



# Communities of Practice: SuSanA - An Example

Dr. A. Panesar, Team leader, SV Water Policy

# The Sustainable Sanitation Alliance (SuSanA) – as an example for a Community of Practice

... together, we achieved a lot since 2007!



Source: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2015/11/515832-special-un-event-stresses-key-role-water-management-tackling-challenges-climate>



“Wild ideas” how to support UNSGAB – discussed @ GIZ HQ in 2004 ...  
... to bring sanitation up on the political agenda

We should have a network to speak with one voice on sustainable sanitation!

We should have an International Year of Sanitation!

We should have a global conference focusing on non-sewered sanitation!

A Bollywood Movie on Toilets would be very cool!



sustainable  
sanitation  
alliance

**SuSanA**  
**2007-2023**

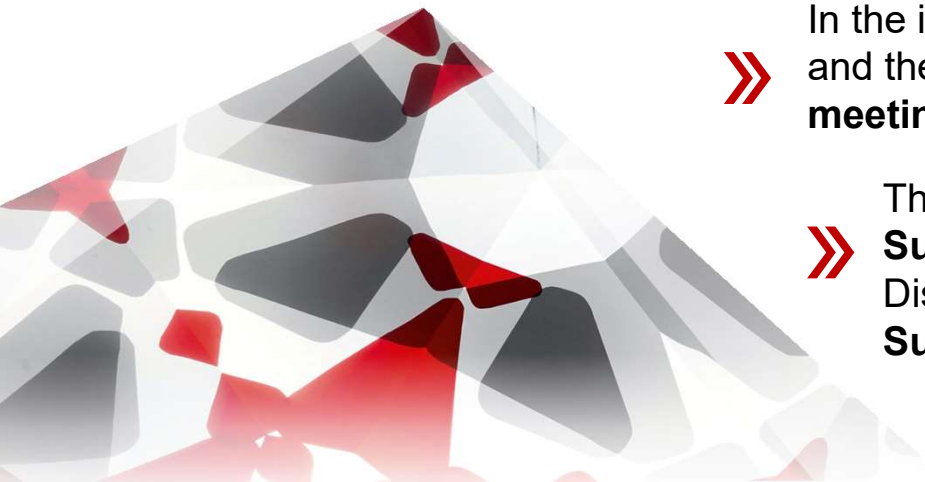
- 15.000 Members from 170 countries
- 400 Partners
- more than 8.000 Facebook followers
- More than 4.500 X (Twitter) followers



# The Sustainable Sanitation Alliance (SuSanA) and its Working Groups – as an example for Communities of Practice

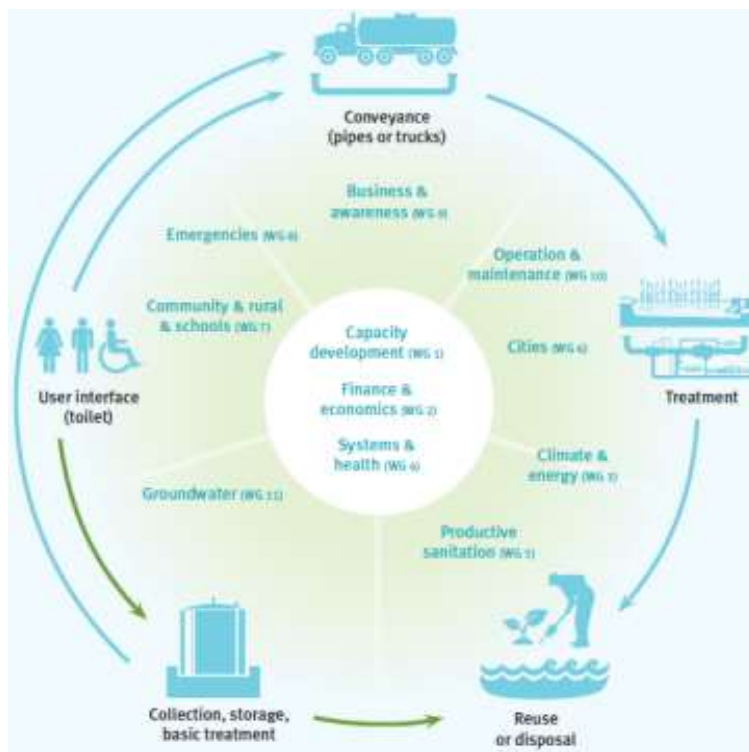
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- » SuSanA was founded prior to the International Year of Sanitation (2008) with the aim to **define “Sustainable Sanitation”** and to **promote sustainable sanitation systems** during the International Year
- » To avoid doubling of work in different institutions: **Match-making** was key: where-ever 1+1 is more than 2! A range of task forces and 12 **working groups** (or communities of practice) were formed during the initial meeting, which took up the task to write fact sheets, interlinking sanitation with other relevant topics (e.g. climate, emergencies, circular approaches)
- » In the initial years the **progress of the working groups, task forces** and the future strategy was discussed during **f2f “plenary meetings”**. Then a core group supported the steering process.
- » The literature of the fact sheets provided the starting point of **SuSanA’s Library** – which has today more than 4.000 entries. Discussions were later supported through the moderated **SuSanA Discussion Forum** (today approx. 15.000 members).





## Focussing on the Sanitation chain or Sanitation system



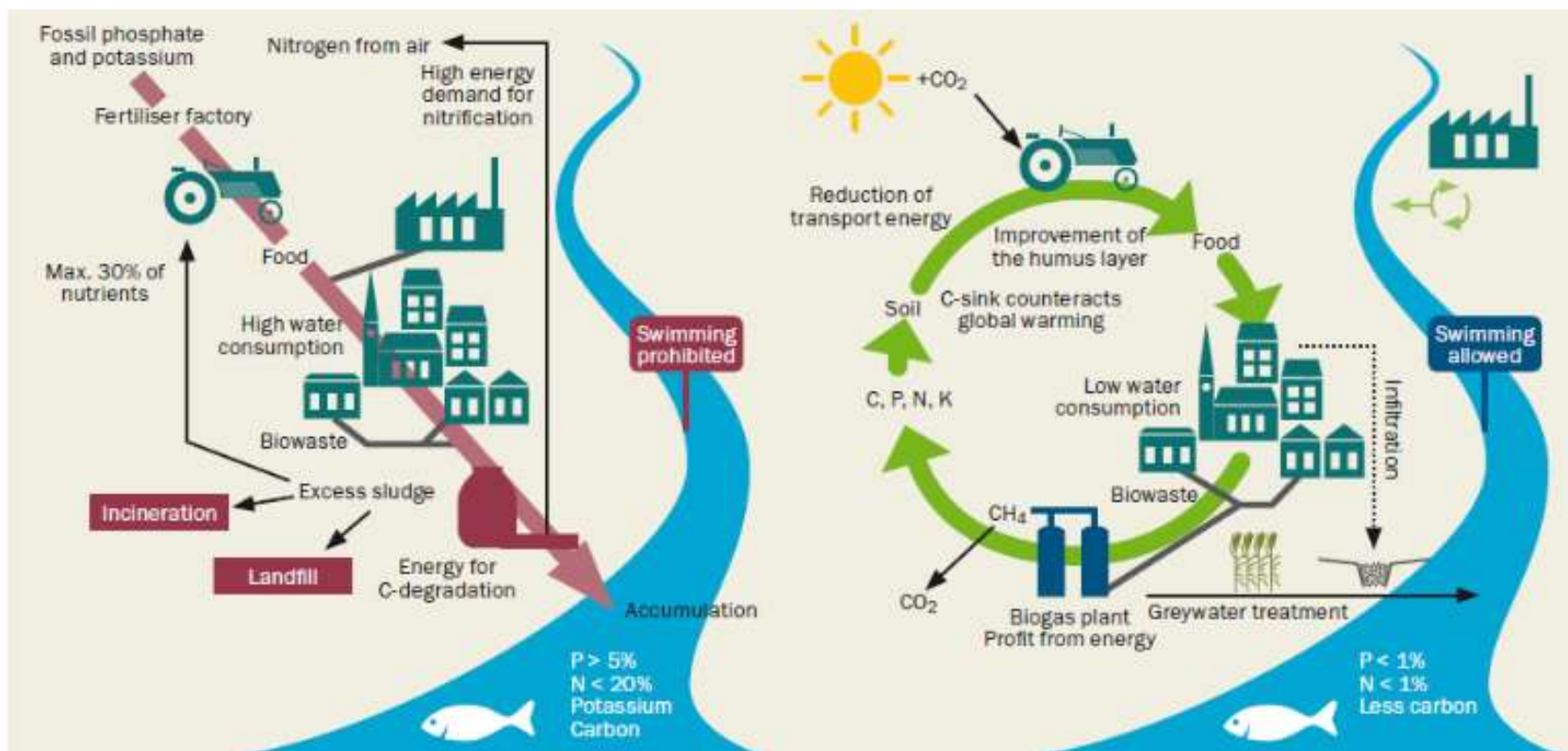
### Key messages:

- Sanitation needs to be viewed as a system
- Sanitation is a cross-sectoral issue

<https://www.susana.org/en/knowledge-hub/resources-and-publications/library/details/1229>

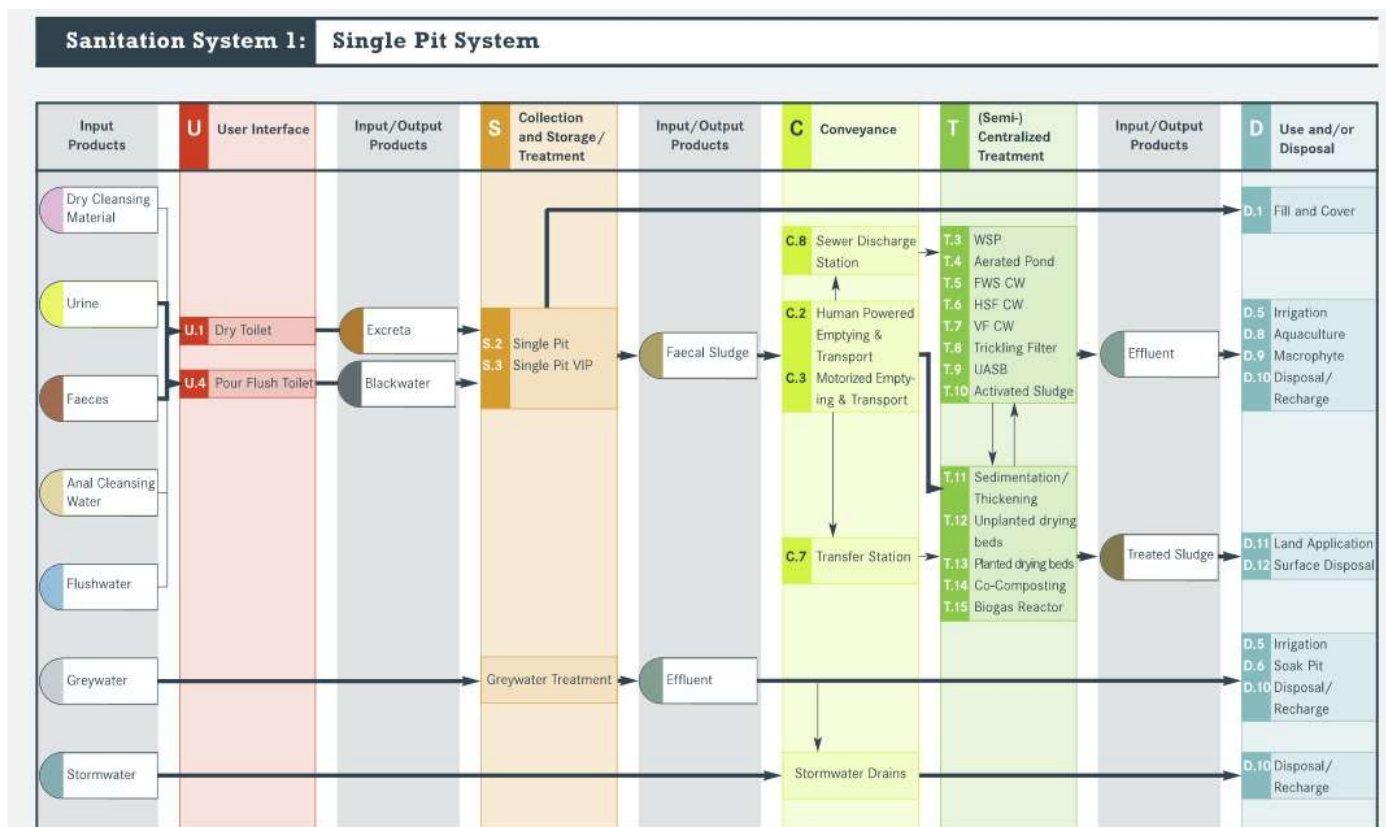
For hardcopy, please send an e-mail to [susana@giz.de](mailto:susana@giz.de)

## Comparison of linear- and reuse-oriented approaches to sanitation



Adapted from Lange, J., & Otterpohl, R. (1996). Abwasser-Handbuch zu einer zukunftsfähigen Wasserwirtschaft

## Combining sanitation system components along a sanitation chain

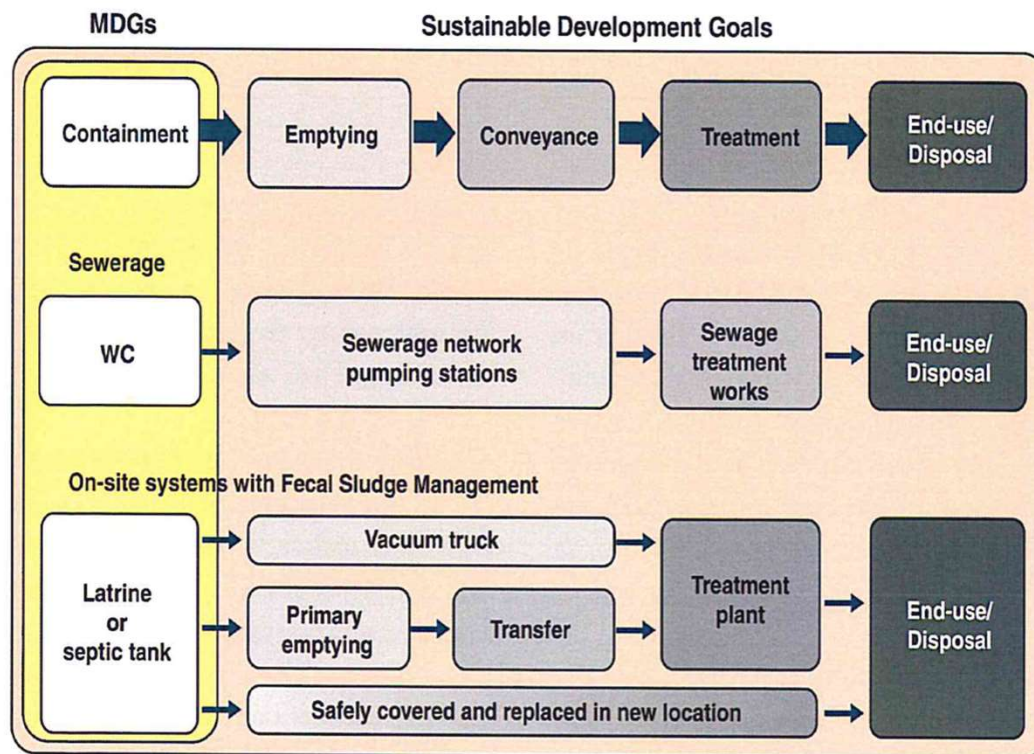


Source: Tilley, E., Lüthi, C., Morel, A., Zurbrügg, C., & Schertenleib, R. (2008). Compendium of Sanitation Systems and Technologies.

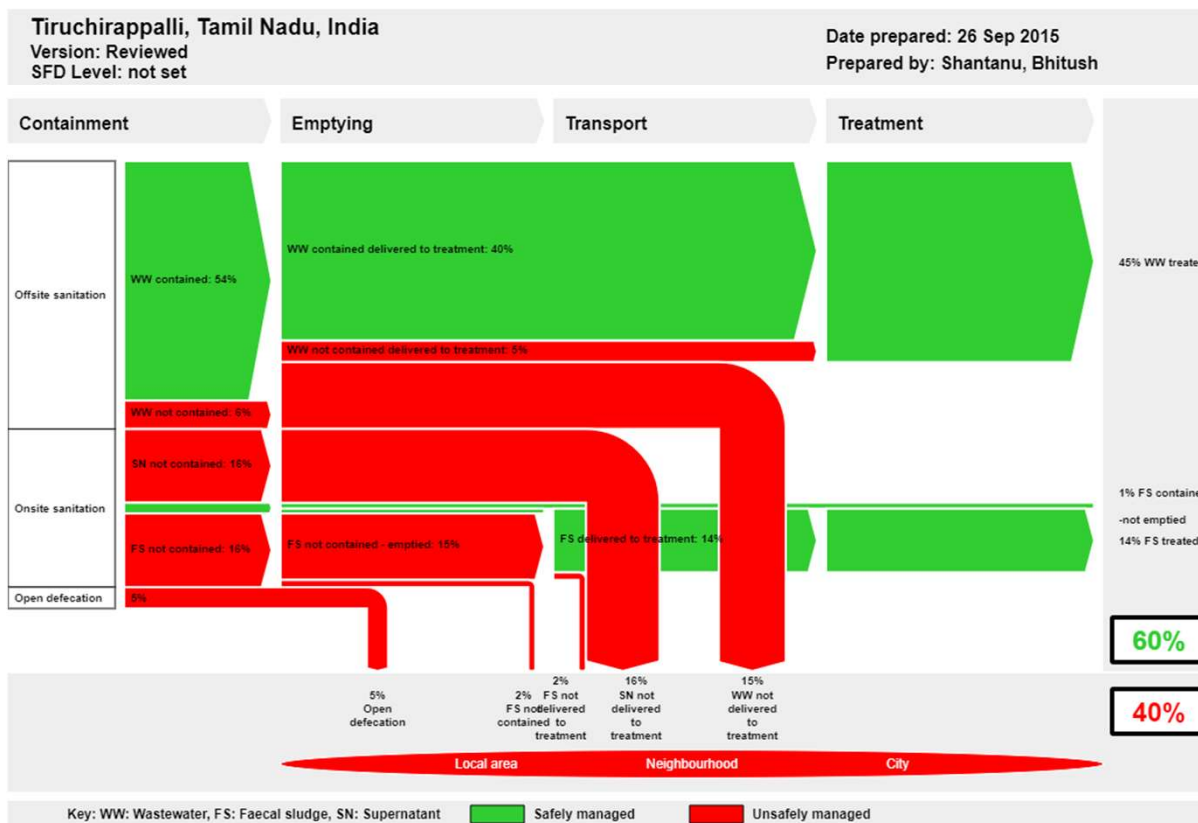


The SDGs were catching up with SuSanA...

... to go from ODF to ODF++ in India is a similar move...



## The Shit Flow Diagram (SFD) helps us to ...



Source: SFD Promotion Initiative

... gain support for more sustainable sanitation!



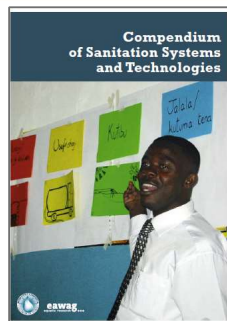
Image: Press Trust of India (PTI)

Image: Arne Panesar

2008



### Compendium of Sanitation Systems and Technologies

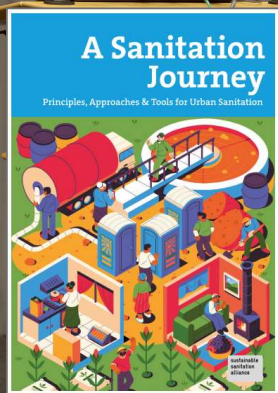


Elizabeth Tilley, Christoph Lüthi, Antoine Morel, Chris Zurbrugg and Roland Schertenleib.

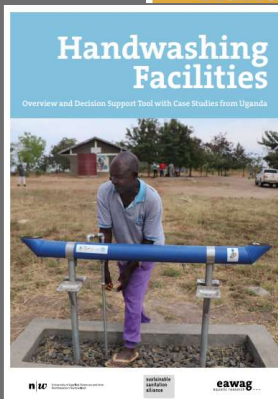
Our special thanks go to: the NETSSAF Consortium, the GTZ ecosan programme and the Sustainable Sanitation Alliance (SuSanA).

We would like to thank the following individuals for their contributions and comments:

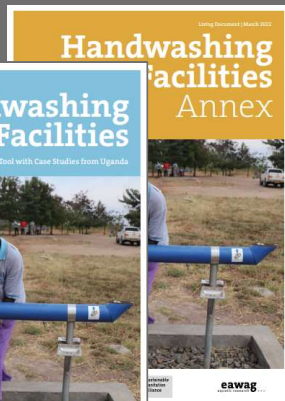
Chris Buckley, Pierre-Henri Dodane, Barbara Evans, Doulaye Koné, Elisabeth Kvarnström, Duncan Mara, Peter Morgan, Arne Panesar, Eddy Perez, Elias Rosales, Arno Rosemarin, Sören Rud, Darren Saywell, Margaret Scott, Steven Sugden, Kevin Tayler, Kai Udert, Carolien van der Voorden, Yvonne Voegeli, Anita Wittmer.



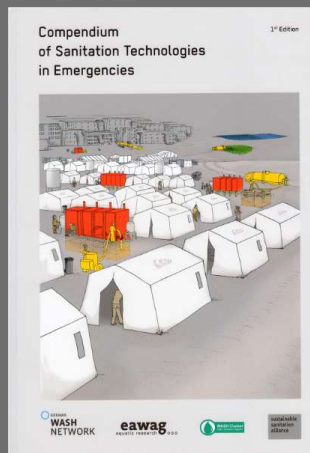
2021



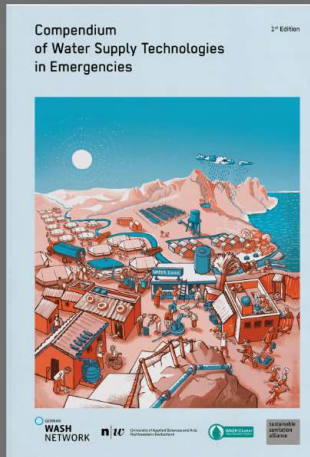
2022



2018

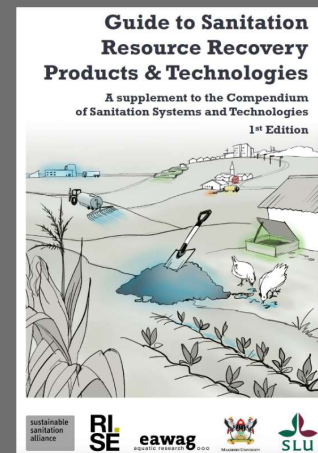


... Robert Gensch



2021

2020



... Jennifer McConville



2022

giz

# What is SuSanA ?

**SuSanA is a global community whose goal is to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs by promoting Sustainable Sanitation**

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SuSanA is a coordination and discussion platform

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SuSanA is a sounding board

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SuSanA contributes to the policy dialogue

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SuSanA is a working platform

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SuSanA promotes knowledge exchange and learning

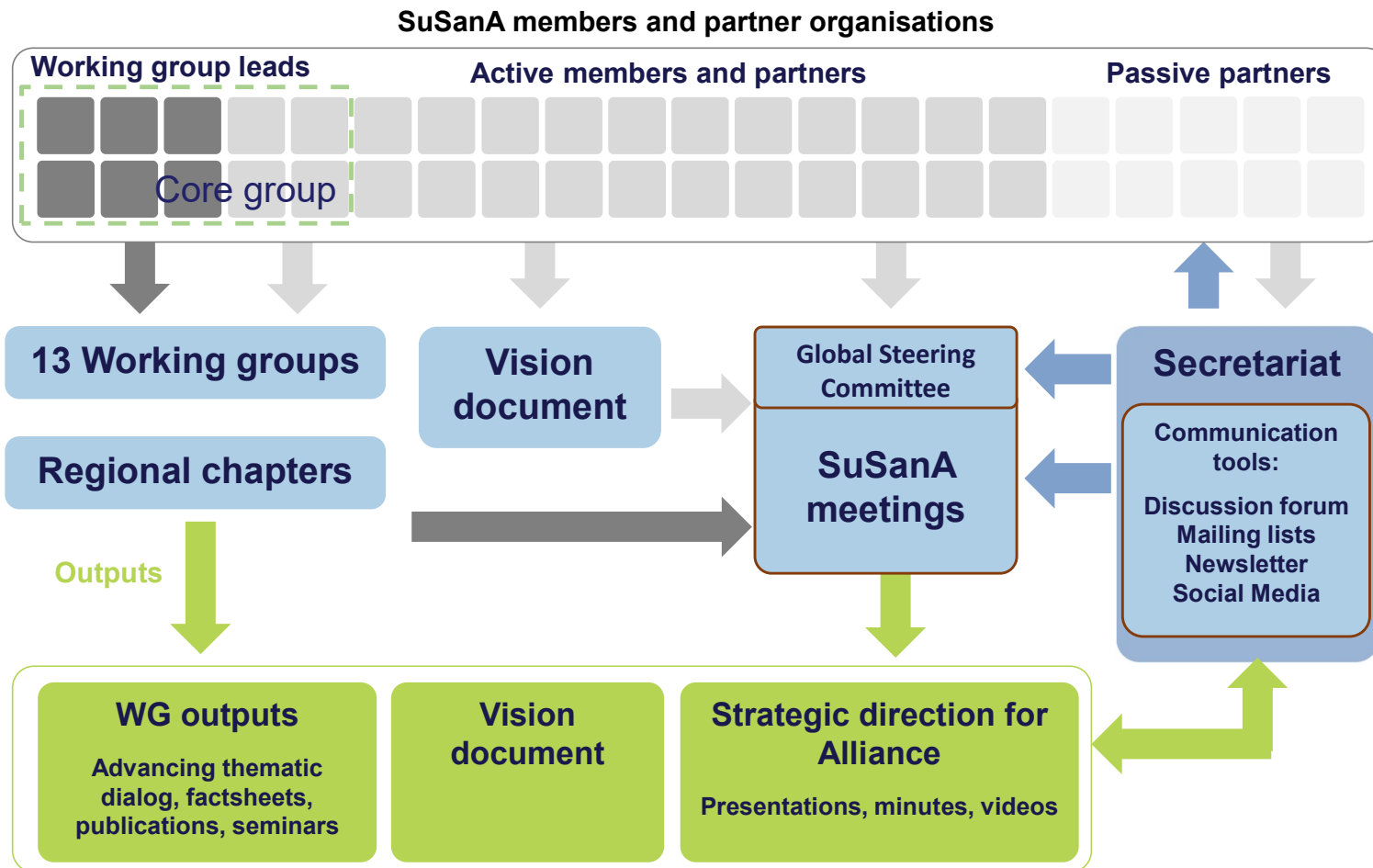


# The Sustainable Sanitation Alliance (SuSanA) – as an example for a Community of Practice

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sanitation  
alliance

- » SuSanA is based on enthusiasm of its members and partners for the joint topic and vision.
- » The SuSanA secretariat plays a crucial role in facilitating the many contributions of the SuSanA members and partners and the steering processes.
- » To understand the needs and interests of the different members and partners around the joint topic, is key to keep the activities going.
- » A mix of f2f and virtual formats formed a good base to keep the focus, be a sounding board for publications and innovative approaches, and identify new topics for collaboration among the members and partners.

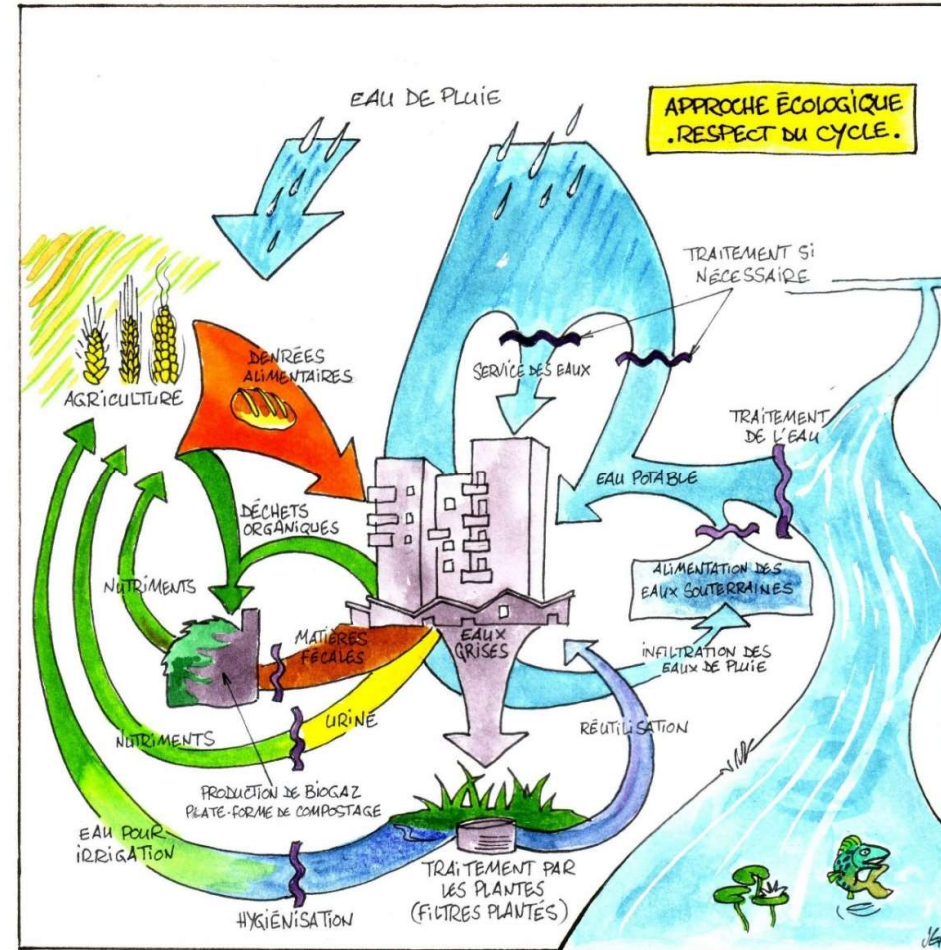
## Simplified Structure of SuSanA



# The Sustainable Sanitation Alliance (SuSanA) – as an example for a Community of Practice

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Thank you!







## Contact

**Dr. Arne Panesar**

Team leader,

E [arne.panesar@giz.de](mailto:arne.panesar@giz.de)

T +49 (0) 160 97 20 24 98xx



[www.giz.de](http://www.giz.de)



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**Deutsche Gesellschaft für  
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH**

Registered offices  
Bonn and Eschborn

Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 32 + 36  
53113 Bonn, Germany  
T +49 228 44 60 - 0  
F +49 228 44 60 - 17 66

Dag-Hammarskjöld-Weg 1 - 5  
65760 Eschborn, Germany  
T +49 61 96 79 - 0  
F +49 61 96 79 - 11 15

E [info@giz.de](mailto:info@giz.de)  
I [www.giz.de](http://www.giz.de)