

From Ground to Governance: Co-Creating SRTW Policies through Community Participation & Multi-Tiered Coordination

Dr Sonia Grover
Associate Director

Mu Gamma Consultants Pvt. Ltd.

Mu Gamma Consultants supported GIZ and State Depts. to co-develop state policies on Safe Reuse of Treated Water (SRTW) for the states of Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand

Mu Gamma Consultants also co-developed the:
National Framework for Safe Reuse of Treated Water
Business Models on end-uses of SRTW in Panipat
Compendium of India and EU Business Models of SRTW

About SRTW Policy

Need of the Policy

- **Rising population and climate change** are straining water availability
- Risk of growing **conflicts among water user groups**
- Low awareness leads to **mismanagement, wastage, and pollution**
- **Over extraction** reduces **ecological flows**
- **Inequitable distribution** and **fragmented** water governance

Objectives of the Policy

- To establish a **unified framework** of guidelines, laws, institutions, and an action plan from a state perspective by taking cognizance of the existing situation.
- To **align** with the **National Framework for SRTW**, ensuring consistency in principles, safety standards, and implementation strategies across governance levels
- To **complement national flagship missions**: SBM 2.0, AMRUT 2.0, and Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).

Vision & Guiding Principles of the Policy

- Positions the reuse of treated used water (TUW) as a key element of **integrated river basin and water resource planning and management**
- Maximize collection and treatment of sewage and promote **sustainable reuse** of treated used water, reducing freshwater dependency
- Position TUW as an **economic resource** within a circular economy approach and **supporting green jobs**
- Enhance **environmental flows**, mitigate pollution and public health risks, and deliver socio-economic and environmental benefits
- Introduces **Apna Jal** concept to foster public ownership and promote acceptance of TUW as a safely reusable resource (**Cultural and Behavioural Shift**)



Process

Stakeholder Consultation

Regular feedback

Iterative Process

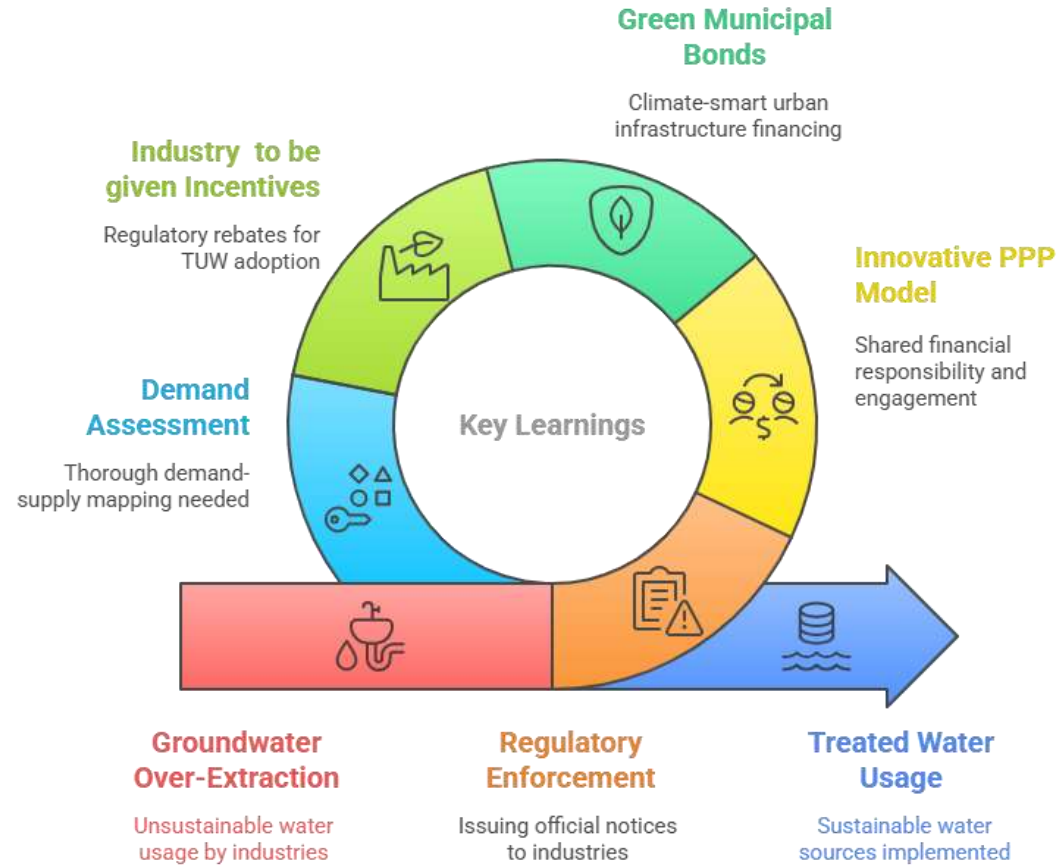


Community-Led Governance Tech-enabled Participation & Multi-Level Institutional Coordination

Existing Case Studies – Haridwar and Indirapuram



Indirapuram Case Study

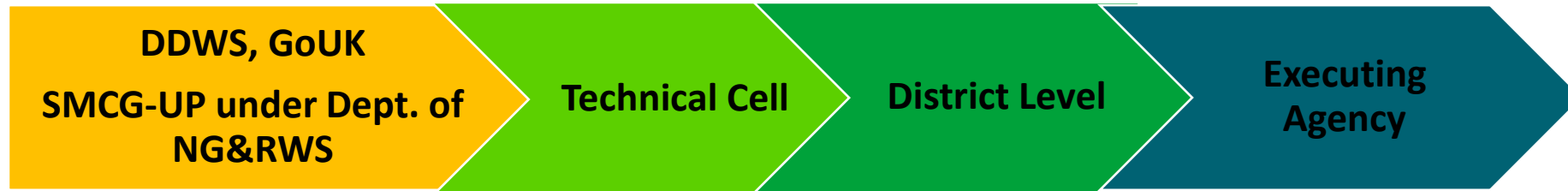


Community-Led Governance Tech-enabled Participation & Multi-Level Institutional Coordination

Implementation Approach

Nodal Dept. for coordination and formulating strategies for effective engagement with the national- and state-level stakeholders

District level (DGC or any other such body notified by Govt.)- Enforcement mechanism at Dist. level; Project review, planning & implementation at ULBs/PRIs, better public participation at grassroots level by **Apna Jal Samitis**

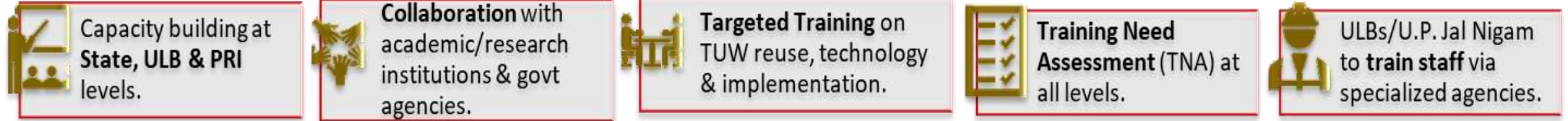


State-level SRTW Technical Cell through SMCG- Planning, coordination and Monitoring project execution, Tech evaluation, regulatory compliances and operative guidelines

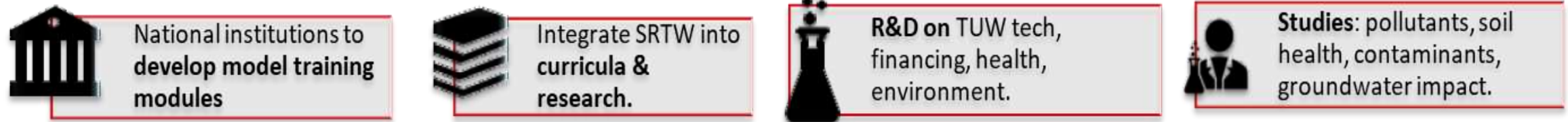
Executing Agencies/Line Departments: DPR development, on-ground implementation of projects

Capacity Building, Research & Public Participation

Capacity Building and Training



Research & Development



Community Awareness and Public Participation



Decentralized Governance and Coordinated Implementation of the Safe Reuse of Treated Water (SRTW) Policy



Multi-Institutional Coordination Framework

Policy Goal: Ensuring Effective Inter-Agency Collaboration

Aspect	Description and Mechanism
Need for Coordination	Inter-institutional coordination in SRTW Policy occur vertically (between State, ULB/parastatal agencies, and PRI levels) and horizontally (across various sectors)
Three-Tier Implementation	A decentralized, three-tier implementation mechanism is adopted, comprising structures at the State, District, and ULB/Village levels . These tiers play a critical role in planning, coordination, and oversight of SRTW initiatives in their respective jurisdictions.
Technical Support	A State-level SRTW Technical Cell is established to support project planning, evaluation, regulatory compliance, and policy review. This Cell is explicitly tasked with providing coordination across agencies on developing and implementing the State SRTW policy.

Inter-Agency Alignment and Domain Responsibilities



Policy Mandate: Dissemination, Linkage, and Enforcement

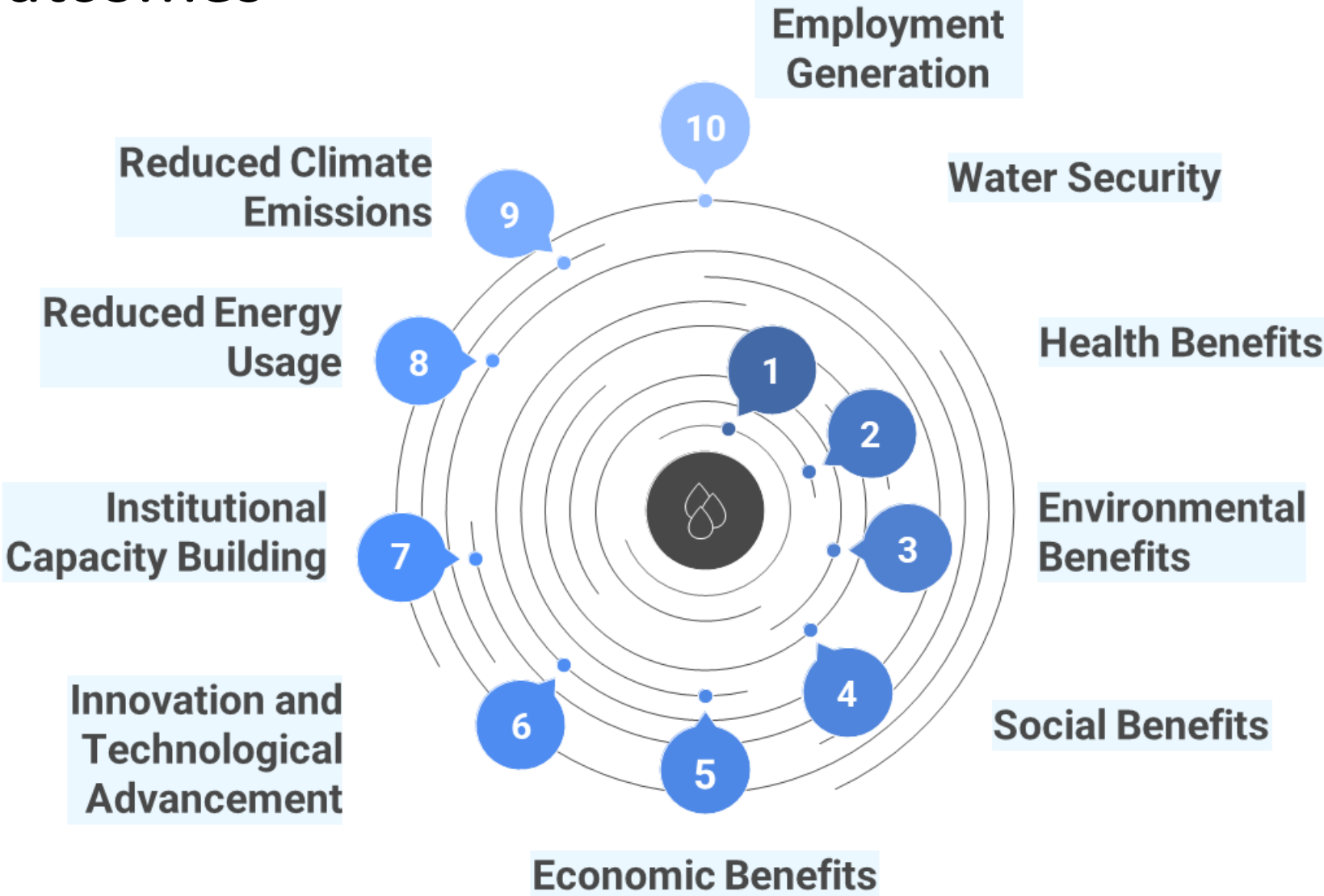
Mechanism	Details and Responsible Entities
Comprehensive Alignment	The SMCG's strategic coordination involves disseminating support and guidance among a wide range of state departments, including – Urban Development Dept., Rural Development Dept., Irrigation, agriculture and horticulture Depts., UKPCB, UK Jal Sansthan and Pey Jal Nigam
Sectoral Implementation	While state-level institutions establish the regulatory framework, Urban Local Bodies (ULBs), Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) , and parastatal agencies (like Uttarakhand Pey Jal Nigam and Uttarakhand Jal Sansthan) lead the on-ground implementation of SRTW in their respective domains.
River Basin Integration	The Policy mandates establishing strong linkages between different stakeholders involved in river-centric planning. This includes alignment with existing plans such as District Ganga Plans, Urban River Management Plans (URMP), District Environment Plans, and River Basin Management Plans.
District Enforcement	District Ganga Committees (DGCs) are responsible for monitoring the implementation of SRTW at the district level. They can legally facilitate SRTW across the Ganga Basin

Community-Level Governance and Ownership

Policy Principle: Promoting Acceptance and Grassroots Participation

Strategy	Governance Role and Impact
Conceptual Ownership	The Policy introduces the concept of “Apna Jal” (Our Water) . This terminology promotes a cultural and behavioural shift in public perception, fostering a sense of ownership and acceptance of Treated Used Water (TUW) as a resource rather than a liability
Grassroots Management Bodies	Town/Village Apna Jal Samitis may be formed specifically to play a critical role in planning, coordination, and oversight of SRTW initiatives in their respective jurisdictions. This is key for grassroots-level implementation and better public participation
Constitutional Delegation	PRIs and ULBs are delegated the responsibilities of providing water, sanitation, and used water services in rural and urban settings, respectively, under the 73rd and 74th Constitution Amendment Acts. This establishes clear local ownership of treated used water
Local Planning and Implementation	PRIs (Panchayati Raj Institutions) are required to develop an SRTW strategy and implementation plan for rural areas, incorporating state guidelines to ensure context-specific and sustainable reuse practices . They also support Gram Panchayats to integrate SRTW into Village water security plans
Public Participation	The guiding principles emphasize participatory planning involving stakeholders relevant to the intended end-use of TUW. Successful implementation relies on strong local institutions, stakeholder engagement, coordination, and partnerships

Expected Outcomes



“When communities participate and institutions collaborate, solutions don’t just emerge — they endure.”



Thank you!

For more information:

Dr Sonia Grover

Associate Director, Mu Gamma Consultants

email: soniag@mugammaconsultants.com

Website: www.mugammaconsultants.com