

Global Applied Research Network-South Asia (GARNET-SA)

Introduction

The Global Applied Research Network-South Asia (GARNET-SA) is a voluntary open-to-all knowledge sharing network. The main objective of GARNET-SA is to build capacity of the professionals / practitioners based on management of applied research information on drinking water, sanitation, environment, agriculture, occupational health & safety (OHS) and climate change adaptation. The activities and topics of interests are updated /modified based on the demands and suggestions of the members.

GARNET-SA is one of the mandated programs of Environment and Population Research Centre (EPRC). In country, regional and its global activities are conducted by EPRC in partnership/collaboration with national & India chapters and WEDC-Loughborough University

Background

The GARNET-SA was launched by a group of professionals from ICDDR, UNICEF, Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE), Disaster Management Bureau (DMB), DFID, WHO, Bangladesh Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (BCSIR), Agency for Social, Forestry & Environmental Conservation (ASFEC), Development Association for Cooperation in Bangladesh (DACOB), CARE, NGO-Forum, VERC, Dhaka University and other organizations; following a workshop on mobilization of NGOs in water supply and sanitation held at BRAC Auditorium, Rajendrapur, April 12-13, 1992. The workshop was organized by ICDDR,B and funded by SDC (Swiss). Dr Bilqis A. Hoque has been its Coordinator-Principal Investigator since the inception. Its secretariat was moved to EPRC in 2000 from ICDDR,B.

GARNET-SA India chapter, with Indian Institute of Bio-Social Research and Development (IBRAD), was launched in 2011. Dr. S. B. Roy, Chairman of IBRAD is the Chairperson of the Indian chapter.

GARNET-SA has played pioneering/ significant roles in training on arsenic mitigation water supply, arsenic removal technology, water-safety plan, emergency drinking water management in floods & cyclones and occupational health and safety.

Main Activities

- Organizing quarterly or more workshops and seminars.
- Organizing training based on demands and needs.

- Joint/collaborative research and educational program.
- Production of six-monthly newsletters and other reports.
- Collaborative production and dissemination of communication/awareness materials.
- Joint/collaborative relief and recovery activities/ training on WASH and food security in almost all yearly hazards/disasters in Bangladesh.
- GARNET-SA fellowship: Annual GARNET-SA Research Fellowship for student and organization.

Main activities done until January 2021 may be summarized as shown below:

- Workshops at Local/district level	66
- Workshop at national level	13
- International conference	06
- Regional workshop	09
- Newsletter published and distributed	46
- Organized Training	21
- GARNET-SA fellowship	16

- Developing Emergency Household GARNET-SA Filter for Arsenic Removal

<p>Components</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two buckets brick chips sand synthetic cloth Bleaching powder <p>Status</p> <p>The research initiated by Dr. Bilqis-ICDDR,B with GARNET-SA members, further developed by PhD student of Wagenigan University, Netherlands</p>	
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Current Status

The Network Advisory Committee currently comprises 21 representatives from national and international professional institutions.

GARNET-SA has a membership base of more than 570 organizations across different categories, representing Bangladesh and other South Asian countries, as well as the USA, the UK, and Japan. Membership application forms are available from the Secretariat.