INREM *Foundation*
Annual Report 2023-24

Together, For A Water-Safe India

INREM *Foundation*
India Natural Resource Economics and Management

Dear Friends,

As we reflect on another remarkable year at INREM Foundation, it is with great pride and humility that I present this message.

The year 2023-24 has been a testament to our shared vision of creating water-safe communities across India.

Together, we have embarked on transformative journeys, championed innovative solutions, and deepened our commitment to tackling one of the most pressing challenges of our time—**water contamination.**

A Renewed Identity, a Reinforced Mission

This year, we unveiled a refreshed INREM logo that symbolizes our enduring mission. The design, an abstract water droplet interwoven with landforms, embodies our interconnected approach to water, health, and environmental sustainability. This new identity serves as a beacon, guiding our efforts to address water pollution with adaptability and purpose.

Strength in Leadership and Collaboration

Our esteemed Board of Governors, comprising visionaries and experts in water, health, and development, has been instrumental in steering our initiatives. Their collective wisdom and unwavering commitment have ensured that INREM continues to lead with integrity and impact.

Collaboration has remained at the heart of our efforts. Through partnerships with organizations like Arghyam, the European Union, and Azim Premji Foundation, we have amplified our reach and effectiveness. **The concept of working with nodal NGOs and networks has proven transformative, empowering communities to take charge of their water quality challenges.**

Innovation and Future Readiness

This year marked a pivotal shift for INREM as we transitioned to technology-driven internal systems. These advancements have enhanced participation, compliance, and traceability, ensuring that every resource is utilized effectively for maximum impact.

The ASPIRe programme exemplifies this evolution, catalyzing changemaking networks and leveraging digital platforms to envision a Water-Safe India by 2030.

Impactful Interventions

Under the Jal Jeevan Mission, we have focused on mitigating the health risks posed by water contaminants such as fluoride and arsenic. **Our thematic leadership in Water Quality Management has facilitated scalable, systemic interventions that align with national priorities while addressing local needs.**

Through the EU-supported program, we have engaged with vulnerable communities in **10 districts across seven states**, strengthening Water Quality Networks and district platforms.

These initiatives are not just about providing safe drinking water; they are about restoring dignity and hope to millions of people.

A Collective Commitment

The scale of the challenge before us is immense. Over 150 million people in India are affected by water contamination. Yet, the resilience of our communities and the dedication of our partners inspire unwavering hope.

Every story of transformation—a child drinking safe water, a family reclaiming their health, a village becoming water-secure —reinforces our belief in the power of collective action.

“

As we move forward, let us carry this momentum into the future. Let us continue to innovate, collaborate, and inspire change.

Together, we can build a nation where safe water is not a privilege but a fundamental right for all.

Thank you for your trust, partnership, and commitment to this journey. Here’s to another year of making a difference—one drop, one community, one life at a time.

With gratitude and hope,
Sunderrajan Krishnan
Executive Director

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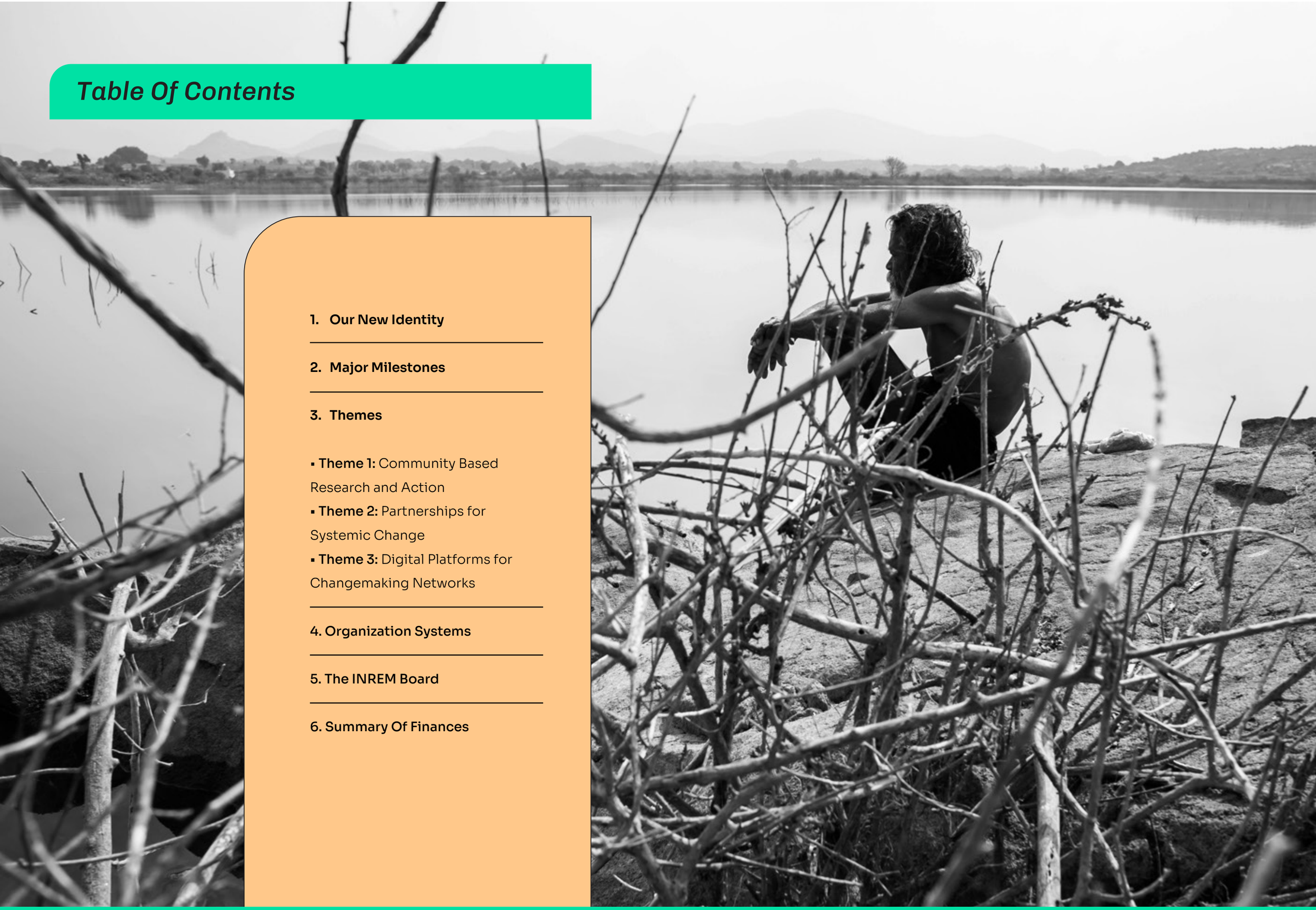


Our New Identity

In 2023, **INREM Foundation introduced a refreshed logo that symbolizes its mission to tackle water pollution and foster community well-being.** The logo's design embodies the core essence of INREM's work—water, health, and the environment—through its unique motif and color palette.

The motif, an abstract water droplet, integrates landform outlines to represent the interconnectedness of water and the environment.

Its asymmetrical design reflects INREM's adaptive and analytical approach to problem-solving.

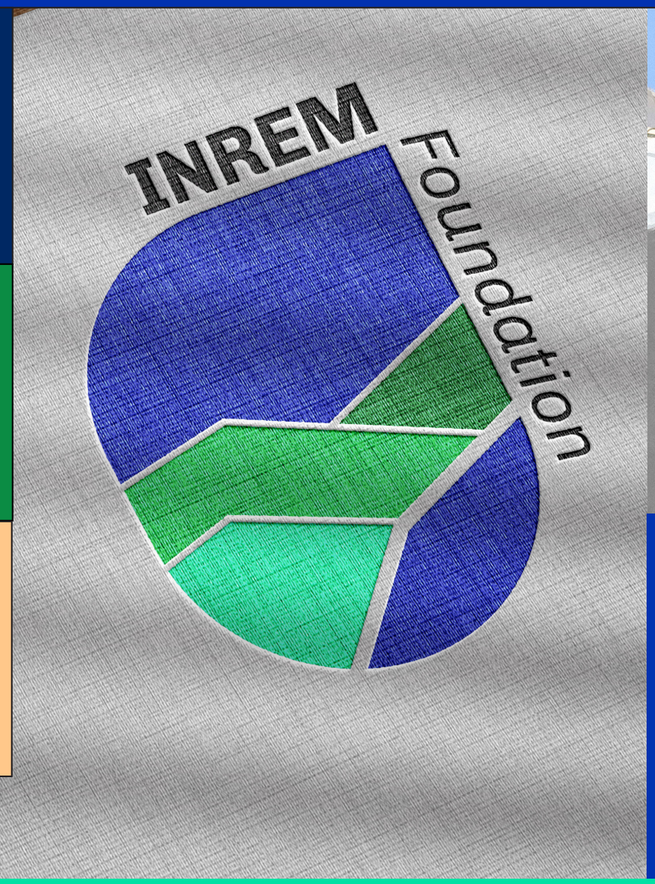
The new logo highlights INREM's commitment to scientific rigor, innovation, and impact-driven solutions.
It represents not just an identity but a call to action, **uniting stakeholders under the shared vision of creating safe-water communities.**

This redesigned logo reinforces INREM's reputation as a dependable and empathetic organization, striving for long-term solutions to water and health challenges, while fostering hope and collaboration among communities.

The INREM blue dominates the branding, reinforcing INREM's **primary focus on solving water-related challenges.**

The varying shades of green **promote environmental restoration, community-led action, and sustainable solutions.**

Highlights elements related to **community engagement, partnerships, and innovation** in water management.



Major Milestones

Strategy

November 2023
ASPIRe - Transforming INREM's vision with Changemaking Networks

December 2023
Partnerships with Madhya Pradesh and Assam for Jal Jeevan Mission

September 2023
Big shifts - move from Water Quality to Water-Safe Communities

Programmes

April - June 2023
Outcome and Evaluation survey across Organization

March 2024
Partnerships with BP Sustainabillity on Innovations for Water-Safe Communities

September 2023
Sectoral Capacity Building for Water-Safe Communities - a 4 year Partnership with Azim Premji Foundation commences

September 2023
First Organization wide Outcome survey

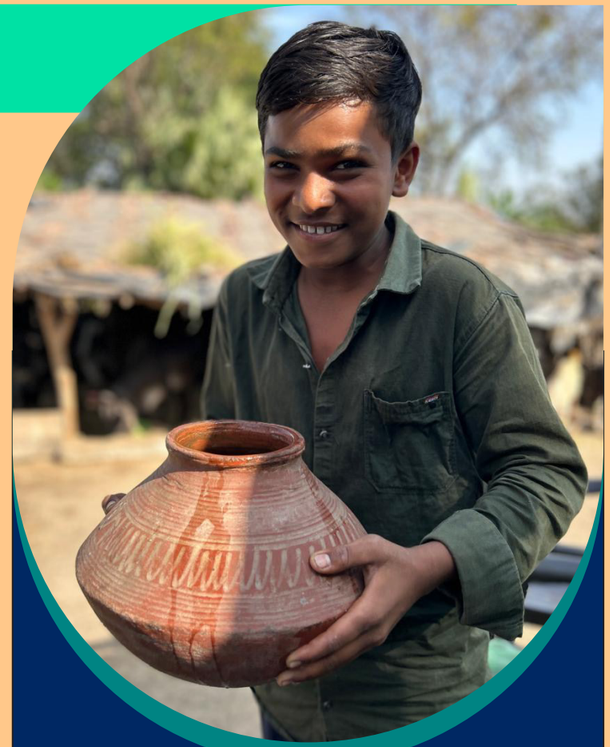
December 2023
Water Quality Network Conference in Kolkata concluding the 6 year European Union supported programme 2018-2023

Organization

February 2024
The new INREM Brand is released!

March 2024
Digital Platform released for Internal Systems

Themes



Theme 1

Community Based Research and Action

We create water-safe communities by combining insights from real-life experiences, community wisdom, and scientific research.

Theme 2

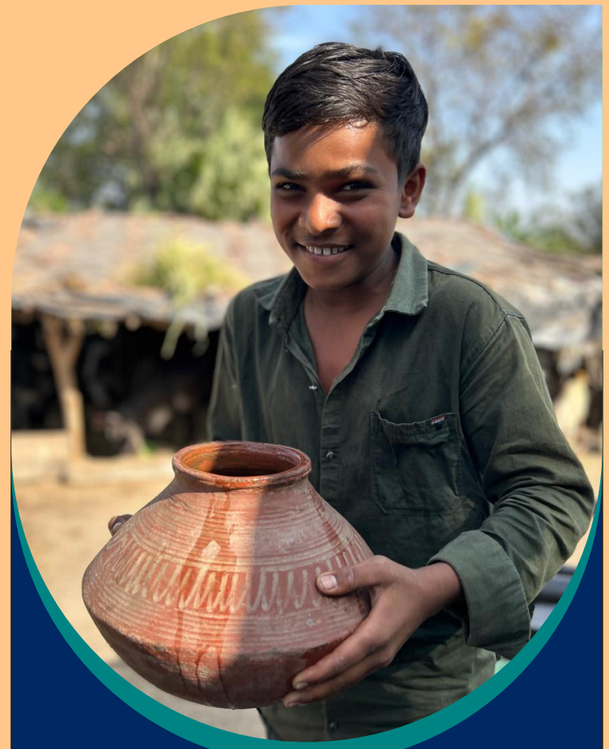
Partnerships for Systemic Change

We collaborate with initiatives and institutions to collectively address challenges and craft systemic approaches for meaningful change.

Theme 3

Digital Platforms for Changemaking Networks

We innovate digital tools to engage and mobilise networks of Water Quality Champions of India.



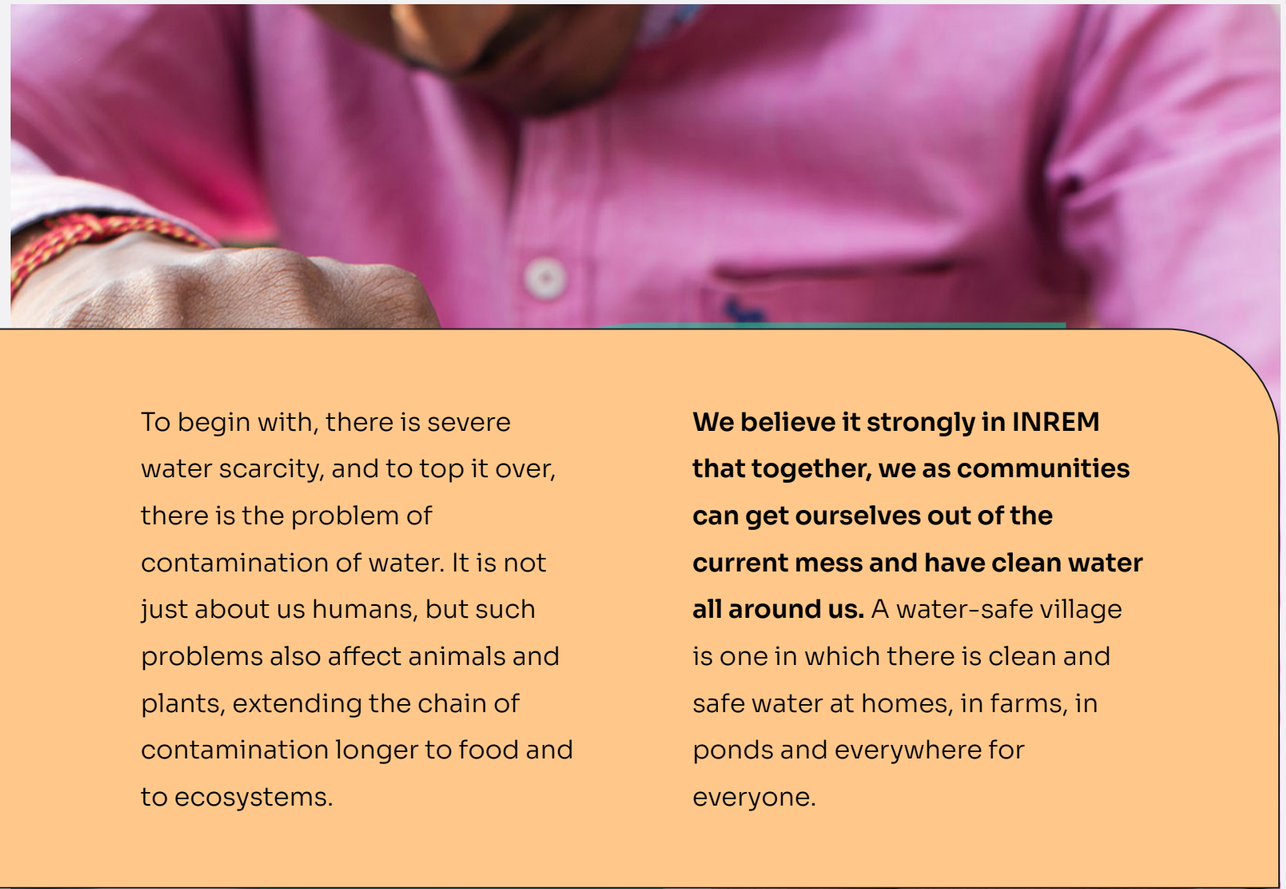
Theme 1

Community Based Research and Action

We work towards creating water-safe communities by combining insights from real-life experiences, community wisdom, and scientific research.

Strategic Direction

Towards
Water-Safe
Communities



INREM research tells us that 150 million people in India are exposed to Water pollution and its many effects.
In our work, we focus on communities across the country who are affected with problems like fluoride and arsenic in water, or just affected by germs and pollutants that come with obviously contaminated water like in the above story.
Since much of rural India (75%+) depends still on groundwater which is now coming from so deep in the earth, drinking water is something that becomes difficult. to secure and be safe.

To begin with, there is severe water scarcity, and to top it over, there is the problem of contamination of water. It is not just about us humans, but such problems also affect animals and plants, extending the chain of contamination longer to food and to ecosystems.

We believe it strongly in INREM that together, we as communities can get ourselves out of the current mess and have clean water all around us. A water-safe village is one in which there is clean and safe water at homes, in farms, in ponds and everywhere for everyone.

Our research shows that ***around 9.5 Million Hectares of Agricultural land*** in India uses contaminated water for producing food.

We also estimate that *around 131 Million rural Livestock animals* (out of a total rural animal population of 414 Million) are exposed to Water contamination and its effects.

The strategic shift in our communities programme towards water-safe communities now means that we aim for safe water in:

- **Farms**
- **Animals and Fisheries**
- **Safe ponds and related ecosystems**
- **Drinking Water Quality**

Within this shift, we plan to engage in partnerships and start pilot programme which will start our direction towards Water-Safe Communities.

Project Highlight

EU Partnership on Water Quality Network and District Platforms

The EU-supported programme, implemented by INREM Foundation, addresses critical water quality challenges in India, **focusing on arsenic and fluoride contamination affecting vulnerable populations in 10 districts across seven states.**

Leveraging Water Quality Networks (WQNs), the initiative integrates community engagement, capacity building, and alignment with national programs like the Jal Jeevan Mission to ensure access to safe drinking water. Through collaboration with local civil society organizations, government bodies, and communities, **the programme aimed to mitigate health risks, promote sustainable water management, and empower marginalized groups.** Its holistic approach combines technical solutions, advocacy, and policy engagement to drive impact.

The programme achieved significant outcomes in mitigating water contamination **across 10 districts in India.**

It strengthened the capacities of **20,000+ stakeholders through 400 sessions** on arsenic and fluoride mitigation.

It established district platforms to **enhance community-government collaboration** on water quality.

Through integration with national schemes like the Jal Jeevan Mission, the programme implemented water mitigation plans in over 700 habitations, benefiting approximately 120,000 households. Community-centric initiatives empowered local governance and promoted equitable service delivery in water-stressed areas.

Policy advocacy was another critical achievement, with INREM recognized as a national partner for water quality management by the Jal Jeevan Mission. **The programme also developed innovative tools, such as online water quality courses and digital monitoring platforms, enhancing transparency and accessibility of information.**

Despite challenges like the COVID-19 pandemic, the programme adapted effectively, ensuring sustained impact. It highlighted the potential for scaling successful models nationwide while addressing gaps in capacity and community empowerment, **contributing to improved health, and resilience of marginalized populations.**

Theme 2

Partnerships for Systemic Change

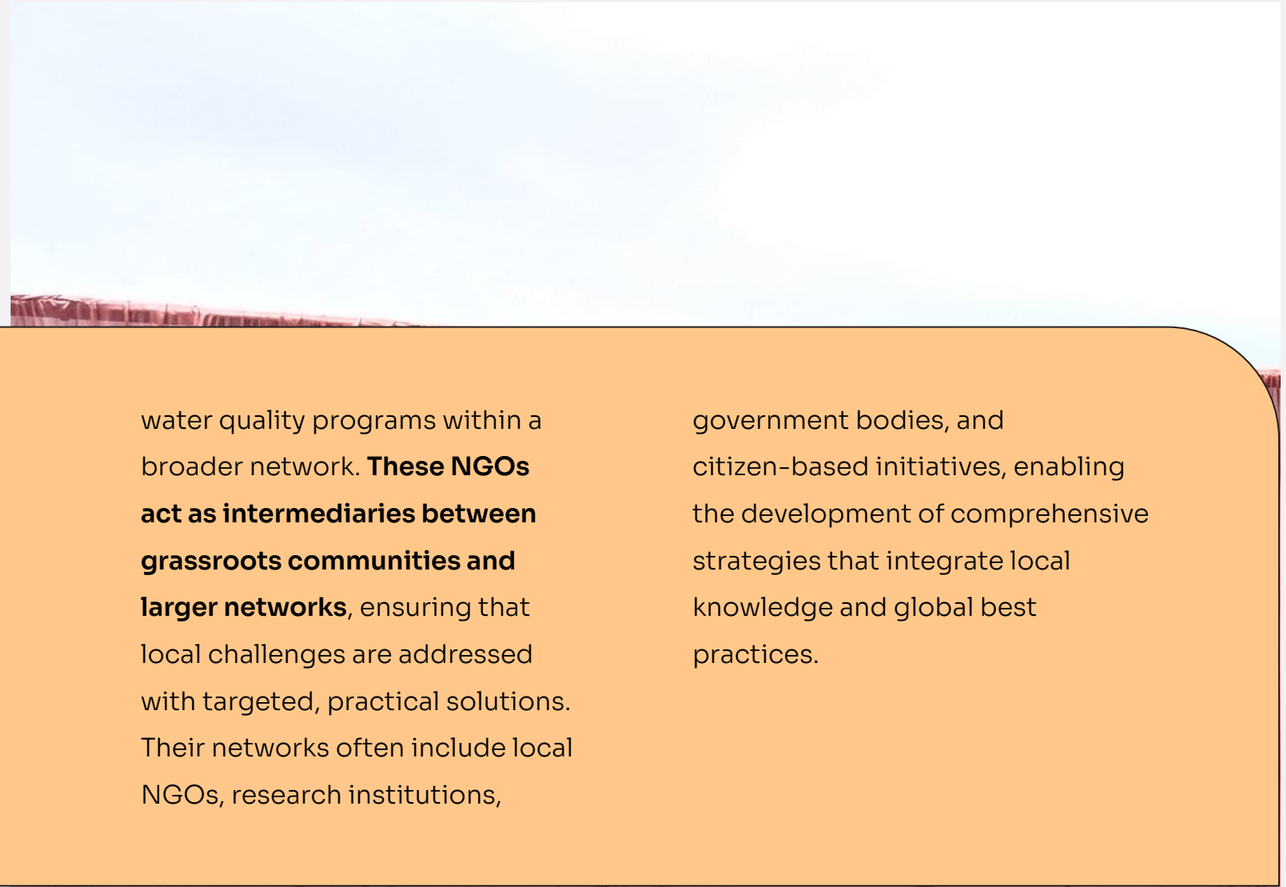
We collaborate with initiatives and institutions to collectively address challenges and craft systemic approaches for meaningful change.

Project Highlight

Concept of Partnerships with Nodal NGOs and NGO Networks

Effective water quality management and the creation of water-safe communities require a collaborative approach that leverages the unique strengths of various stakeholders. **Nodal NGOs and NGO networks play a pivotal role in achieving these goals by acting as key facilitators for community-driven initiatives, knowledge sharing, and innovative solutions.**

The Azim Premji Foundation (APF) supported programme introduces the idea of Nodal NGOs as organizations with expertise in specific areas or regions, tasked with guiding and implementing water quality programs within a broader network. **These NGOs act as intermediaries between grassroots communities and larger networks**, ensuring that local challenges are addressed with targeted, practical solutions. Their networks often include local NGOs, research institutions, government bodies, and citizen-based initiatives, enabling the development of comprehensive strategies that integrate local knowledge and global best practices.



Nodal NGOs lead innovation by designing Water Quality Management training to equip local stakeholders.

Digital tools like WhatsApp bots facilitate real-time knowledge sharing, while platforms like iECHO enable practitioners to exchange experiences, showcase best practices, and collaborate on water safety solutions.

Partnerships with research institutions enrich the networks by introducing scientific expertise and innovative technologies. These institutions contribute to understanding emerging contaminants, piloting new solutions, and demystifying complex problems. **Together with NGOs, they form a knowledge ecosystem that empowers communities to adopt sustainable practices and policies for safer water and ecosystems.**

These partnerships promote decentralized, context-specific water solutions. Nodal NGOs are classified by focus:

- **Sector-based** (agriculture, livelihoods)
- **Geography-based** (regional issues)
- **Issue-based** (arsenic, fluoride), and citizen-based (community engagement)
- **Enabling targeted interventions.**

Another key aspect of the concept is the emphasis on scalable and replicable solutions. Nodal NGOs not only implement programs within their immediate contexts but also work to disseminate successful strategies across their networks. **This approach ensures that proven interventions reach a wider audience and have a greater impact.**

By involving diverse stakeholders and fostering a culture of learning and collaboration, partnerships with Nodal NGOs and their networks address systemic issues while building local capacities. This approach with the APF supported programme ensures the sustainability of water quality interventions and strengthens community resilience to water-related challenges. **The collaborative model exemplifies how partnerships can drive meaningful change, leveraging collective expertise to create water-safe communities that prioritize health, livelihoods, and ecological balance.**

Case Study

Reap Benefit

Reap Benefit engages citizens, particularly youth, through digital platforms and mentorship, addressing climate and environmental challenges. They excel in using open-source technologies and creating a loop of small actions that lead to meaningful change.

INREM collaborates with Reap Benefit on student engagement programs, learning how to scale digital participation effectively. We build on their approach by integrating our water safety knowledge into their digital ecosystems, expanding the impact through localized actions.

The Jal Doot programme in Assam is a great example of how INREM and Reap Benefit have come together to activate close to 60,000 student Water Champions along with Jal Jeevan Mission, Assam.

Together, the Jal Doots now work in villages doing water audits and small actions which support greater community ownership.

Partnerships with research institutions enrich the networks by introducing scientific expertise and innovative technologies. These institutions contribute to understanding emerging contaminants, piloting new solutions, and demystifying complex problems. **Together with NGOs, they form a knowledge ecosystem that empowers communities to adopt sustainable practices and policies for safer water and ecosystems.**

Theme 3

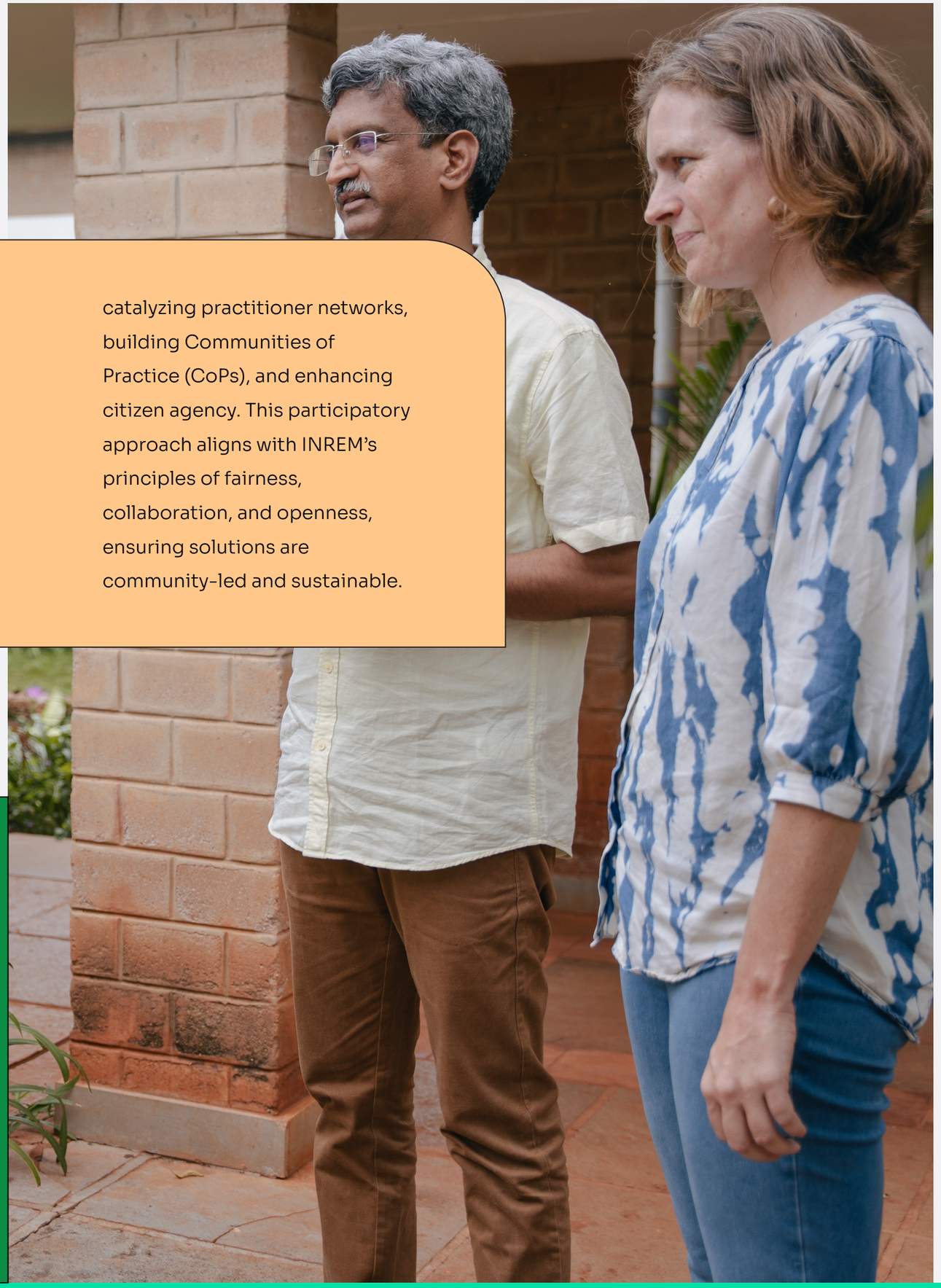
Digital Platforms for Changemaking Networks

We innovate digital tools to engage and mobilise networks of Water Quality Champions of India.

Strategic Direction

The ASPIRe Programme: Catalyzing Changemaking Networks for a Water-Safe India

The ASPIRe programme marks a significant strategic evolution for INREM Foundation, focused on addressing India's pressing **water contamination challenges that impact over 150 million people.** Transitioning from a ‘doer’ organization to an enabler, motivator, and connector, INREM now emphasizes empowering changemakers and leveraging scalable digital platforms to create a water-safe India by 2030. **Central to this shift is the recognition of individuals and communities as agents of change.** The ASPIRe Accelerator fosters a changemaking mindset by catalyzing practitioner networks, building Communities of Practice (CoPs), and enhancing citizen agency. This participatory approach aligns with INREM’s principles of fairness, collaboration, and openness, ensuring solutions are community-led and sustainable.



Key Components

- *Building Practitioner Networks*
- *Scaling For Impact*
- *Localized Solutions*
- *Transform-ational Leadership*

Building Practitioner Networks

ASPIRe supports the creation of robust networks of Water Quality Champions (WQCs) trained through INREM's Water Quality Management (WQM) courses. These practitioners localize solutions, train others, and form regional CoPs.

By 2023, over 1,800 WQCs, including government officials, NGO staff, and community members, have been empowered across India.

Aiming for one million WQCs by 2030, the programme focuses on scalability through digital platforms like **iECHO and Glific**, facilitating remote training, mentoring, and problem resolution.

Localized Solutions

The strategy prioritizes hyper-localized networks where community service providers and citizen changemakers can access data, knowledge, and tools in their local languages.

Utilizing WhatsApp bots and Safe Water Learning Cards, WQCs enable villages to identify safe water sources, adopt purification methods, and address contamination issues collaboratively.

Transformational Leadership

Changemakers are nurtured to grow into leaders who give back by training others. **WQCs**, such as **Jal Doots**, conduct micro-improvement activities like water testing and awareness drives, fostering a culture of sustained action.

Scaling for Impact

The ASPIRe approach integrates societal thinking with technology, making knowledge accessible to diverse stakeholders.

INREM partners with organizations like **Arghyam, UNICEF, and the Azim Premji Foundation** to amplify its reach. The emphasis on open sharing and guided mentoring enables incremental improvements while addressing systemic gaps.

Vision 2030

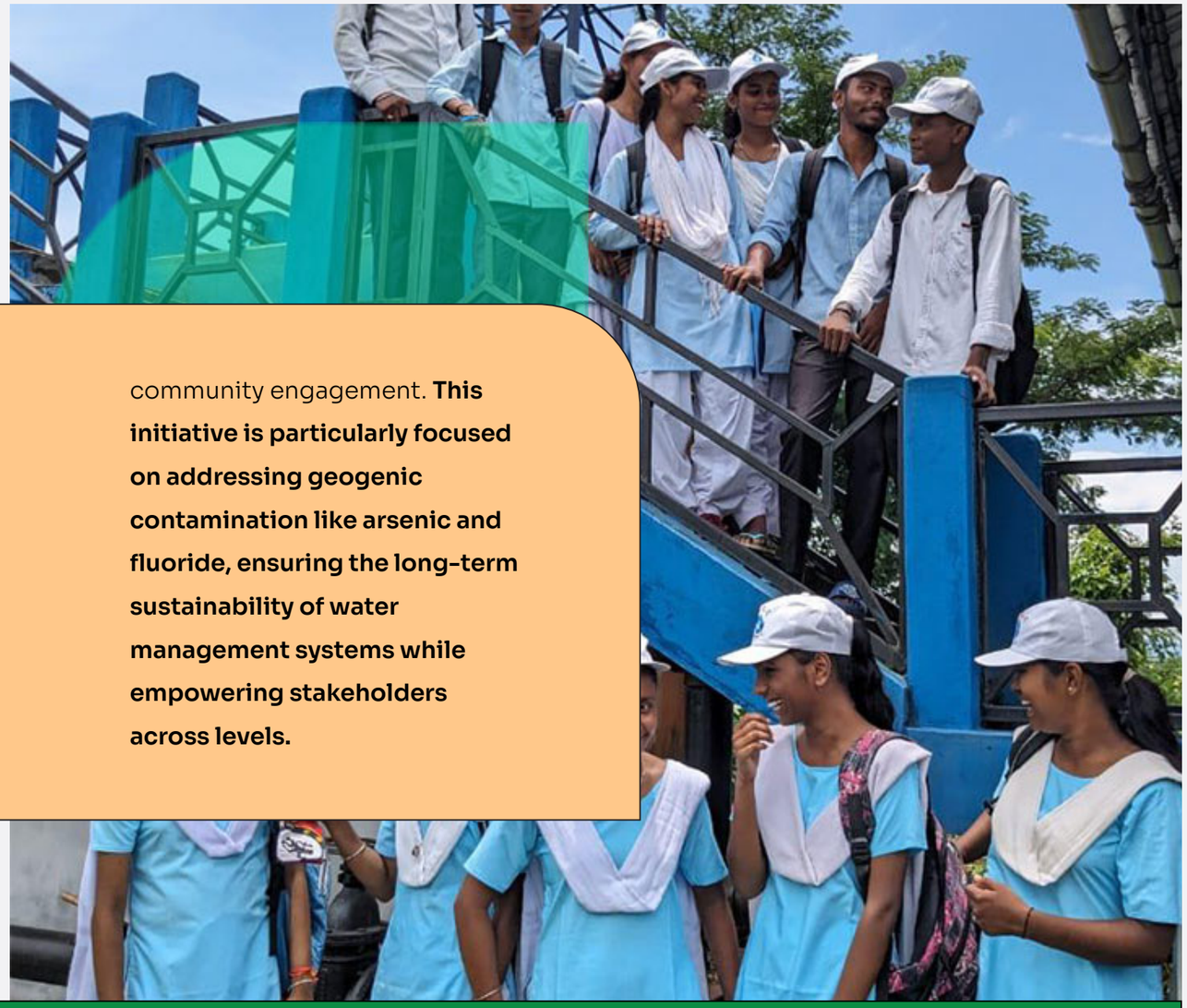
The ASPIRe strategy positions INREM as a catalyst for a nationwide Water Quality Network, leveraging digital platforms to scale interventions.
By enabling widespread participation and decentralizing decision-making, the programme aims to secure clean water access for all rural communities in India.

This systemic shift embodies the belief that changemaking lies in empowering individuals and harnessing collective action.

The ASPIRe programme's strategic pivot towards fostering networks and utilizing digital tools exemplifies INREM's commitment to innovation and inclusivity in achieving a water-safe India by 2030.

Project Highlight

Water Quality Strengthening of Jal Jeevan Mission with Arghyam



INREM in collaboration with Arghyam, has spearheaded significant initiatives to tackle water quality issues in India, aligning with the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). The programme focuses on addressing challenges posed by inorganic, organic, and biological contaminants that compromise water safety, posing severe health risks and exacerbating rural water accessibility issues.

As the thematic lead in Water Quality Management (WQM) under JJM, INREM has introduced innovative, scalable interventions building, guided mentoring, and community engagement. **This initiative is particularly focused on addressing geogenic contamination like arsenic and fluoride, ensuring the long-term sustainability of water management systems while empowering stakeholders across levels.**

Key Interventions

Systemic Capacity Building

The programme launched the **‘ Water Quality Champions Programme ’**, encompassing an online Water Quality Management (WQM) course. **The course, involving 14 batches and over 1,500 participants**, addresses knowledge gaps in water testing, contamination mitigation, and community-based water safety planning. INREM also developed the **Guided Mentoring Learning Groups (LG)**, fostering a community of practice for state-level officials and enhancing cross-learning.

Community Engagement

Two prominent initiatives under JJM—Jaldoot in Assam and WQMS in Madhya Pradesh—demonstrate the programme's ground-level impact. The Jaldoot programme engages students as ‘water champions’, fostering community awareness of water conservation and safe usage. Meanwhile, **WQMS in Madhya Pradesh, in partnership with UNICEF,** emphasizes comprehensive water quality testing, data communication, and capacity-building among local health officials and community members.

Major Outcomes

Capacity Enhancement

Participants of the **WQM course** have demonstrated practical application of knowledge, such as integrating water quality standards in infrastructure design and community education. **Tools like the 'Five Finger Concept' and Safe Water Learning Cards have improved outreach and awareness strategies.**

Community Transformation

In Assam, students have been instrumental in promoting water safety and conservation, creating a water-aware generation. **The digital monitoring tools used in this programme enhance data collection and analysis.** In Madhya Pradesh, early interventions in Jhabua and Sehore districts have shown promise, with improved stakeholder engagement and technology-enabled solutions.

Stakeholder Collaboration

The programme has facilitated multi-stakeholder engagement, bridging gaps between health and water departments to streamline water quality interventions. The use of digital platforms for training has further widened accessibility, **allowing greater scalability.**

Learning and Future Directions

Expand community-focused training modules to **enhance engagement and ensure lasting impact.**

Address logistical challenges, such as the availability of Field Test Kits (FTKs) and workload management for frontline workers.

Incorporate global best practices and interactive tools to **refine training and outreach methods.**

Organisation Systems

The **INREM Foundation** has been committed to developing and implementing robust internal systems to secure water-safe communities across India.

Through a systematic approach initiated in mid-2023, we have transitioned from conventional methods to ***innovative, technology-driven frameworks that ensure greater participation, compliance, and traceability.***

This journey has been pivotal in enabling sustainable and impactful programmatic interventions.

Background and Research

Recognizing the need for strong internal control systems (ICS), our efforts began with an exhaustive review of options tailored to our operational and cultural needs. Collaborating with experts, including auditors and development consultants, we sought solutions that integrated seamlessly with organizational workflows. Our guiding principles emphasized participation, compliance with legal requirements, and digital adaptability. **The analysis of over ten system options revealed key gaps in existing commercial and custom-built solutions, ultimately steering us towards Frappe Cloud with ERPnext (FC-E).** This choice balanced cost-effectiveness, customization, and long-term sustainability.

Achievements and Current Systems

The adoption of FC-E has redefined how we manage finances, HR processes, procurement, and project monitoring. Digitized workflows now integrate seamlessly across departments, ensuring transparency and efficiency.

Policies governing finance, HR, and governance have been revised to align with organizational culture and legal standards, with updates scheduled biannually. **Our governance structure—comprising a Board of Governors and specialized committees—has been instrumental in ensuring accountability.**

Key technological transitions include:

- *ERPnext for HR, procurement, and project management.*
- *Integration of cloud-based Tally for financial management.*
- *MIS-enabled tracking of outcomes and inventory management.*

Through these systems, we have enhanced operational visibility and streamlined approvals via maker-checker mechanisms.

Notable Impact

The digital transformation of INREM's systems has had far-reaching implications:

- *Increased stakeholder engagement through participatory processes.*
- *Strengthened alignment between project goals and resource utilization.*
- *Improved financial oversight via programmatic budgeting and variance analysis.*

Through these systems, we have enhanced operational visibility and streamlined approvals via maker-checker mechanisms, supporting our mission of participatory governance.

Achievements and Current Systems

Strategic Collaborations and Capacity Building

Collaborations have played a pivotal role in our journey. Partnerships with Saathi Development Services, GxCo, and Tech for Good have facilitated policy development, system customization, and grant management module creation. Additionally, staff capacity has been enhanced through training programs such as Bodhan, ensuring our team remains adept at utilizing these advanced systems.

Future Directions

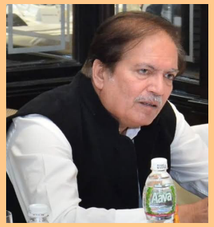
Looking ahead, we aim to deepen the integration between programmatic and financial systems, enhance project management capabilities, and expand our digitized inventory and procurement modules. Upcoming policy updates and governance reforms will continue to anchor our commitment to efficiency and transparency.

INREM Board

The INREM Foundation's Board of Governors is a distinguished team of experts dedicated to addressing critical water and development issues in India.

The INREM Board embodies interdisciplinary expertise, ensuring a holistic approach to addressing India's pressing water and development challenges. Their commitment to innovation and sustainability continues to strengthen INREM Foundation's mission to foster equitable and sustainable water resource management.

Leading the Board as Chairperson is Dr. Tushaar Shah, a globally recognized economist with a PhD and significant contributions through the International Water Management Institute.



Dr. Parthasarathy Ganguly, a medical professional with an MBBS and MD, whose insights guide health and development initiatives.

The Board includes Ms. Alka Palrecha, a visionary consultant specializing in urban planning and architecture.

Dr. Shivani Mishra, a scholar in psychology, advancing the social dimensions of water management.

Dr. Rambir Pundir, an expert in agricultural economics from Anand Agricultural University, brings decades of experience in rural development.

Mr. Dhaval Patel, a Chartered Accountant with a commitment to nature conservation, contributes a unique blend of financial acumen and environmental stewardship.

Mr. Raghav Khemka, an alumnus of the University of Pennsylvania specializing in climate policy

Dr. Pawan Labhasetwar, an environmental engineer and visiting faculty at IIT Madras, who bring fresh perspectives on sustainable development and cutting-edge environmental technologies.

Summary Of Finances 2023-24

Total Income

The Trust reported a gross annual income of INR 2,39,30,865 comprising grants, donations, and project revenues.

Grant Utilization

A total of INR 2,05,54,579 was utilized effectively across key projects, including APF, Arghyam, European Union, and UNICEF-funded initiatives.

Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Additions to movable assets amounted to INR 3,15,200, with depreciation during the year **totaling INR 3,69,213.**

Key Financial Movements

Trust Fund and Corpus

The Trust Fund stood at INR 10,35,275.
Corpus additions were not recorded this year, but depreciation and fund utilization were effectively managed.

Grant and Donor Fund Management

The EU Project utilized INR 1,06,31,836, representing the highest allocation among all funding sources. Arghyam and UNICEF projects contributed significantly to our objectives.

Operational Expenditure

Major expenses included **project-specific disbursements, salaries (INR 5,56,529), and consultancy services (INR 1,37,500).**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