

Results from the workshop on success factors for fog collection projects

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A project may be considered a success if it

- is accepted by the communities;
- provides benefit for the communities;
- follows a long-term perspective (long-term definition based on the need or availability of alternatives);
- is sustainable (which includes economic, technical and environmental aspects);
- is cost-efficient compared with other alternatives for providing water;
- increases school attendance (no time needed to fetch water from distant sources) and reduces the workload on women;
- transfers knowledge to the communities;
- is climate-neutral.

20 key recommendations for successful fog collection projects

Community

1. Focus on community involvement and acceptance.
2. Provide technical skills for the community to build and maintain the fog collectors.
3. Obtain recognition by (local) government as official water project.
4. Create a community-based structure to manage the water supply.
5. Make maintenance the responsibility of the communities.

Demand

6. Provide water for people that really need it.
7. Provide not only drinking water but also water for reforestation, agriculture, etc. Quality requirements depend on use.
8. Provide significant benefit for people's daily lives.

Sustainability

9. Make sure the project provides a sustainable and reliable source of clean water.
10. Be economically stable – make sure the construction costs remain low.
11. Develop solutions ensuring that the value of the water is appreciated and the maintenance costs covered, and look into options enabling the beneficiaries of the water to generate income from products produced using the water.
12. Always respect the environment throughout the design, building and maintenance of the project.
13. Acknowledge that fog collection may be a bridging technology until other sources of water become available.

Design

14. Understand characteristics of fog by undertaking pre-studies of the wind types and fog-collection potential at that specific location.
15. Factor in climate-change effects.
16. Apply appropriate design and materials that meet local requirements.
17. Material required should be easily accessible (locally sourced)

Project management

18. Ensure a clear project structure, not forgetting a detailed risk analysis.
19. Use time efficiently during the construction of the project.
20. Do not try to achieve too much at one time.