

Report on the 1-day workshop on "Application of EcoSan concepts in India – Current practises and challenges", 5 February 2008, Kumaraguru College of Technology (KCT), Coimbatore, India

The 1-day workshop was organised by the IWA Specialist Group on "Resources Oriented Sanitation (EcoSan)", represented by Dr. Günter Langergraber (BOKU University, Austria), as side event of the 8th IWA Small Systems conference. Co-organisers have been Dr Sam Godfrey (UNICEF, Bhopal) and Mr. Martin Wafler (seecon, Switzerland and Austria) which both have working experience in India as well as Mr. Dayanand Panse (Indian Water Works Association - IWWA). 30 international participants and about 80 KCT students (3rd year civil engineering and biotechnology students) attended the workshop.

An introductory lecture by Günter Langergraber on the principles of EcoSan opened the workshop. Current EcoSan activities in India have been presented by Martin Wafler based on case studies. These practical examples caused a lot discussion and raised a number of questions leading to a more detailed discussion of urine diverting toilets and a general overview on different EcoSan technologies. Mr. Pawan Labhsetwar from the National

Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) gave a presentation on "Greywater Reuse System and Health based Targets for Rural Areas in India". Greywater reuse systems implemented in schools have been described as well as the risk management in developing operation and maintenance for the treatment systems. Finally the discussion was focused on financing issues including operation and maintenance as well as logistics and economics for different technologies applied in EcoSan concepts. It was found that no general conclusion on the best practice exists for this important topic that is required towards sustainable implementation of sanitation systems.

The EcoSan SG is glad that for a second time an EcoSan workshop could be organised in conjunction with the Small Systems conference series (the first workshop took place in Mexico in March 2006) and is looking forward towards the next opportunity to cooperate with the Small Systems SG for their next conference to be held in Girona, Catalonia, in 2010.

Günter Langergraber, Feb. 2008