Pre-feasibility visit to Hubli-Dharwad for Health Risk Assessment Study, 11th-12th May, 2016

A pre-feasibility visit to Hubli and Dharwad (Karnataka state) was planned for two days on 11th-12th May 2016 under Nexus project to assess the location's suitability to conduct the study on "Impact of Wastewater Irrigation on Farmer’s and Consumer’s Health". For this purpose, Ms. Ganga visited the villages where fresh water and wastewater is used for irrigation in Hubli and Dharwad area. She had interactions with the farmers and collected relevant data from the University of Agricultural Sciences, agriculture department and Municipal Corporation of Hubli-Dharwad. She had also visited the sewage treatment plants of Dharwad (Medchal village) and Hubli (Gabbur village) to understand the treatment process of the plant, source of wastewater and discharge of the treated wastewater and its reuse in agriculture.

Co-Composting Activities- Finalisation of Construction and Initiation of Windrow composting, 2nd-19th May 2016

In the past weeks, the co-composting facility in Devanahalli, associated with the faecal sludge treatment plant, got ready to be used. The bio waste collected from the community is now shifted onto the concrete structures which are designed for the composting in windrows. The first experience shows that with the right moisture content, the material heats up to about 60°C within one to two days only. In the next step, the dried faecal sludge derived from the FSTP will be co-composted along with the bio waste.

Preparation for upcoming Kharif season cultivation in full swing at Beedi workers colony and improvisation of technical infrastructures at the site, 20th May 2016

Initial land preparation for Kharif cultivation in Beedi workers colony is done, cover cropping with horse gram was completed after the harvest of last season crop to manage soil erosion, soil fertility, weeds, pests and diseases. The team is also applying treated faecal sludge on the field to enrich soil nutrient content. The technical infrastructure is completed and the wastewater is let to flow through a distance of 30-40 meters from the elevated collection tank to the polishing pond. This would help in reducing the odour and pathogen load in the wastewater.
Budget and Activity Finalisation Meeting with partner institution, St. John's Medical College, 19th May 2016

The colleagues from CDD Society, including Mr. Sasanka Velbandra, Chief Executive, Ms. Tami Sahni, Project Manager and BORDA coordinator, Ms. Susmita Sinha attended a meeting with Dr. B. Ramakrishna Gowd and Dr. Nancy Angeline to finalise on the activities and budget for pilot project on Situational Analysis and Risk Assessment of wastewater reuse in agriculture in Mysuru village, Bangalore. The finalised budget and activities were signed into an MoU and Cooperation Agreement, in the month of June, to establish the partnership between CDD Society and St. John's Medical College under Nexa project.

'The Faecal Connection' in Kannada language, 24th May 2016

We have finally developed our 'Faecal Connection' poster in the local language, Kannada, for community members and general public in the intervention sites. This poster details out the routes through which faecal contamination can take place and reach our food. It has been designed in an easy-to-understand language, targeted for the local audience. The content can be thought provoking for those who have hitherto not considered such connections from faeces to food leading to commonly occurring diseases like diarrhoea, cholera, etc. for those living in contaminated surroundings.

MoU with TMC in Devanahalli for supporting Co-Composting activities, 8th May 2016

A MoU has been signed between Town Municipal Corporation of Devanahalli town and CDD Society, under Nexa Project, for construction of Co-composting unit and supporting Co-composting activities at the site of Faecal Sludge Treatment Plant. This partnership will help in designing means for operating and maintaining the co-composting unit as well as marketing the final product in the form of rich compost for farmers in Devanahalli town.