

sustainable sanitation alliance

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India Chapter

Meeting Notes India Chapter Meeting

April 28, 2023
9:00 – 14:00 IST

AAETI Campus Nimli (f2f) – in conjunction with Policy & Practice Forum organized by CSE

Notes taken by: Rohini Pradeep and Alexandra Dubois

Meeting called by: SuSanA India Chapter and the SuSanA Secretariat with the support from CSE

Meeting chaired by: Arne Panesar



Participants:

| Name | Organization |
|-----------------------|--|
| Charles B. Niwagaba | Makerere University / SuSanA |
| Rohini Pradeep | CDD / SuSanA |
| Sareen Malik | ANEW / SWA / SuSanA |
| Manish Mishra | CSE |
| Paresh Chhajed-Picha | IIT-B / SuSanA |
| S. Viswanath | Biome Trust |
| Chaiwe M. Sanderse | CaDev / SuSanA |
| Somnath Bandyopadhyay | Independent consultant |
| Sudeep Sharma | Vaagdhara |
| Andy Peal | Independent consultant |
| Bhitush Luthra | Athena Infonomics |
| Depinder S. Kapur | CSE |
| Harsh Yadava | CSE |
| Sarim Ansari | CSE |
| Arne Panesar | GIZ / SuSanA Secretariat |
| Alexandra Dubois | GIZ / SuSanA Secretariat |
| Vikash Kumar Aggarwal | Independent consultant (Guwahati, Assam) |

Background:

In conjunction with the CSE Policy and Practice Forum 2023 on "Inclusive and Affordable Water and Sanitation Solutions for a Climate Resilient World: A Paradigm Shift for the Global South", SuSanA India Chapter organized a face-to-face meeting with the support of CSE. The representatives from the SuSanA India Chapter, the Africa Chapter, the Global Secretariat and the Global Steering Committee participated along with 10 participants from different backgrounds. The meeting also emphasised on the collaboration and knowledge sharing between SuSanA Africa and India Chapters. The meeting started with the presentation of Arne Panesar (Head of the Secretariat) and Rohini Pradeep (GSC member representing South Asia) introducing SuSanA and the ongoing organizational change process within the implementation of the SuSanA 2.0 concept. Updates on the India Chapter were then presented by the Forum Moderator Paresh Chhajed-Picha on behalf of the India Chapter Coordinator Nitya Jacob. Next, the Africa Chapter Coordinators, Chaiwe Sanderse and Sareen Malik introduced the Chapter, its achievements, and the action plan for the coming year. The meeting was concluded with a discussion on how to improve the position of the SuSanA India Chapter in the sector and how to enhance South-South exchange through the regional chapters and the Forum.

Points of discussion and suggestions:

1. How to improve/position the Indian Chapter in the sector

- Translate the content into the local/regional language, giving users the option to choose.
- Form working groups on specific topics and find the people who will make the chapter an active platform.
- Do not separate the global platform from the regional chapter: provide more insights from the field while following the global trends and key issues relevant to the sector.
- More advocacy work, using the "neutrality" of the SuSanA branding

- Breaking the silos in India and the sub-region: linking the policy and practice sides by bringing the different stakeholders to the table.
- Spreading sanitation literacy to the general public: making people aware of the WASH situation in their cities.
- Ensure the continuity of the chapter beyond funding
- Provide the chapter as a platform for people to be visible and have a voice
- SuSanA India Chapter has strong competition from the national network NFSSM (funded by Gates): position the chapter as a knowledge management platform that can be sustained with limited funding.
- Identify "what's next" for the Chapter that will get people excited (rebranding?)
- Contribute/post robust content and discussion to attract viewers/users. Example: Take the topic of SBM and its implementation - successes and shortcomings.
- Present the chapter, its achievements and potential on various platforms to get people interested and motivated to contribute and get involved

2. How to improve South-South exchange through the regional Chapters?

- Need for a convening platform to coordinate South-South exchange and collaboration
- The exchange events like this meeting will create an opportunity to bring closer and share the learnings.
- South-South dialogue can be implemented via city-city or utility-utility collaboration between Africa and South-Asia)
- Collaboration on the topic of gender and sanitation workers which is a focus area of relevance for both chapters

3. How to improve engagement through the SuSanA Discussion Forum?

- Regular follow up is needed for better connectivity and consistent data sharing in the forum: explore the solution of reaching out to students looking for internships to support the moderation of the forum.
- There are already many forums such as IWA (Connect +) and GWOPA (WOPs Communities of Practice): find out what is the added value of the SuSanA discussion forum and how to synergize with the other forums and social media.
- Forum may not be seen as a safe platform, see how to change this perception
- Need for physical meetings outside of paid conferences: Example of SanCoop run by students and researchers: max 50 people meeting every 3 months
- Promote the forum to students who have the time, motivation and interest to contribute.
- Identify who is downloading resources as potential users and contributors to the forum.

4. General action plan

- Plan the next SuSanA India Chapter event at the IWWA Conclave in Coimbatore in JAN, together with Ecosan Foundation (India Chapter with the support of the Secretariat).
- Draft a concept note on governance structure of SuSanA regional chapters (Secretariat)
- Include a section "News from GSC members" in the SuSanA newsletter (Secretariat and GSC)
- Identify a host organisation for the SuSanA India Chapter and the future South Asia Chapter (India Chapter with the support of the Secretariat)
- Contact the journalist from Healthy Development to write an article on the role of the Forum in contributing to the achievement of the SDGs (Arne)