

## Monthly Newsletter – June 2020

### ❖ CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

#### Village champions promoting Safe WASH practices in Sheohar



Water For People India team as part of Project Sheohar has created a pool of *Adarsh Grameens* (village champions) for practicing and promoting WASH behaviours in the communities. Based on the selection criteria, Field Facilitators shortlist champions from each village and orient them on key responsibilities and safe WASH practices. To motivate the villagers and reinforce positive WASH behaviours, the champions are felicitated during the Multi-disciplinary show by Water For People India. *Adarsh Grameens* attend community meetings to

share their experiences, aid in peer counselling, and provide local support in organizing social art activities. The objective is to build and promote them as the key resource person for WASH related activities.

#### Soil Testing Drive under Project Sheohar

A comprehensive soil testing drive has been launched in 65 revenue villages by the Department of Agriculture in all five blocks in Sheohar district, Bihar. Under Project Sheohar, Water For People India team and its partners are facilitating the drive in 30 villages with farmers clubs by providing techno-managerial support in crop monitoring. Soil testing will be done on various parameters (PH, EC, Organic Carbon, availability of Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potassium etc.) and feedback will be provided on ways to improve soil health and increase crop productivity through natural and zero budget farming. Project Sheohar post clinical treatment of the soil leading to enhanced crop productivity will scale it to 207 revenue villages. The soil testing drive will sensitize farmers about the soil health and diffusion of organic farming.



### ❖ WASH ACTIVITIES

#### Empowering Young Talents for Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion

Children in Tabadumra Junior High School located in Bhabanipur Panchayat, Birbhum district, West Bengal are becoming effective change agents. The school has been intervened under the project *Swaccho Nirapad Parivesh* (Clean and Safe



Environment) by Water For People India and supported by NSE with improved WASH facilities. Children have diligently taken their responsibilities as Child Cabinet members and are following the recommended hygiene behaviour. A 15 member drama team (10 girls, 5 boys) has been formed to disseminate key messages on toilet usage, handwashing with soap at critical times, maintaining personal hygiene and cleanliness through use of drama and participatory audio-visual presentation for peer learning and wider reach. The involvement of children in WASH activities have been outstanding and reached 900 people in eight villages in Bhabanipur and Tantipara gram panchayats.

## ❖ OBSERVANCES

### World Environment Day 2020: Time for Nature



World Environment Day, celebrated every year on June 5, is a call for environmental action to safeguard and protect biodiversity. This year the theme 'Time for Nature' focused on the growing importance of nature to preserve it amidst climate change and providing essential infrastructure that supports life on Earth and human development. Schools intervened by Water For People India and ITC under *Mission Sunehra Kal* in Hinjilicut Block, Ganjam district, Odisha observed the day with students drawing posters and spreading awareness highlighting “small steps, big change” to safeguard the fragile ecosystem. Self Help Group members also advocated for a healthy environment by planting saplings.

### Changing Sanitation Workers Life with a Red Dot

Sanitary waste is a silent and a mounting problem in India. Like, menstrual consciousness, the issue of menstrual waste should be part of our mainstream discussion. Waste-pickers handle dirty diapers and sanitary pads every day, exposing themselves to diseases like Staphylococcus, Hepatitis, E.coli, Salmonella and Typhoid. Every day, SWaCH (Solid Waste Collection and Handling) workers collect sanitary waste from houses, which they hand-segregate into dry and wet waste. The Red Dot Campaign, which coincided with Menstrual Hygiene Day 2020 (May 28), urged the residents to become a smart disposer and protect the essence of environment by wrapping their sanitary pads in a paper marked with a RED DOT. This would help the SWaCH workers identify sanitary waste and treat it accordingly. This year Indranil Ghosh, Project Manager of Water For People India Trust participated in the campaign, organized by SheWings Organization that aims to spread nationwide awareness about menstrual health and hygiene.



## ❖ IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES

### Provision of Pipe Water Supply Schemes



To address the drinking water needs of 136 households in Amzari village in Amravati district, Maharashtra, Water For People India Trust in partnership with Colgate Palmolive (India) Limited has provided functional household tap connections with a stand post to every household. A 30,000 litres water storage tank has been constructed and villagers through government supported MNREGA scheme provided labour for excavation and laying of 1838-meter village distribution pipeline and rising mainline. For regular operation and maintenance

(O&M) an 8-member Water User Committee has been formed. In Jaitadehi village situated in Aadnadi Gram Panchayat, Chikhaldara Block a source sustainability test was conducted to provide water supply to 89 households. Villagers contributed in laying a 1416-meter village distribution pipeline for household connections with a storage tank by the district rural water supply department. Post completion, a Water User Committee has been formed for tariff collection and regular O&M of the scheme.

### Construction of Drinking Water Station at Wastapur Zilla Parishad School

Wastapur Zilla Parishad school in Amravati district, Maharashtra has been provided with drinking water and handwashing stations benefiting 263 Anganwadi and 199 school children. As part of the intervention an existing water tank has been repaired by Water For People India Trust for students to access potable and safe drinking water. A kitchen garden has been formed inside the school campus for mid-day meal preparation and providing nutrition to school and Anganwadi children.

