

No. W-11033/1/2011/Water
Government of India
Ministry of Rural Development
Department of Drinking Water Supply

8th Floor, Paryavaran Bhawan,
CGO Complex, Lodi Road,
New Delhi - 110 003
Dated: 8.11.2011

To

The Secretaries/ Principal Secretaries,
in-charge of Rural Sanitation in the all the States

Subject: National Learning Exchange (NLE) Programme, November-December, 2011

Sir/Madam,

Many States of the country have taken up successful initiatives and interventions in the fields of rural water supply and sanitation, leading to development of best practices. These examples can be an excellent source of learning for other States.


2. The Government of India is proposing a National Learning Exchange (NLE), through which State to State interaction through field level exposure visits is to be taken up (brochure attached). The programme is being supported by UNICEF.

3. The 1st phase of the NLE, is proposed for the period November 2011-January 2012. The States of Assam, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal are requested to be the Host States for the 1st phase. The rest of the States shall be the Guest States. In subsequent phases, other States shall act as Host States.

4. The Host States are requested to take up the programme immediately, and inform the Ministry, UNICEF and the Guest States about the programme details by November 15, 2011. Details are given in the attached brochure.

5. Host States can book the expenditure on the programme from the NRDWP Support fund.

Yours faithfully,


[Sujoy Mojumdar]
Director

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Ministry of Rural Development
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To

The Secretaries/ Principal Secretaries,
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Assam, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh,
Tamil Nadu and West Bengal

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NATIONAL LEARNING EXCHANGE (NLE)

November, 2011 - January, 2012



Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation

Government of India

Paryavaran Bhawan, CGO complex

Lodhi Road, New Delhi 110 003



NATIONAL LEARNING EXCHANGE (NLE)

Background

The provision of safe, reliable and affordable water supply and sustainable environmental sanitation, through efficiently managed arrangements is a key goal for the water supply and sanitation sector in India. India, being a vast and diverse country, faces challenges in ensuring reliable, sustainable safe drinking water supply and sanitation services to rural households of the country. Though, in terms of provision of safe drinking water, we have achieved coverage of more than 90 percent of the rural households and in terms of safe sanitation, more than 65 percent of rural households have been covered, much remains to be done to improve levels of implementation, service delivery and sustainability.

There has been a paradigm shift in the Centrally sponsored water supply & sanitation programmes with a prime emphasis to bring about transparency in the implementation and service delivery mechanisms and involvement of the rural community (as prime stakeholders) and accountability. Thrust has been laid on the need for extensive IEC and capacity building of the implementing agencies and stakeholders, and for ensuring community involvement in monitoring of the programmes.

Government of India is committed to achieving the MDG goals of both rural water supply and sanitation by 2015. Successful initiatives in the sector include decentralised community based water supply provision and management, community level water quality surveillance and mitigation, source sustainability and water security; and setting sanitation high on political agenda through “Nirmal Gram Puraskar” (an incentive scheme for promoting 100% sanitation through Panchayati Raj Institutions). Several States have made great progress in the water supply & sanitation sectors and brought about innovative strategies/ mechanisms leading to the sustainability of these programmes.

While the progress is ongoing, a lot more needs to be done in terms of scaling up of efforts, for replicating successful interventions and through State-to-State interactions, involving among others, field level on-site exposure visits.

The **National Learning Exchange programme (NLE)** is a collaborative effort of the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation (MDWS), Government of India, the State Governments and their respective water and sanitation service providers and UNICEF India Country Office. It aims to provide a platform for knowledge sharing and learning from recent successes and challenges in the water and sanitation sector. The NLE will cover some of the important aspects like successful approaches, various institutional partnership models, capacity building initiatives, innovations introduced and key challenges in the sector in recent years. The NLE primarily aims at providing an opportunity of Inter-State visits, giving participants an opportunity to learn from best practices of each others states and exchange views on water & sanitation.

National Learning Exchange Schedule

The NLE would last for 6 days (including days of travel from their respective States to Host States and return). A brief tentative itinerary for the same is displayed below:

Day	Program content(s)
Day 0	Delegates from visiting States to reach host State (by evening)
Day 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Welcome of participants ➤ Introduction and briefing about NLE ➤ Presentation of the Objectives of the Learning exchange ➤ Information about Modalities of exposure visit ➤ Overview of the drinking water & sanitation sectors and programmes by the host State's implementing Department/ Agency ➤ Cultural programme (tentative); Welcome Dinner etc.
Day 2	Visit to Site - 1 & 2: Field exposure, interactions and discussions
Day 3	Visit to Site - 3 & 4: Field exposure, interactions and discussions
Day 4	Visit to Site - 5 & 6: Field exposure, interactions and discussions
Day 5	<p>a) Debriefing session:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Presentation of learning and replicable action points for their respective State (by visiting delegates) ➤ Suggestions and/ or recommendations for host State <p>b) Valedictory session</p> <p>c) Departure for respective States</p>

One of either the Inaugural or Valedictory sessions can be held at the State headquarters of the host State. Efforts will be made so that representatives from Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Government of India as well as from the UNICEF India Country Office would remain present during the Inaugural and Valedictory sessions.

Objectives

The National Learning Exchange program aims to achieve the following objectives:

- Provide an opportunity for delegates to explore the salient aspects of the sustainability of drinking water supply and sanitation coverage in the host State and the associated constraints and challenges.
- Understanding institutional set-up, local leadership, capacity building and innovations in sanitation and water supply sectors in the host State.
- Assess how community involvement and 'community operated & managed' in rural water supply and quality monitoring has aided sustainability of the water supply programme.
- Develop capacities of the participants to evaluate the status of rural drinking water and sanitation services in their respective States.
- Allow participants to identify ways to strengthen the water and sanitation services and equip them to address the challenges in their respective States.
- Provide exposure to methods used to ensure sustainability of sources and good practices in promoting recharge with the possibility of replicability of the efforts in their respective states.
- Provide exposure to good O&M practices that ensure continuous service delivery.
- Provide exposure to effective solution for household and school sanitation in rural areas.
- Provide exposure to effective IEC techniques for rural water supply & sanitation.
- Host States to get feedback/ reviews from the participating delegates for improvement in the existing water supply & sanitation services.

Groups for NLE

Considering their geographical proximity and the conditions of the rural drinking water & sanitation sectors in the States, the States have been grouped into regions, with each region having a **Host State** and the corresponding **Visiting State** for the Learning Exchange Programme:

S. No.	Region	Host State(s)	Key features/ aspects to be covered*	Visiting State(s)
1.	Northern region	Himachal Pradesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Engineering Solution to Water supply in hill areas; School water supply, Sanitation & Hygiene Education program (SSHE) ❖ Convergence of Sanitation program with Polio eradication program especially regarding IEC methodology 	Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand
2.	Central & Western region	Gujarat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Institutionalization of WSSO structure; ❖ Community-managed drinking water supply & sanitation ❖ Water resource management ❖ Coordination of WASH activities with programmes like NRHM, SSA ❖ Exposure to solid & liquid waste management practices 	Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan
3.	Southern region	Tamil Nadu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Water Resource Management ❖ Operation & Maintenance of water supply schemes ❖ School water supply, Sanitation & Hygiene Education (SSHE) ❖ Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) 	Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra
4.	Eastern region	West Bengal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Arsenic mitigation ❖ Decentralization of water quality testing laboratories ❖ Exposure of rural sanitary mats as propagator of rural sanitation 	Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh
5.	North Eastern region	Assam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Total Sanitation Campaign ❖ Tackling bacteriological contamination of water 	Sikkim, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura

** Indicative topics/ subjects which may be covered in the itinerary of the NLE. Host States may add on to the list and include other topics and experiences which are worth sharing.*

Host States may also nominate 6 participants to add to the participants from the Visiting States.

Who can participate?

- ❖ Visiting States shall select participants from the following and depute them for attending the National Learning Exchange visit to the host State:
 - State level officials of PHED/ Rural Development Department dealing with rural water supply and sanitation. (Executive Engineers/ Assistant Engineers/ district TSC Coordinators)
 - District level functionaries of PHED/ Rural Development Department / Zilla Parishads/ Panchayati Raj District or Block level representatives

The total no. of nominated participants ***should not exceed 6 participants per State.***

- ❖ **Nomination form** for the delegation from the visiting State in the prescribed format (***Annexure - I***) would have to be endorsed by the Engineer-in-Chief/ Chief Engineer (PHED) of the Visiting States and ***forwarded to the Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation, along with copies marked to the Secretary (PHED) of the host State, UNICEF Country Office - New Delhi and the UNICEF office in their respective States.***

Division of Responsibilities

S. No.	Activity	Responsibility	Collaborators (if any)
1.	Selection of participants and intimation to Host State, MDWS and UNICEF	Visiting State PHED/ Rural Development Departments	
2.	Selection of best practices/ sites in Host State	Host State PHED/ Rural Development Department	UNICEF State Project Officers
3.	Drawing up itinerary for field exposure and interaction; and intimation to Visiting State; MDWS and UNICEF	Host State PHED/ Rural Development Department	UNICEF State Project Officers
4.	Travel of delegates to host State for exposure for field visits	UNICEF India Country Office	<i>Travel cost of participants from their <u>State headquarters</u> to the Host state would be borne by UNICEF*</i>
5.	Accommodation, food and travel arrangements within Host State	Host State PHED/ Rural Development Department	
6.	Venue arrangements for welcome and valedictory sessions	Host State PHED/ Rural Development Department	

* ***Visiting States which have UNICEF office*** may contact the WASH officer in their respective States for the to- and fro- travel arrangements to the host State. Those ***States which do not have a UNICEF office*** may directly contact UNICEF India Country Office at New Delhi for their travel arrangements (contact Ms. Jessinda Mathew). No DSA would be paid by UNICEF for the National Learning Exchange.

Action points for Host States

- ❖ Host States would have to finalise the dates of the conduction of the National Learning Exchange (**between 15th November 2011 - 15th January 2012**) and communicate the dates to the nodal officers in the Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Government of India and UNICEF India Country Office, New Delhi **latest by 15th November, 2011.**
- ❖ A detailed planning of the activities as mentioned below would have to be carried out for the successful conduction of the National Learning Exchange:
 1. ***Plan out the logistic arrangements*** for the NLE: Accommodation & meals, intra-state travel of the visiting delegates.
 2. ***Identifying the best practices/ innovations*** in the field of drinking water and sanitation to be shown - selection ***of at least 6 rural sites to be visited.***
 3. ***Chalking out agenda and field visit itinerary*** detailing out the sites, route map and other details (depicting time taken for travel etc.)
 4. ***Documentation of best practices/ innovations*** for sharing with participating delegates.
 5. Necessary preparations for ***facilitating dialogue*** between the participating delegates and the community/ NGOs/ other functionaries.

Host States may contact the UNICEF offices for collaborating on the above mentioned action points. For assistance for the chalking out the agenda and preparation of documentation of best practices/ innovations, host States may contact **Mr. Hemant Khosla at the UNICEF India Country Office**, New Delhi.

What is expected from participants?

As all the interactions and discussions would mainly be in English and Hindi languages, participants should have a working knowledge of Hindi and English. However, there will be interpreters/ facilitators for the successful interactions during the field visit. Active participation, meaningful dialogues and feedback at the end of each day and at the end of the Learning Exchange is desired from all the participants. All participants should also bring information of the status of rural water supply and sanitation in their districts of their states for sharing with other participants.

Participants are expected to submit a detailed note on the exposure visit to the Secretary/ Chief Engineers of their departments of their own States, mentioning replicable points from the learning exchange and also how the same can be implemented/considered in their States.

Nodal persons

For queries and further correspondence, please contact:

**Ministry of Drinking
Water & Sanitation,
Government of India**

Director (Water)

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Consultant (M&E)**

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**UNICEF India Country
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Nomination form for National Learning Exchange (NLE) 2011-2012

Name of Visiting State:

S. No.	Name of the participant	Designation	Office address	Telephone No. (including mobile no.)	Fax No.	E-mail	Key functions in the present position
1.							
2.							
3.							
4.							
5.							
6.							

Endorsed by:

Signature:

Designation & Seal: