Unlocking accelerated possibilities to achieve groundwater security across the Asia Pacific region

Experiences from Arghyam and the ForWater Collective

Amrtha Kasturi Rangan
Arghyam's Journey

Mandate to work on water: 2005, Endowment from Rohini Nilekani
INR 1.5 bn and 140 Projects in 15 Years
100+ Partners across India
Footprint in 22 states and over 110 districts
More than 10 million people reached
Making the case for Groundwater: Asia Pacific

- 60% of world’s population on 36% of world’s water resources
- 1.7 billion with no access to groundwater
- India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh energy bill for extraction is $3.78 billion
- Comprises of maximum cyclone, drought & flood prone countries
- Poor water quality
Arghyam’s work on Participatory Groundwater Management
Unlocking possibilities: Achieving scale
Our Mission

Strengthening ability of the ecosystem to enable water security for 100 million by 2023
NRM in all the villages of Meghalaya

400 villages in 4 years | Expanding to 6000 villages in 2 years

Community Led Landscape Management

We need to ensure that communities appreciate and get better at creating better life & livelihood opportunities through better natural resource management

Village facilitators and trainers are important to achieve sustainable outcomes

We need to create growth pathways for village facilitators to build expertise and access better opportunities

Trained Practitioners, Content etc. are important assets that can be leveraged by others

Programs in the future should re-use trained practitioners, content, NRM plans and other artefacts to achieve better results-faster.
Operating Model

Service Partners supporting

Overall Design@Scale Strategy support for services

Planning, implementation and codification support for deployment

Digital tools and technology support

Key Funders

Meghalaya Community-Led Landscape Management Project (MCLLMP)

Technical Partners on-boarded by CLLMP as training agencies

Knowledge partners and experts
Inspiring Lahunshisha & other frontline workers like her to work on NRM

What challenges do we foresee & how can we strengthen our plan to get the best results?
Operationalizing the thinking – New ways of working

Foundational training sessions (District/ Block wise plan) (Completion criteria – what is DONE?)

Weekly (Virtual) Sessions
Refresher trainings / Clarifications/ issues/ Vetting

How will we monitor & manage progress/ performance (What data to track, how to ensure we can trust this data, & what not to track?)

What (digital) tools can VF’s use to get the job done?

What (assets) can we leave behind for the future?

Block/ District level roles/ activities/ Timelines
Unlocking possibilities: Achieving scale

Leaving behind assets
The program has access to: Content, People and any plans prepared in its dashboard.
Making the invisible visible: Groundwater and the people who manage it
Unlocking possibilities:
Achieving scale

High frequency - Low dose Training
Weekly virtual sessions with peers and experts

Content as asset
Short-form videos in local language

Scan-in / Scan-out of interactions
Digital Attestations of trainees creates data on resource pool

Leverage existing resources
Identify institutions & departments with program connect. Leverage them & build their capacities

Outcomes

10X increase in interactions;
More participation of women

All content available in the hands of the participant at all times. Share freely via whatsapp, etc.

Dashboards on sessions and content for the program;
Future Programs can leverage trained resources

Improve program efficacy and scale to saturate the state
Unlocking Capacity, Capital and collaboration: water security @ scale: The ForWater collective

Five unique partnerships across 8 states - at 33 million people now.

Transitioning from doing to enabling → by seeding the ForWater collective- to unlock capacity, capital and collaboration

Embedding this methodology in critical, @scale groundwater programmes like Atal Jal
Thank you