About CASS

The Centre for Advanced Sanitation Solutions (CASS) was created with the aim of supporting a thriving Water and Sanitation (WASH) ecosystem. It was conceived as a one-stop knowledge resource centre on rural and urban sanitation, ranging from preliminary information, to detailed options analysis, specialized training to resource agencies, sanitation infrastructure construction development, implementation and post implementation support, and monitoring.

Our key objective is to meet the knowledge and capacity gap among sector professionals and policy makers, and facilitate sustainable solutions to WASH problems. We approach this through trainings, knowledge management, research and development and interactive exhibits.

Our training programs are conducted by professionals who have implementation experience. Instructors use a variety of experiential techniques - from case studies to field visits. They cover a complete spectrum of the solution – Concept, Design and Implementation. The learner is at the core of our training – content and methodology are customised to suit the specific background of the participants. We address every professional in the sanitation value chain – from on-the-ground skilled workers – plumbers, masons, operators to policy makers – government functionaries.

All the sessions were well-organised and managed. Each of the sessions was very interactive and informative. A basic concept and functioning on the DEWATS approach is simplified and was made easy to understand by all the experts during the training.

CASS envisages to
- create a critical mass of thought leaders, skilled professionals and experts who believe in a sustainable way forward for Water and Sanitation (WASH).
- foster practical knowledge and impart core skills for delivering WASH solutions
- sensitize participants towards the social, economic, and political environment in which WASH measures are implemented
The 5 Arms of CASS

All the units are interdependent and specialised arms which work to reinforce the core of CASS - Training and Dissemination for the effective functioning of the WASH sector.

**CAPACITY BUILDING**

This unit offers specialised capacity building and training courses on concept, design and implementation of water and sanitation management and infrastructure. The training programs develop implementation capacity on the technical as well as the socio-economic front, combining theoretical and practical elements.

**EXHIBITION UNIT**

The Exhibition is an engaging visual experience of sanitation solutions in communities and cities. On display are important elements of sanitation infrastructure, which usually cannot be seen during field visits as they are installed underground. The exhibits also serve as a training tool for specialised sanitation training courses conducted at CASS.

**KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT**

This unit is dedicated to capturing on-ground experience and research findings for dissemination through publication of knowledge documents. It is equipped with subject-related documentation facility, a library and databases.

**DESIGN AND PRODUCTION**

Spread over 18,000 square feet, this unit focuses on development and testing of appropriate material and components for sanitation infrastructure, design of prefabricated elements and cost-efficient, high quality production processes. It also provides for evaluation of functionality of infrastructure and production of prototypes.

**RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT**

This unit works to improve and upgrade the efficiency of our sanitation systems. It includes a laboratory for faecal sludge and wastewater analysis. The unit also addresses aspects, such as adaptation, improvement and simplification of existing designs and monitoring systems, as well as research on construction materials.

Technical know-how on mechanical and natural systems of Faecal Sludge Treatment was really good. Overall a successful training program.
### Collaborators

**NATIONAL**
- Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Government of India
- National Institute of Urban Affairs, New Delhi
- Regional Centre for Urban and Environmental Studies (RCUES)
- State Institute of Urban Development, Karnataka
- Swacch Andhra Corporation (Municipal Administration and Urban Development), Andhra Pradesh
- Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board
- City Managers Association, Karnataka
- Directorate of Municipal Administration, Karnataka
- Karnataka Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Department
- Administrative Staff College of India, Hyderabad
- Indian Institute of Human Settlements, Bengaluru
- Centre for Advocacy and Research, New Delhi
- Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi
- Centre for Science and Environment, New Delhi
- Keystone Foundation, Tamil Nadu
- Nispana Innovative Platforms Pvt. Ltd.
- Practical Action, Odisha

**INTERNATIONAL**
- Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok
- BORDA Africa
- BORDA Germany
- BORDA Las America
- BORDA South Asia
- BORDA South East Asia
- BORDA West and Central Asia (WesCA)
- Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology, Canada
- Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology (EAWAG), Switzerland
- World Toilet Organisation

### Timeline

- **2007**: CASS was conceptualised
- **2009**: 2 arms - Lab and Capacity Building - established; first training course conducted
- **2011**: Sanitation Exhibition launched
- **2013**: Developed Full Credit Curriculum for a Vocational Training Institute in Afghanistan
- **2015**: Empanelled as Key Resource Centre with Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Government of India
- **2017**: Laboratory expanded to include faecal sludge testing abilities with support from The Gates Foundation.
- **2018**: 1,258 participants trained in FSM in the year - at trainings organised by CDD and other organisations too
- **2008**: RGRHCL, BORDA and CDD Society came together to implement CASS
- **2010**: First international training course ‘Engineers training on DEWATS’ conducted
- **2012**: First International Conference with International WATER Association organised. Prefab unit launched.
- **2014**: Trained 500 sanitation professionals across 13 countries and 23 Indian states
- **2016**: Achieved record of disseminating to 1,478 professionals in a year and developed partnership with 19 leading institutions

"Fantastic experience of learning. There is an honest effort to cover up most of the burning issues of Faecal Sludge Management."
CASS is a collaborative setup between:

**Rajiv Gandhi Rural Housing Corporation Limited (RGRHCL)** is a unit of the Government of Karnataka catering to the housing needs of the economically weaker section of society. It also works to provide sustainable Basic Need Services.

**Bremen Overseas Research and Development Association (BORDA)** is a German not-for-profit organisation, which works for poverty alleviation, sustainable protection of natural resources and strengthening of social structures. BORDA operates through its partners in 23 countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

**CDD Society** is a not-for-profit organization, registered in 2005, that innovates, demonstrates and disseminates decentralized nature-based solutions for the conservation, collection, treatment and reuse of water resources and management of sanitation facilities. In a bid to have more people implement decentralised solutions, CDD Society dedicates considerable resources and efforts to capacity building programs, especially designed for practitioners and decision makers.