

STRATEGIC SECTOR COOPERATION BETWEEN INDIA & DENMARK ON WATER MANAGEMENT, Annual report for 2019



The Strategic Sector Cooperation is expected to take place in close collaboration with the India-EU Water Partnership. It will contribute to Sustainable Development Goal 6 on Clean Water and Sanitation, in particular targets 6.3 and 6.5 on pollution reduction and integrated water resources management.

Key activities in year 2019

Delegations from the Danish Environmental Protection Agency visited New Delhi in April and September 2019 to prepare the Strategic Sector Cooperation jointly with Indian partners. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and the Ministry of Water (Jal Shakti) both confirmed their desire to partner with Denmark on wastewater management.

A Sector Counsellor for Environment joined the Danish Embassy in New Delhi in September to liaison with Indian authorities and conduct outreach to civil society organisations and other international actors.

The Danish Embassy shared information on the Strategic Sector Cooperation with Danish water tech companies in the Indo-Danish Business Association in Chennai on 27 September. Companies in Denmark were informed during an event on Danish water solutions in India organized by the Indian-Danish Chamber of Commerce in Bjerringbro in January 2020.

Main achievements and lessons learned in 2019

The project has consolidated Denmark's standing as a key partner for India on the water agenda. Awareness of Danish areas of expertise in sewage treatment, energy recovery and industrial wastewater management has been raised with Indian stakeholders in and outside government. For example, the 2019 India Water Impact Summit included Denmark as one of the international partners contributing to sustainable water resource management in India.

The inception project has also contributed to the bilateral relationship at political level. The Danish Climate Minister discussed bilateral collaboration with the Indian Environment Minister at COP25 in Madrid in December 2019. The Danish Foreign Minister and the Indian Water Minister agreed on strengthening collaboration on water in New Delhi in January 2020.



Project description

India is home to 18 percent of the world's population, but only 4 percent of its water resources. Wastewater pollution from households and industry is putting pressure on those already scarce resources. This is particularly challenging in a situation where the Indian government has pledged to provide piped drinking water to every household by 2024.

As a progressive leader in wastewater management, the Danish Environmental Protection Agency is planning a Strategic Sector Cooperation with the Government of India to help tackle this urgent issue. The objective is to jointly strengthen monitoring, planning, implementation and enforcement of wastewater policies and plans in India within the framework of River Basin Management.

Status: Inception phase

Project period: April 2019-December 2020

Partners: Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Ministry of Water (Jal Shakti) of India

Contact information: Project Managers Tobias Kvorning (tobik@mst.dk) and Marie Blanner (mabla@mst.dk) at the Danish Environmental Protection Agency. Sector Counsellor Simon Apelblat Thomsen (simthm@um.dk) at the Embassy of Denmark to India.