**Category 4: Excellence in Faecal Sludge Management**

**Eligibility**

This award recognizes outstanding advancements and innovative projects in the treatment, management, and safe disposal of wastewater and faecal sludge across rural, urban, and peri-urban areas. It honours pioneering solutions in Faecal Sludge and Septage Management (FSSM) as well as impactful initiatives focused on wastewater treatment and reuse for non-potable applications such as irrigation and industrial processes, contributing to sustainable water resource management.

**Who Can Apply:**

* **Startups (MSME/SME’s):** Developing cutting-edge technologies for faecal sludge treatment.
* **Corporates:** Implementing faecal sludge treatment plants.
* **Government Bodies (Local, State, National):** Managing urban and rural sludge treatment programs.
* **NGOs, Community Groups and Individuals:** Driving community awareness and participation in safe sludge disposal practices.
* **Financial Institutions:** Funding large-scale treatment facilities or innovative solutions.

**Evaluation criteria**

Entries will be screened for their eligibility, and selection for the final round will be done based on the following parameters:

* **Affordable:** The solution is affordable and creates access for everyone across the economic pyramid, especially for those at the bottom of the pyramid. An important consideration should still be that affordability is not an outcome of the downgrade of quality. It needs to be ensured that an acceptable level of quality is being delivered at a low cost i.e., delivery is important.
* **Scalable:** The solution ought to make a significant impact with a reach to a bigger number of people.
* **Sustainable:** All the solutions should be environmentally sustainable, economically feasible, socially acceptable, and adaptable to policy changes.
* **Universal:** The solution should be user-friendly with an intention to be inclusive.
* **Rapid:** The solution should be quick to adapt and ideate on new possibilities and their subsequent deployment.
* **Excellence:** The solution should be with affordable excellence. The solution should not compromise on quality because it needs to be affordable. It should strike a balance between quality and affordability: Depth of impact.
* **Distinctive:** The solution should be innovative as there is no use in creating ‘me too’ products and services.

*\*****Weightage would be given to programs that address more than one section of the ASSURED framework. (For details, on the ASSURED framework*** [***click here***](https://mashelkar.com/articles/assured-framework-for-an-assured-success-in-innovation/)***.***

Award entries that clear the screening and preliminary evaluation will be asked to make a presentation to the executive jury. The jury will evaluate the entries and select the finalists. Field validation of the shortlisted entries (finalists) may be done by the jurors. The finalists will be asked to make a presentation before the final jury, post which the jury will evaluate the entries leading to the selection of winners. The decision of the jury shall be final and binding for all the contestants.

**Important instructions**

* Names of the applicant, the filled-in questionnaire submitted, and scoring information will be kept confidential and be the property of India Sanitation Coalition.
* Information contained can be used for dissemination with consent from the organisation giving due credit. India Sanitation Coalition will not be responsible for the authenticity of the information supplied by the applicant organisation.
* Please make multiple copies if you wish to submit entries for more than one product.
* Incomplete entries will not be considered for evaluation.
* Please submit the completed final questionnaire in soft copy by **15th April 2025**.
* Complete entries should be submitted to –

E-mail: [awards@isc.ficci.com](mailto:awards@isc.ficci.com)

**Section 1(a): Organisation details**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name of the organisation**\*:** |  |
| Name of contact person**\*:** |  |
| Designation of contact person**\*:** |  |
| Address for communication**\*:** |  |
| Mobile Number**\*:** |  |
| Email**\*:** |  |
| Website (if any) of the organisation**:** |  |
| Employee strength: |  |
| Registration number**\***: |  |
| Country of origin: |  |
| Registered address in India**\***: |  |
| Type of organisation**\*** (Corporate/MSME/Startup/NGO/Government Body/Others)**:** |  |
| If Corporate or MSME, mention the turnover (as submitted to MCA for FY 2023-24): |  |
| If MSME, Classification as per new definition ofMSME **(a) Micro (b) Small (c) Medium** |  |

***\*The fields marked with (\*) are mandatory.***

**Section 1 (b):** Name of the Programme/ Initiative for which you are applying, its date of commencement with actual date of completion and geographical location (150-300 words)

**Section 1(c): Executive Summary** (Please provide a summary of the application in 150-300 words, primarily capturing the essence of the project/initiative that you have mentioned above. Describe in detail about what, why and how aspects of the project/initiative)

**Section 2: Please provide a brief description of your organisation and key intervention based on which you are applying for the award, as per the questions outlined below:**

1. A brief description of your organisation and its key social impact intervention areas (e.g., sanitation, water, health, nutrition, education, etc.) (150-300 words)
2. In what capacity has your organisation engaged in sanitation (e.g., CSR / Business alignment/volunteering, etc.)? (75-100 words)
3. Objective(s) of the project. Mention its key partners and stakeholders. (150-300 words)
4. Is the organisation under any form of litigation? If yes, please give details. (150-300 words)

**Section 3: Please answer the following questions based on the ASSURED framework.**

1. **Affordable**
   1. Cost Assessment (Quantitative)
      1. *Cost to the organisation for providing access to the beneficiaries as compared to other existing similar initiatives in the sector (in INR)*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Q, N** | **Indicator** | **INR (Year 2022-23)** | **INR (Year 2023-24)** | **INR (Year 2024-25)** |
| 1.1.1.1 | Cost of the initiative (Total expenditure of the program/initiative) |  |  |  |
| 1.1.1.2 | Mention the activities on which this amount was spent along with the amount spent on each of these activities |  |  |  |

* 1. Benefit Assessment (Qualitative)
     1. Do you regularly collect feedback from your customers/beneficiaries to improve your FSSM model? If yes, please provide details, including specific feedback received and the areas of improvement highlighted by the beneficiaries/customers.
  2. Other factors
     1. What return on investment including benefits do the users get when they adopt your FSSM model? (150-300 words)
     2. What strategy is employed by the organisation to ensure that the model remains affordable and accessible to the users in the long run? Please elaborate. (i.e., the solution is there to stay) (150-300 words)
  3. What is the operation & maintenance cost of your FSSM model? What strategy is employed to ensure that the operation & maintenance cost remains affordable for the organisation in the long run? Please elaborate. (150-300 words)
     1. What % of the operation & maintenance of the model is manual and what % of it is automated? Please mention the manual processes and those that are automated. (150-300 words)
  4. Are there any recurring costs that the beneficiaries have to bear? If so, are the beneficiaries comfortable with bearing recurring costs? (150-300 words)

1. **Scalable**
   1. Number of users (both direct and indirect) reached (year-on-year for last three years).

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Indicator** | **Year (2022-23)** | **Year (2023-24)** | **Year (2024-25)** |
| Total no of beneficiaries |  |  |  |
| % of repeat beneficiaries |  |  |  |
| % of new beneficiaries |  |  |  |
| No. of jobs created (if applicable) |  |  |  |

* 1. What percentage of the overall population of the area under implementation does the intervention impact? (150-300 words)
  2. Please mention the locations where the program/initiative is being implemented. Has the coverage increased since the inception of the program? Please elaborate. (150-300 words)
  3. Has the organisation leveraged any new technology or innovation to increase its scale while keeping the operational costs low? If yes, what new technologies have been adopted and integrated into the project? (150-300 words)

1. **Sustainable**
2. 1. Impact assessment (Quantitative)-

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Indicator** | **Year (2024-25)** | **Year (2023-24)** | **Year (2022-23)** |
| Total faecal sludge collected |  |  |  |
| % of faecal sludge safely managed (collected, transported, treated, and reused/disposed) |  |  |  |
| Number of desludging services completed per month/year |  |  |  |
| % of households and establishments covered by scheduled desludging services. |  |  |  |
| % of urban local bodies (ULBs) covered under the FSSM initiative |  |  |  |

* 1. How does the FSSM model address current and future environmental sustainability? What steps are taken to minimize its negative environmental impact, if any, both from current and future perspectives? (150-300 words)
  2. Sustainable revenue growth - What is the revenue generation model of the project to ensure that it is self-sustainable? (150-300 words)
     1. Did operating expenses increase in the following year as the number of beneficiaries grew? Mention operating expense of the last 3 years
  3. Was the local community involved during any phase of the initiative? If so, please describe how they were involved and what measures were taken to empower the community, particularly women groups and marginalized communities.
  4. Has the model contributed to the upliftment of its workforce? (e.g., by introducing automation which reduces hard menial work, etc.) Please substantiate the claim with examples. (150-300 words)

1. **Universal**
   1. How does the FSSM model ensure user-friendliness (e.g., ease in connecting with the service provider, hassle-free and timely desludging, etc.)? Please elaborate. (150-300 words)
   2. Can this FSSM model be deployed in PAN India? What aspects of the intervention would require customization and what are its limitations?
2. **Rapid**
   1. Was the FSSM model readily accepted by the community? If not, was there any action plan to influence the behaviour pattern positively to make the model acceptable in the community? Please elaborate. (150-300 words)
   2. Did the implementation of the program adhere to the pre decided timelines? If not, what impacted the implementation process? (150-300 words)
3. **Excellence**
   1. Has the organization undertaken any innovative tool or process to make the model better accessible to all without compromising the quality of the initiative? If yes, what changes were observed due to the adoption of these innovative tools/processes? Please elaborate.
4. **Distinctive**
   1. What features of your FSSM Model make it superior to other similar models? (e.g., Access to advanced technology, urban-rural convergence, lower user fee, etc.) (150-300 words)
   2. What were the challenges faced by your organisation during the project and how were they overcome? (150-300 words)

**Section 4: Supporting Materials**

If you wish to support your application with documents (reports, publications, etc.), videos, or photographs (Please ensure that the videos/photographs attached as supporting material are of actual implementation), kindly attach the files in the same email as for your application properly. Please ensure that the email size does not exceed 15 MB or else send a link to access the files.

**Section 5: Declaration**

**Take the content below on the letterhead of your company and attach it to the questionnaire.**

**DECLARATION**

I hereby declare that the data/ information provided in the questionnaire is correct to the best of my knowledge.

I also declare that the information contained can be used for knowledge sharing and increasing awareness with due acknowledgment.

**Date:**

**Signature:**

**Seal of the Organisation Name and Designation**