

## Appendix B: Explanatory Statement & Consent form



### EXPLANATORY STATEMENT (English version)

**Project Title:** Improving access to safe water using Riverbank Filtration Technology

**Project Number:** CF15/522 - 2015000248 (Monash University)

**Funding Sponsor:** National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), Australia

**Chief Investigator's name**

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Your household is invited to take part in this study. Please read this Explanatory Statement in full before deciding whether or not to participate in this research. If you would like further information regarding any aspect of this project, you are encouraged to contact the researchers via the phone numbers or email addresses listed above.

**What does the research involve?**

In the coming year changes will be made to the village river water supply. Water will be piped from the river and made available to all parts of the village.

In our research study, we are investigating the impact that changes in river water supply have on the number of times households collect water and the amount of water that they use in the home. We are also studying the impact that water supply changes have on the health of persons in the household that use water for drinking and other purposes. The information that we collect will help to decide the best way to make improvements to river water supplies in Indian villages so that households derive maximum benefit.

Before any changes are made to the water supply we are inviting randomly selected households in the village to participate in this study. If you agree to participate in the study today this will involve answering: i) some general questions about the household and household facilities and; ii) questions about the health of individuals within the household. This will require **half hour to one hour** of your time, depending upon the size of your household. Your village will receive changes to the water supply even if you do not want to participate, and you will still have access to the water supply installed.

We will be conducting a similar but shorter survey on 5 other occasions over the next 18 months and if you agree we would like you to complete the survey a maximum of 5 more times.

We will be collecting water samples from households and if you agree your household may be randomly chosen for collection of water samples on the same day as survey interviews.

We also will be taking photographs of household water storage vessels and/or household environment and/or hand washing area in some households and if you agree your household may be selected for photographs to be taken on one or more occasions at the same time interviews are conducted.

#### **Why were you chosen for this research?**

Your village is one of four villages that have been selected for this study and your village leaders and elders have given their consent for us to approach households in the village to invite them to participate in this study. Your household is one of the households randomly selected to participate in the study.

#### **Source of funding**

This is a collaborative project between The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), India with involvement from both the Goa and Bangalore Offices and Monash University, Australia and is funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council, the health research funding body in Australia. This study also includes investigators from the University of Rhode Island and Stanford University in USA.

#### **Consenting to participate in the project and withdrawing from the research**

To participate in the study you must sign the consent form and give the signed form to those persons administering the survey. The consent form allows you to indicate which elements of the study you wish your household to participate in. For example, you may wish to participate in some, but not all, elements of the study.

You are under no obligation to be part of this study and you will not be penalised if you choose not to participate in the study.

If you do consent to participate in the study, you are free to withdraw from the study at any time. Also, you are not required to answer all survey questions if you do not wish to. There are no consequences associated with non-participation or withdrawal from the study. As mentioned, your household will still have access to the village water taps when the new river water supply is introduced.

#### **Possible benefits and risks to participants**

The benefits to the study will be the convenience of river water pumped to village taps making drinking water more accessible to households in the village.

Water supply improvements will be implemented and the study will proceed regardless of how many householders agree to participate. Hence; there are no adverse effects associated with either participation or non-participation in the study for individual householders or for the village as a whole.

You do not need to be anxious about the interview process itself. One male and female interviewer will be present at all household interviews and it will never be the case that a householder is alone with only one interviewer. Persons conducting the interviews have been trained by TERI, speak the local language and are culturally aware.

#### **Confidentiality**

All of the answers you give will be confidential and will not be shared with anyone other than the members of the study team. We will use codes to identify your household and persons within the household. Your responses to questions will not be able to be associated with your household by anyone without access to the codes. All code information will be stored securely at TERI offices. At the end of the study when we are reporting results in written form and at conferences we will only report summary data from the study and not results from individual households.

**Storage of data**

The personal information collected for the study will be retained for 5 years after publication of scientific papers. During the conduct of the project, the personal information collected will be in the custody of Kavita Patil at The Energy Resources Institute, Goa, India offices. Only persons directly involved in the study will have access to identifying information and hard copy forms will be stored securely (locked filing cabinet) at TERI offices.

Following data collection all personal information (Consent forms, questionnaires, contact details etc.) will be scanned then securely transmitted electronically (using password protection and encryption) to the custody of Dr Sinclair at Monash University.

Responses to survey questions, but not containing information about the identity of households or persons, will be stored electronically with access to relevant files password controlled by Monash University researchers.

At the end of the 5 year period, identifying information will be destroyed by shredding paper documents and deleting from electronic files.

**Results**

Once the research study is completed, summary results will be available on The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), India ([www.teriin.org](http://www.teriin.org)) website. In addition, summary results will be sent to village elders for their dissemination to the community at the end of the study.

**Complaints**

Should you have any concerns or complaints about the conduct of the project, you are welcome to contact the TERI officer listed below:

Shabana Kazi, Research Associate  
The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) Southern Regional Centre (SRC)  
H.No. 233/GH-2 Vasudha Housing Colony  
Alto-St.Cruz 403 202  
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Thank you,  
**(insert Chief Investigator's signature)**

**PROFESSOR KARIN LEDER**



CONSENT FORM (English version)

UNIQUE NUMBER

Project Title: Improving access to safe water using Riverbank Filtration Technology
Project Number: CF15/522 - 2015000248 (Monash University)
Chief Investigator: Professor Karin Leder, Monash University Australia

My household has been asked to take part in the above-named collaborative research project of The Energy and Resources, Institute, India and Monash University, Australia. I have read and /or had the Explanatory statement explained to me and I understand its content. I hereby consent for my household to participate in this project.

Table with 3 columns: I consent to the following:, Yes, No. Rows include: Participating in the survey today, Participation of my household in future interviews, Allowing researchers to take a water sample from the household water storage for testing as part of this study if my household is selected for this component, Allowing researchers to take photographs of household water storage vessel; hand washing areas and/or other areas in the home as part of this study.

Name of Participant

Participant Signature Date

OR

Empty box for thumbprint

Participant's thumbprint Date