

Abstract: Third International Conference on Ecological Sanitation

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Ecospn & Agriculture: Demonstration, Capacity Building and Training in Maharashtra, India

Ecospn developments must not only focus on separate collection and treatment of liquid wastes but very much also on acceptance of effluent and nutrient reuse by the larger farming communities. The below mentioned project therefore pursues the integration of ecospn concepts in its capacity building and training activities in the fields of watershed management and agricultural extension.

The IGBP-CB&T, Maharashtra State (Indo German Bilateral Cooperation Project Capacity Building and Training for Watershed Management and Agricultural Extension Maharashtra State) co-operates primarily with the Government owned & operated Nodal Training Institute called VANAMATI in Nagpur, India, and 7 Regional Agricultural Management and Extension Training Institutes (RAMETI's). It is further linked with several other Union State- and National Agricultural Universities and Training Institutes.

The objectives in connection with ecospn are to:

- develop
 - innovative and fully acceptable ecological sanitation systems (closed loop systems) for demonstration purposes on the campuses of the leading new Agricultural Training Centre VANAMATI in Nagpur and at least one more similar application in the RAMETI Khopoli (Western Maharashtra near Mumbai)
 - knowledge on operation of ecospn systems and reuse of nutrients (i.e. all recycling-fractions)
 - strategies and tools on how to disseminate knowledge amongst farming communities but also interested builders, developers, etc
- contribute to the IESNI (Innovative Ecological Sanitation Network India).
- contribute to the national debate on sustainable development in particular in connection with waste-water collection and treatment by closing loops of nutrient cycles and reducing water and soil degradation

IGBP-CB&T partners

- Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture as supervising Central Government Body,
- Government of Maharashtra, Department of Agriculture and Department of Soil and Water Conservation, Mumbai and Pune as owners and operators of RAMETI's (Regional

Agricultural Management & Extension Training Institutes, earlier called SWCTI, Soil and Water Conservation Training Institutes) and the new Nodal Institute VANAMATI in Nagpur, implementing innovative ecosan applications for agricultural demonstration purposes on their own training campuses.

- GTZ, IGBP-CB&T Watershed Management and Agri-Extension Soil and Water Conservation Program Maharashtra (based in Pune) as the ecosan expert group.
- All networking partners of IESNI (Innovative Ecological Sanitation Network, India)
- NGO's like WOTR (Watershed Organisation Trust) Ahmednagar, active in the field of rural communities mobilization and capacity building.
- Other Government and Non-Government stakeholders

The presentation will provide a status report and highlight issues in connection with the IGBP-CB&T ecosan activities as part of the Government of Maharashtra watershed management and agricultural extension capacity building activities.