Status of Faecal Sludge Management (FSM) in Lalbandi Municipality

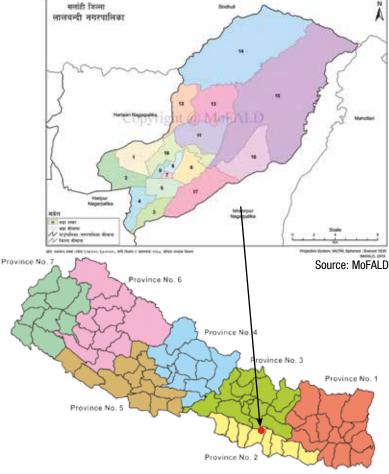
Introduction

Lalbandi municipality is located in Sarlahi District of Janakpur Zone in the Central Development Region of Nepal. This place is famous for highest production of tomato in the nation and shares significant quantity for supply of vegetables and fruits. There are 57,521 people with 12,509 households according to the latest data obtained from the municipality at the time of survey.

FSM Status

Majority (10,853) of the households (HHs) have a toilet within their premises. Out of the HHs having toilets, 6230 HHs have lined containments including biogas containers (3912 HHs), 4536 HHs have unlined containments and 87 HHs have no containment. Considering the volume of these containments, volume of faecal sludge (FS) generated in the municipality is estimated to be 707 cum per year. Generated FS are being emptied by the private desludging service providers - manually (36 cum/year) and mechanically (28 cum/year).

There are three private desludging vehicles, which provides the desludging services charging Rs.3000 per trip (on an average), and no desludging services from the municipality. Here, 9% of the containments are being emptied and there is no treatment plant or proper disposal site for those emptied sludge, however 1.6% of HHs primarily apply the emptied sludge into the farmland indicating unsafe use. Also, those containments which are not emptied, do not necessarily represent to be safe as majority of them are unlined, so could be a threat to ground water pollution.



Map of Lalbandi Municipality

Recommendations

The data shows that Lalbandi Municipality has no full sanitation coverage. In addition, the existing containments are not properly designed, which are collectively polluting the ambient environment and ground water. So, standard toilet and containment construction should be prioritized.

Furthermore, even though Lalbandi municipality has not been declared Open Defecation Free FS emptying trend has started, and so emptied FS are either being unsafely used or disposed haphazardly. This reflects the need of sufficient mechanical desludging service providers and proper treatment facility in the municipality.

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