

CALL FOR CONCEPTS

Short Term Research Grants

Arghyam's mission is to improve access to clean water and sanitation by fostering partnership and networks of practice that include individuals, non-government organisations, governments, and research and academic organisations. This approach promotes and sustains Arghyam's vision of "Safe, sustainable, water and sanitation for all."

In putting into practice its vision, Arghyam emphasises on the principles of equity, sustainability, leveraging partnerships, building capacities at various levels, empowering communities and innovation. The emphasis in Arghyam's work is on the inclusion of vulnerable and marginalised communities ensuring sustainability of water availability in terms of potability, adequacy, convenience, affordability. Hence, Arghyam designs its initiatives through the lenses of social, institutional, technical, environmental, and financial sustainability.

Arghyam's Groundwater- Sanitation (GW-SAN) Nexus Programme

A decade of work has proven that safe and sustainable drinking water and sanitation cannot be achieved in isolation from each other, and hence an integrated and holistic approach is required. Given Arghyam's priority to sanitation and on groundwater, a Groundwater-Sanitation (GW-SAN) Nexus Research Programme has been developed to deepen the understanding of linkages between ground-water and sanitation in the Indian context, and move towards an integrated approach.

At present, the empirical evidence or knowledge about the linkages between groundwater and sanitation, is limited. The GW-SAN Nexus programme aims to bridge some of these knowledge gaps through pure and applied research, and by consolidating existing knowledge on this and related subjects. This entails engaging with research groups under two kinds of research grants –

- ◇ Medium-term (up to about 2 years) grants to academic and research institutions, and
- ◇ Short-term (6 months to about one year) grants aimed primarily at NGOs, grass roots organisations and community groups.

The other objectives of the GW-SAN programme include knowledge dissemination and influencing alternate design, guidelines,

policy, regulations and institutional mechanisms. Arghyam has engaged Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS) as the Programme Support Unit (PSU) and Knowledge Management Centre (KMC) for the research programme

The grants will be given in two phases¹:

- ◇ Phase 1 (2015-2017): Three medium-term and five short-term grants will be awarded.
- ◇ Phase II (2017-2020): Two medium-term and five short-term grants will be awarded.

This is a Call for Concepts for the Short Term Research Grants for Phase I

IMPORTANT DATES	
Last Date for Submission of Proposal Concepts	15 September 2015
Short-listing of 10 proposals from the First Round of Concepts	15 October 2015
Last date for Submission of Final Proposals by Short-Listed Agencies	15 November 2015
Award of Short-Term Research Grant	15 December 2015

¹ A mid-term programme review will be carried out at the end of Phase I and the Phase II will be modified as needed.

Short Term Research Grants

The short-term grant will focus on learning from existing knowledge within communities, para-professionals, and practitioners, and grass-root organisations; and in turn, feed back into the relevant policies and the practice by these stakeholders. Proposals are invited to build upon existing work of different organisations – this could be to address some critical knowledge gaps e.g. critical documentation of existing practices, building a data-base, etc. Alternatively, proposals could involve conducting quick research and generate data and knowledge useful for practitioners e.g. protocol development for masons based on analysis of current construction practices, protocols for quality assurance, behaviours relating to getting septic tanks cleaned, etc. Overall, proposals that broadly promise generating knowledge and improving practices and policies in respect of GW-SAN nexus, shall be considered.

Please refer to the **Annexure – I: Programme Document** that details the research thrust areas, projects, outputs and outcomes

Also, while cutting across themes, proposed projects ought to prioritize impacts on the most vulnerable groups.

About This Call:

Arghyam invites ideas for the short-term (6 – 12 months duration) research studies in the GW-SAN sector. The call is open to independent researchers, academic and research institutes and NGOs interested in examining the linkages between groundwater and sanitation. The proposed concept should focus on one or more identified thrust areas. The programme aims at covering diverse hydro-geological and socio-economic settings in urban, peri-urban and rural India.

Template for Submission:

The submission should include the following, and should not exceed 2,000 words:

- a. Research hypothesis/ question and rationale
- b. Geographic setting/ site of study
- c. Expected impact of the research study,
- d. Relevance of the proposal concept to the GW-SAN programme in particular
- e. Indicative Budget* (including personnel costs) and Time Required

**The grants made under this call will range between 1 – 5 Lakh INR*

Selection Process and Key Dates:

A two-stage selection process shall be followed:

- ◇ The first (the current call) stage is a call for concepts. This stage invites NGOs, academic and research institutions and individual researchers to submit a concept note. About 10 concepts will be short-listed from the submissions received at this stage.
- ◇ The short-listed teams will be invited to develop a detailed proposal for the second stage, under the guidance and mentorship of Arghyam and IIHS. A maximum of five proposals will be finally accepted for grant support

Submissions and any other queries should be addressed to : gw-sannexus@arghyam.org