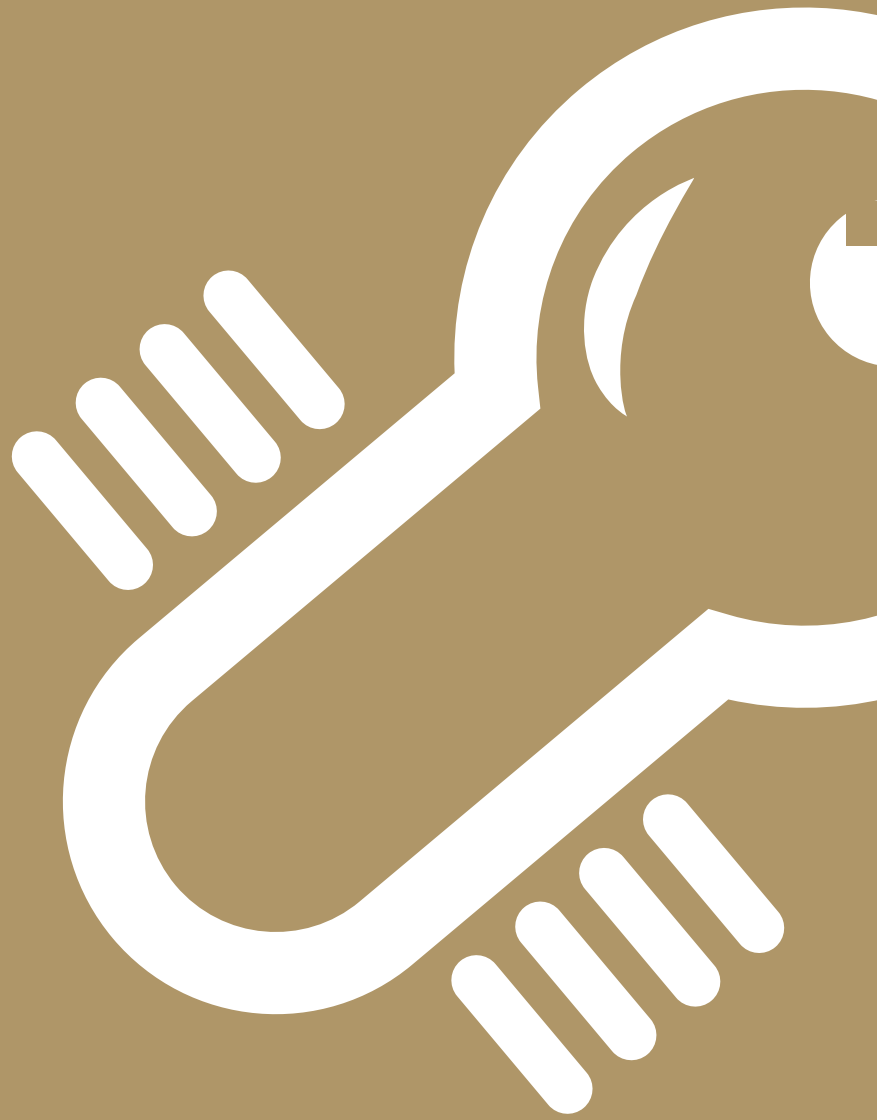
1. Toilets

- 1.1 Toilet Accessibility
- 1.2 Toilet Usage
- 1.3 Toilet Functionality

2. Faecal Sludge management

- 2.1 State Initiatives on Faecal Sludge management
 - 2.1.1 Retrofitting
 - 2.1.2 Awareness about safe FSM
 - 2.1.3 Plans to scale up the FSM Initiatives
- 2.2 State policy guidelines on FSM
- 2.3 Mapping of districts for clustering/retrofitting
- 2.4 Identification of treatment technology for the quantum of waste estimated
- 2.5 Ex-situ: setting up the model system or cluster treatment system
- 2.6 Working out the arrangement for transport and costing

3. Swachh Survekshan Grameen: State Scores



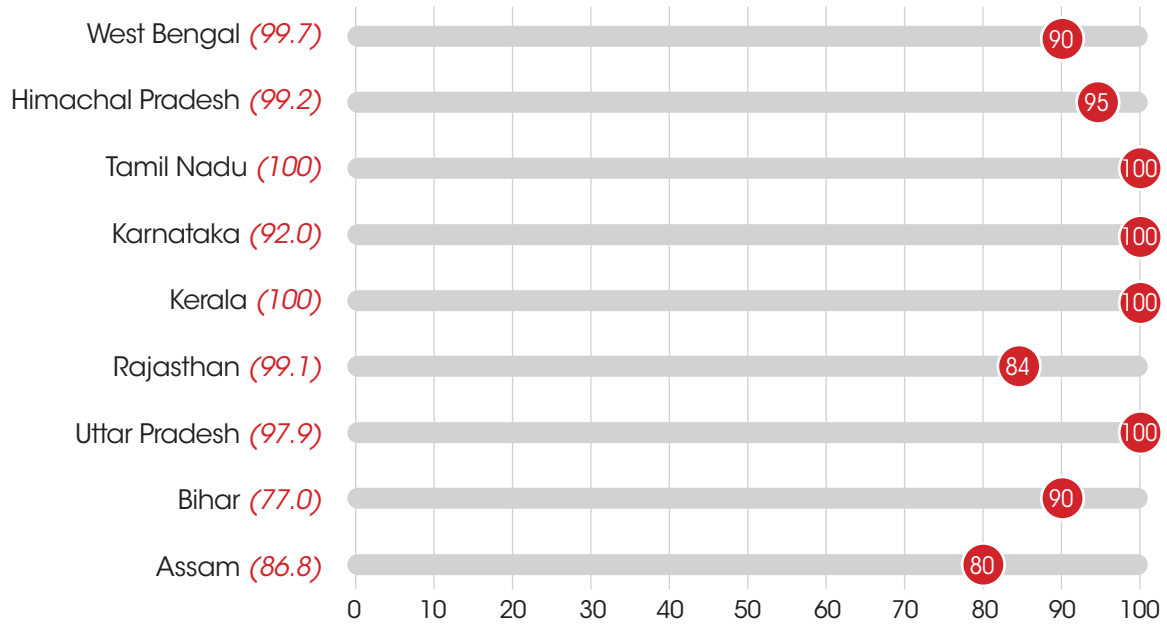
TOILETS



TOILETS

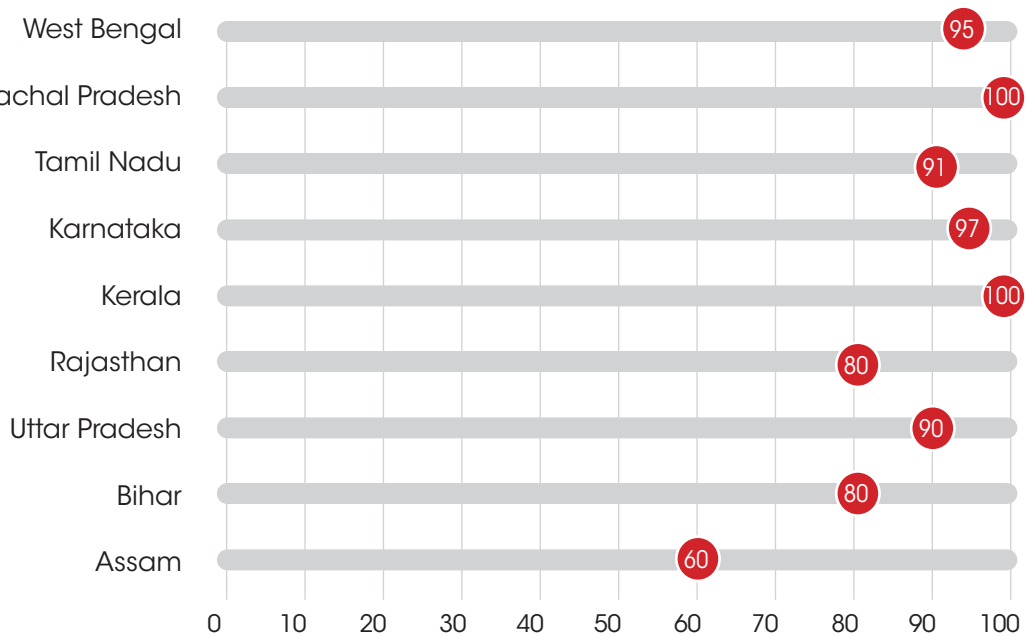


1.1 Toilet Accessibility (%)



(Figures in bracket) are toilet accessibility as per Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2022 report

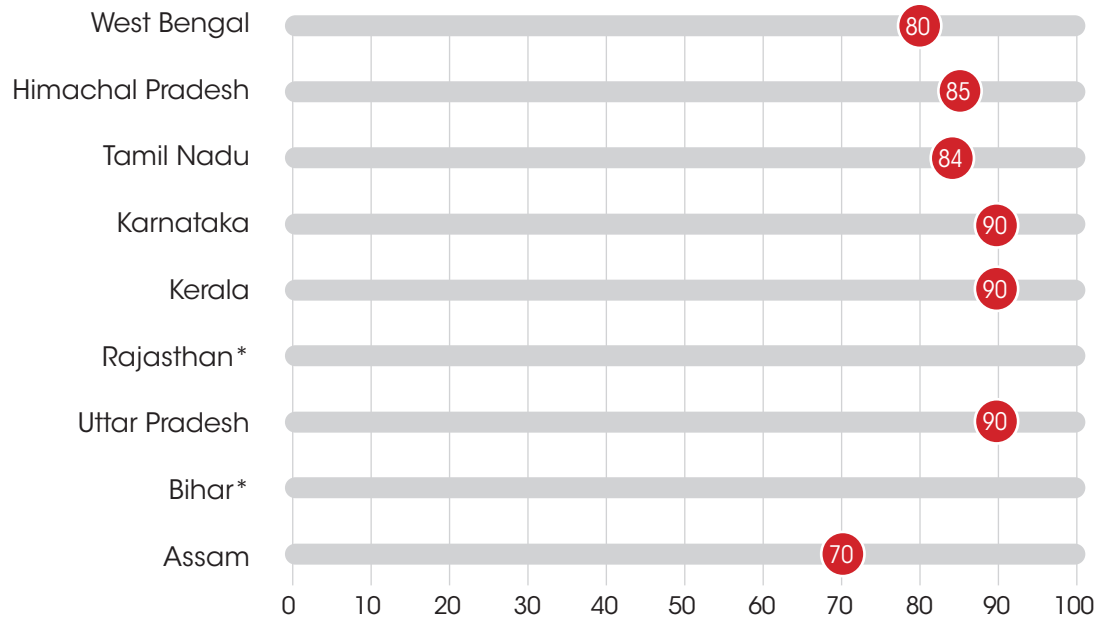
1.2 Toilet Usage (%)



TOILETS



1.3 Toilet Functionality (%)



*Data is not available for Rajasthan and Bihar



Photo: Vikas Choudhary/CSE



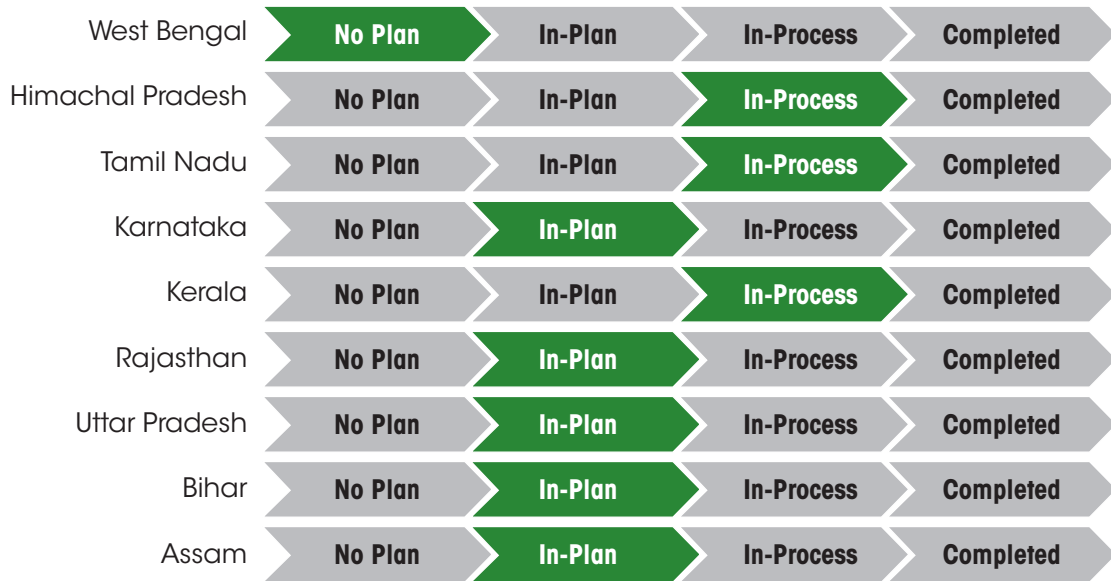
FAECAL SLUDGE MANAGEMENT



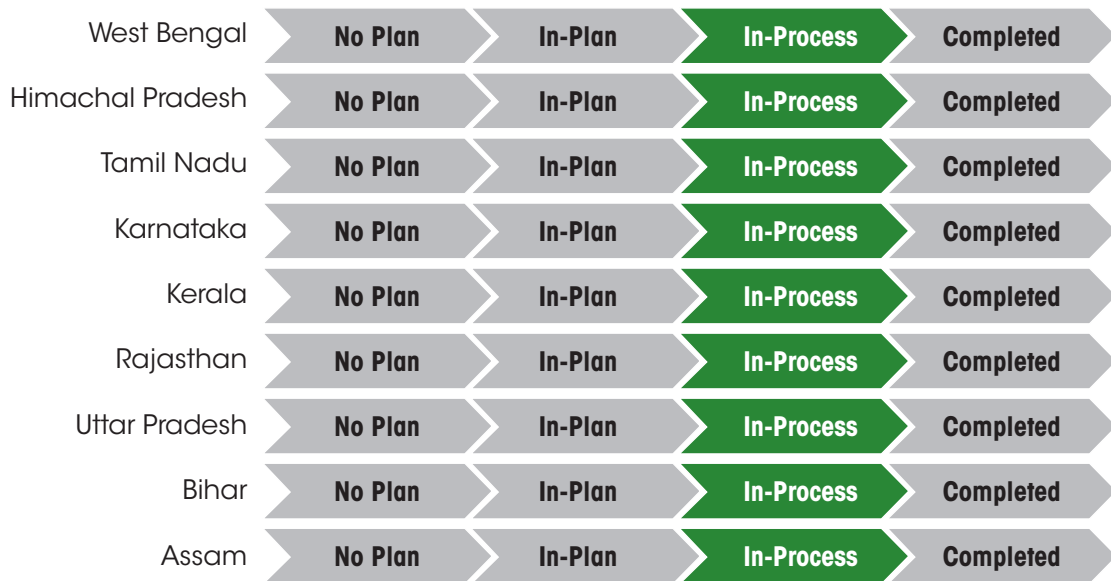
FAECAL SLUDGE MANAGEMENT

2.1 State Initiatives on Faecal Sludge Management

2.1.1 Retrofitting

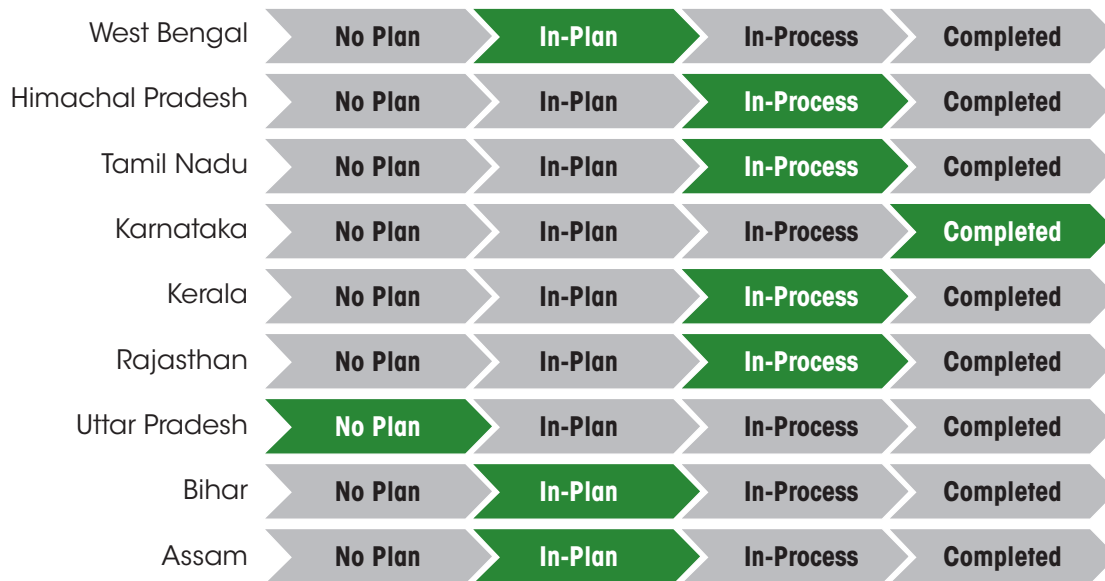


2.1.2 Awareness about safe FSM

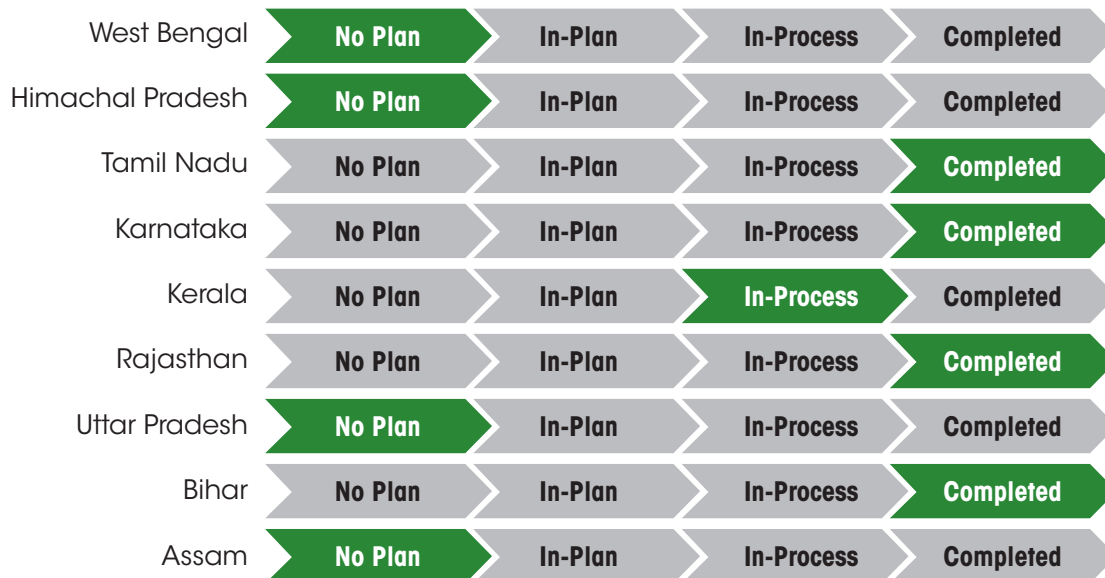




2.1.3 Plans to scale up the FSM initiatives

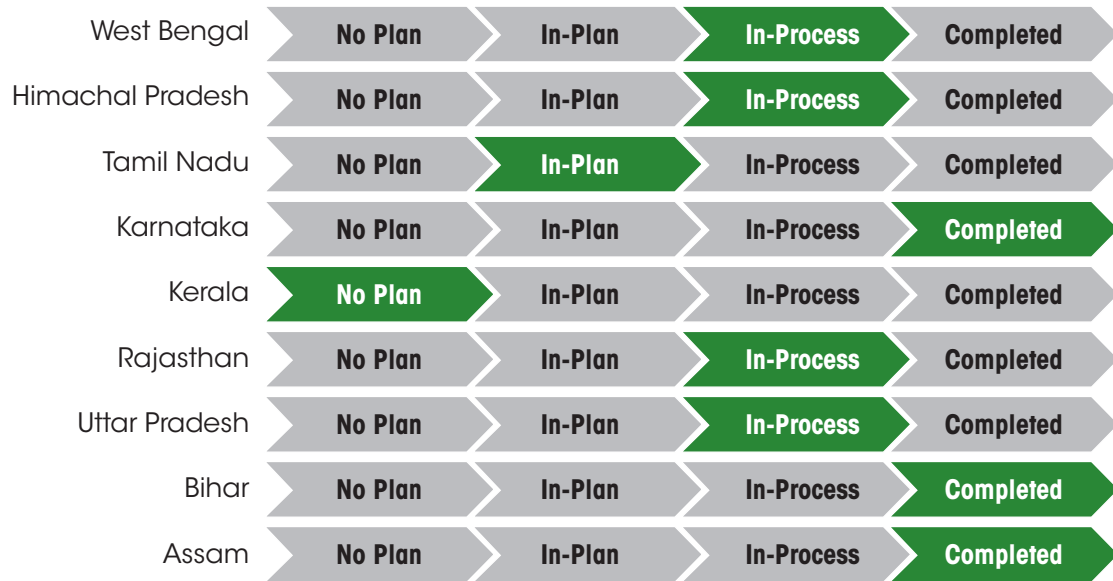


2.2 State policy guidelines on FSM

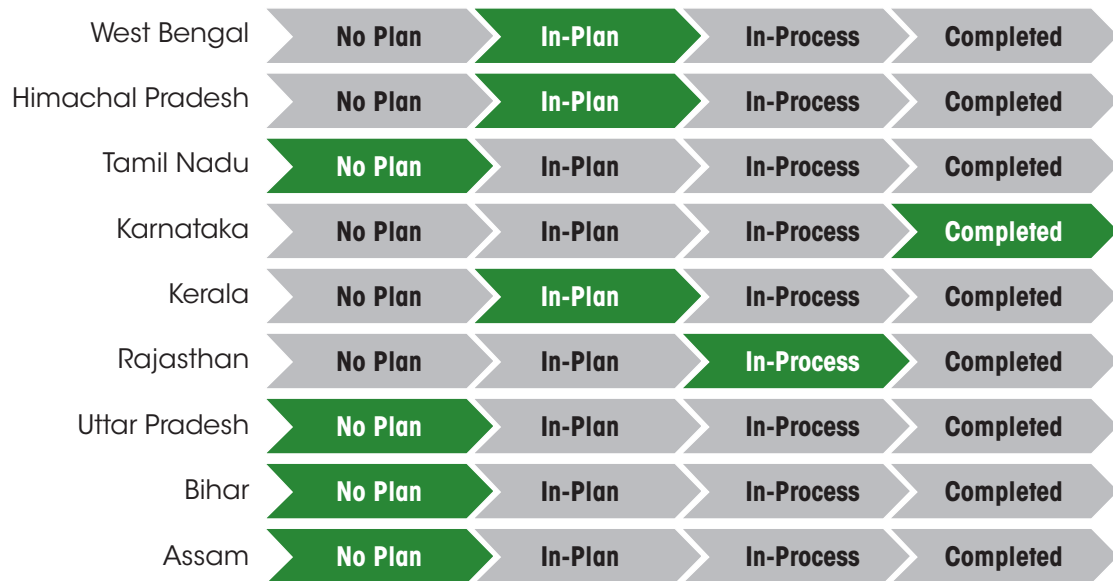


FAECAL SLUDGE MANAGEMENT

2.3 Mapping of districts for clustering/retrofitting



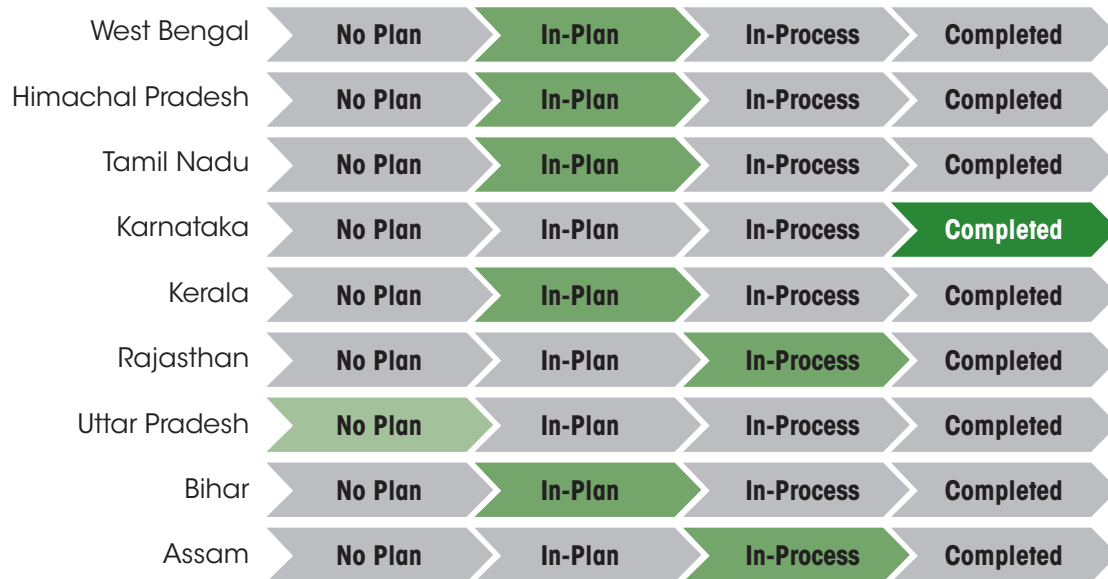
2.4 Identification of treatment technology for the quantum of waste estimated



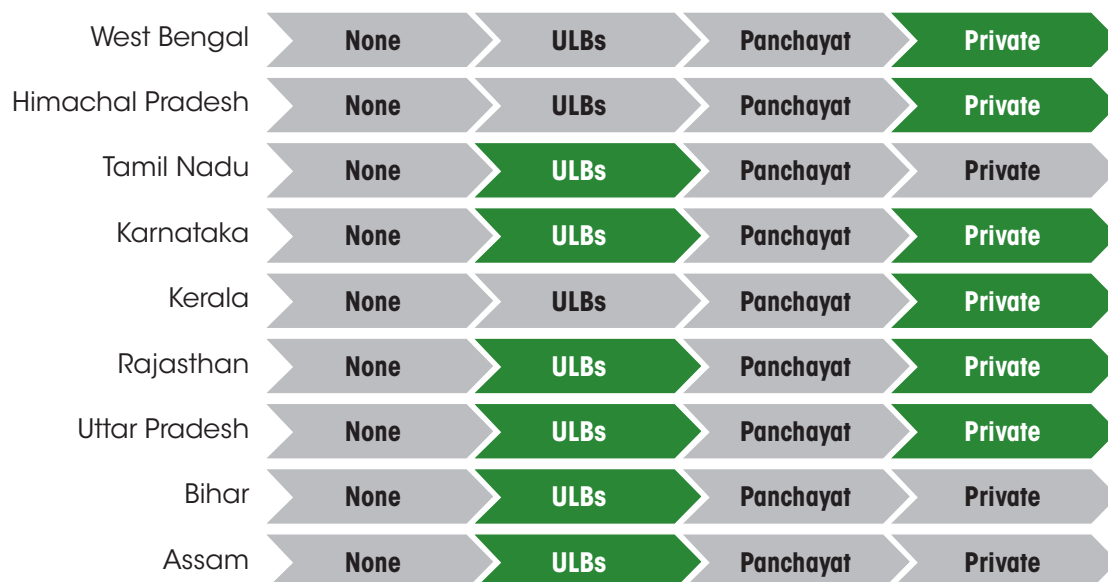


2.5 Ex-situ: setting up the model system or cluster treatment system

■ Urban Rural Convergence ■ Rural Clustering



2.6 Working out the arrangement for transport and costing*



*No provision in Swachh Bharat Mission - Grameen guidelines for vehicle procurement
ULBs: Urban Local Bodies



SWACHH SURVEKSHAN GRAMEEN: STATE SCORES

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3. Overall score of state in Swachh Survekshan - Grameen 2022

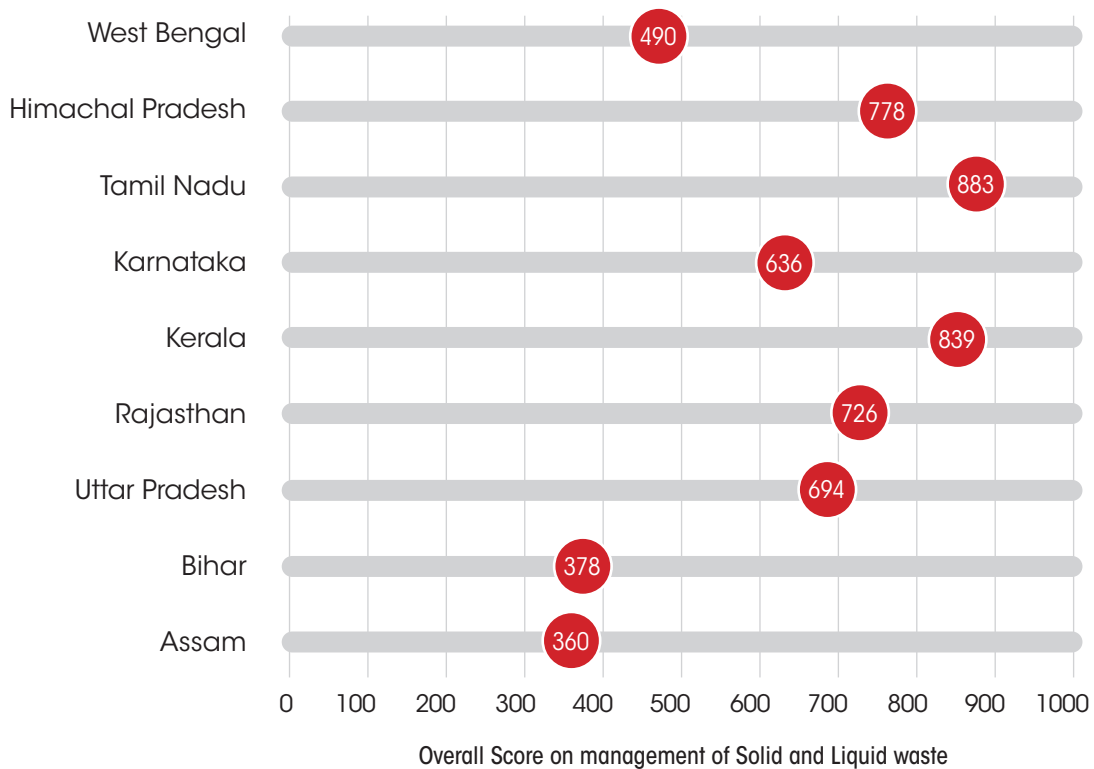


Photo: Swati Bhatia/CSE

CONCLUSION

CSE has always advocated that in rural areas, the faecal sludge should be treated in situ through the right toilet technologies (as a first priority); if that is not possible, the sludge can be transported to ex situ treatment facilities. On this, CSE has constantly interacted with nine states – West Bengal, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala in the last five years (2017-2022). The aim and the efforts have been to bring about a change in their approaches towards safe management of faecal sludge.

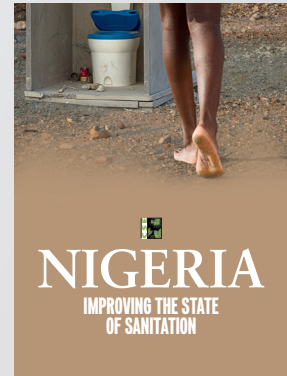
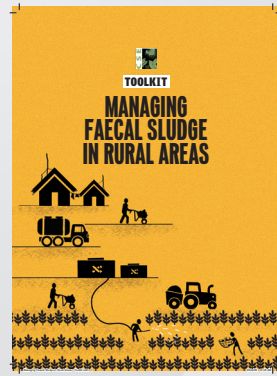
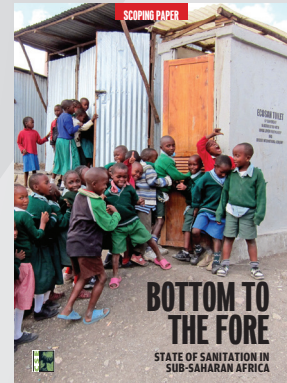
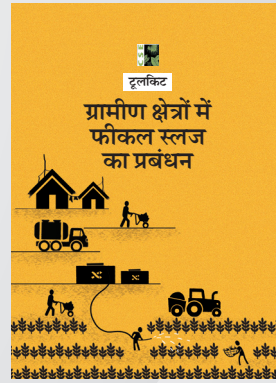
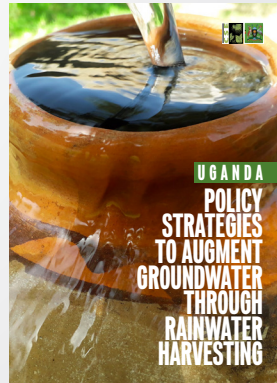
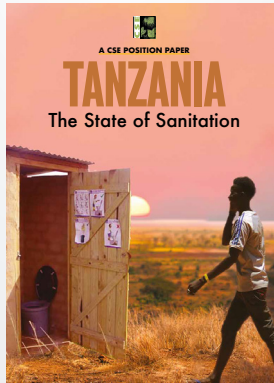
This scorecard has laid down different parameters to measure – quantitatively or qualitatively – the progress of these nine states. It also brings out the effectiveness of the Rural Water and Wastewater team in driving the change. The parameters begin with access to toilets, and include safe management of faecal sludge and development of policies and strategies. The results have been compiled on the basis of interactions with state representatives who attended the training programmes.

Some Observations

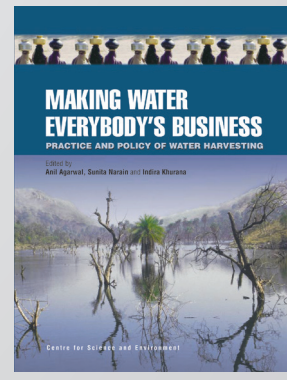
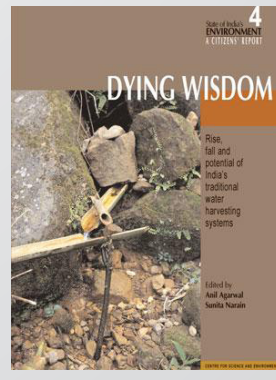
- Access to toilets (for the nine states) currently stands at 93.2 per cent on an average. The southern states show a better average of around 100 per cent.
- Average usage of toilets is 88 per cent.
- All the nine states are in the process of generating awareness about safe management of faecal sludge.
- Four states are scaling up their FSM plans, three are planning the implementation – Karnataka has already scaled up its plan by setting up rural FSTPs.
- Policies and guidelines on FSM have been laid down by Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Rajasthan.
- Karnataka, Bihar and Assam have completed a mapping of their districts to find out the most suitable options for retrofitting of faulty toilets (first priority) or clustering the rural areas in order to treat the sludge in a planned manner in FSTPs.
- Karnataka has identified the treatment technologies for the quantum of faecal sludge estimated at the district and gram panchayat levels.
- Most of the states are opting to treat the faecal sludge generated from the rural areas in urban treatment facilities. Karnataka is the only state among the nine which is planning to build more than 2,000 rural FSTPs in the next five years.



REPORTS



BOOKS



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