Quarterly Meeting, 29th March

The first quarterly review meeting was held at CDD Society where all the units and projects presented the highlights of the first quarter. The Nexus team presented the key achievements in the quarter as also learning and challenges associated with implementation, knowledge creation and overall project delivery. The plan for upcoming quarter was shared with the participants.

Advisory Board Meeting, 22nd March

The launch meeting of the Advisory Board was conducted at CDD Society, Bangalore. We currently have 5 board members belonging to agriculture, solid waste management, Public Health and wastewater treatment sectors. The objective of the meeting was to review the year 2015 and discuss the plan of operation for 2016. Also, the team members discussed the implementation challenges in pilot sites as well as securing funds for project operation till 2017.

Crop Production Plan for the upcoming season, 15th-18th March

We are ready with the crop production plan of Bessi Workers Colony (BWC) pilot site for the up-coming Khair season, where we are reusing treated wastewater for agriculture. The crop planning exercise for the last rabi season was based on sowing time, tolerance to wastewater, and on crop restriction. This year too, we have planned for the crops considering crop restriction and nutrient rich crops like pulses apart from vegetables and fruits. We continue to follow sustainable agricultural practices for better pest and disease management. We will introduce multiple cropping systems like intercropping, relay cropping and crop rotation for effective utilisation of nutrients and other inputs which will improve soil fertility, suppress weed growth, minimise crop failure and provide diverse food output. Moreover, the team plans to implement innovative practices like use of co-composted faecal sludge with household waste to enrich the soil nutrient content.
Improvisation of existing polishing pond in BWC plot, 13th – 20th March

The Nexus team with support from technical team has improvised on the design of the existing polishing pond in the plot by extending its capacity to meet the increasing crop water demand and by few innovative ideas like constructing cascade to make water fall from an elevation and letting it flow from a distance to the pond to enable aeration in the process which helps in further treating wastewater. The main objective of the pond is to reduce pathogens load by treating wastewater under UV radiation. The team is also planning to introduce aquaculture in the coming months to further enhance the quality of treated wastewater with some scavenger fishes.

In-house training on Sanitation Safety Planning and its Application, 10th - 11th March

This training was organised for CDD Staff members to develop a conceptual and practical understanding of Sanitation Safety Planning for a cluster or a town. The resource persons were Mr. Aumash Krishnamurthy, Mr. S. Vishwanath from Biome Environmental Solutions and Dr. B. Ramakrishna Gowd, Community Health Specialist from St. John’s Medical College. All three resource persons have been the contributing members to develop Sanitation Safety Planning manual and were involved in the SSP trial for Devanahalli which was one among 4 cities in the world where it was first tried in partnership with WHO, KUN/SDB and Devanahalli TMA and Biome Environmental Trust.

Visit to Garden City Farmers, 2nd March

The team members, Girija and Tarli, visited an organisation called Garden City Farmers, founded by Dr. B.N. Vishwanath, who is engaged in terrace farming that involves cultivation of fruits and vegetables on a household terrace. The team had a great learning experience with regard to home and terrace gardening, vertical gardening and on rain water harvesting. Such interventions, if implemented in future, can ensure household level food security in a low-income community like Beedi Workers’ Colony where there is water scarcity and space constraint in kitchen gardening. Dr. Vishwanath also visited the BWC plot site to assess the scope for household level home gardening in the colony.