

# code for <good> 2022

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

**Organization:** INREM Foundation  
(India Natural Resource Economics and Management Foundation)  
**Website:** <http://inremfoundation.org/>

## Mission

INREM Foundation's mission is to contribute towards reduction of the health burden caused due to water quality issues across India.

## Context

INREM foundation has made significant impact in the field of Water Quality Management. Beginning from Jhabua District of Madhya Pradesh, INREM has taken its learnings of fluorosis mitigation to 7 states across India. Under the larger mission of making safe water accessible to the rural communities, the field teams are currently working fluorosis and arsenic mitigation through an "Integrated Water and Health Management Approach" through support from partners such as European Union, Azim Premji Foundation, UNICEF and Arghyam.

In 2021, INREM started a "Water Quality Management" course which has seen involvement as well as growth of inspired water quality professionals that are recognized as "#WaterQualityChampions" that deeply engage with communities across 27 states in India and across the world. Apart from the course INREM runs a Guided Mentoring series to bring attention to specific on-field water quality related challenges that #WaterQualityChampions face, collectively brainstorm on these challenges and connect them with other Champions as well as experts. A support group has also emerged out of these cross-learning experiences. Being the sector partner of the National Jal Jeevan Mission (NJJM), INREM also supports the NGO and government staff working for NJJM.

Since August 2021, 1130 professionals, students and researchers working in NGOs and government agencies on various issues pertaining to water and water quality have participated in the Water Quality Management Course. To enroll in the course, contact information, demographic information is collected, and a pre-assessment is taken to gauge the knowledge regarding the subject. An after-course assessment is also taken to understand how much knowledge is gained from the course. The WQM course material is split into 9 sessions. When a WQC reaches the latter stages of the course they are given access to resources like articles, links to other content, IEC material, etc. IEC material is communicated as per requirement using a form. Details like where the IEC material will be used, how many villages the IEC material will be taken forward to, and more.

After course engagement includes:

1. Becoming a Saathi - Be a part of the alumni network and help new WQCs in their journey by being part of the Alumni network group (experience sharing across different batches)
2. Guided mentoring sessions - These are based on ground challenges, a focused discussion around real challenges that WQC may be facing. WQCs, experienced professionals, people who want to learn can all join this course. This

is a forum where a WQC can bring up a case study of their own over video call (a real-life challenge they may be facing) and look for discussions and solutions. Themes such as solutions around water contamination, community mobilization, and other specific issues have come up through these sessions. After the call, participants can join a Support group associated with Guided Mentoring sessions that furthers the discussion, so that participants could go out of their line of work and engage with other challenges and other people.

The case studies are tagged and archived and open to the everyone on their Water Quality Network website with option to open discussions in the comment section.

3. Trainers – After finishing the course WQC can take a trainer course and come back as trainers for WQM course

## Challenge

To design a centralized, user-friendly solution wherein WQCs can track their progress in WQM course and associated methods of engagement

- Leverage technology to innovate a solution for conduction of the Water Quality Management course that helps WQCs to understand where they stand within the course, visualize the resources they are about to get, the different pathways they can take at the end of the session to motivate them
- Promote the level of trust between the trainers and WQCs by attestation for the session beginning, session completion and unlocking of resources
- Integrating the different after course engagement pathways (Saathi, Guided Mentoring, Trainer) for better understanding for the WQC
- Leverage technology to innovate a solution for WQC interaction with each other, their trainer, their Saathi during and after the course, and adjoining pathways they are in
- Solution for conduction and archival of the Guided Mentoring sessions open to the general public, also help the Support group interact with each other

## Additional Considerations

1. Every WQC will have a unique journey they will undertake. They might take the learnings from the course and apply it by choosing their pathway or they can also use the learnings to contribute to the cause they're already supporting – water quality programs like the Jal Jeevan Mission. Help them curate a unique journey of their own
2. Motivation of the WQC is important, help motivate them by innovating a solution around achieving the resources down the course and more

## Technology Baseline

Currently, the course takes place over Zoom. The course resources are shared through Google forms. Because they want to build a connection of trust with the WQCs, an attestation app is used to give codes to the WQC only by which they can access the course content and the subsequent resources. The code is given out three times throughout the live session over Zoom. One for session start, one to access the course content and one for session end. Alumni network group – **Saathi**, course related discussions, Guided mentoring session **Support Group** discussions are all done over WhatsApp.