National Vocational Certificate Level 2 in Biogas Technology



Competency Standards



National Vocational & Technical Training Commission

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Date of approval by NCRC:

29th -30th October 2014

Date of Notification:

10th December 2014, vide notification no F.2-1/2013-DD(VT)

This curriculum has been produced by the National Vocational & Technical Training Commission (NAVTCC) with the technical assistance of TVET Reform Support Programme, which is funded by the European Union, the Embassay of the Kingdom of the Netherland, Federal Republic of Germany and the Royal Norwegian Embassy. The Programme has been commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and is being implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.

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Competency Standards: Biogas Technicians (Floating Drum Biodigesters)

Standard-1: Recall basic concepts of biogas production and benefits of biodigester technology.

Overview: These competency standards will ensure that the trainees will be able to explain process of biogas production, types of biodigesters and importance of biogas technology in Pakistan

Competency Unit	Performance Criteria	Knowledge and Understanding
C1.1: Explain prerequisites for biogas generation	 P1: Explain methods of biogas production P2: Explain different types of inputs (feeding materials) for biodigesters P3: Explain merits and demerits of different feeding materials P4: Describe why cattle dung is the best feeding material for Pakistan context P5: Explain ideal conditions for biogas generation P6: Describe effects of temperature on biogas generation 	The participants will gain knowledge and enhance understanding on: K1: Basic bacterial activities to produce biogas K2: Different types of inputs to operate a biodigester K3: Merits and demerits of different feeding materials K4: Reasons for the use of cattle dung as the main feeding materials for biodigesters K5: Methods and practices to ensure effective biogas production K6: Suitability of biodigester in different climatic conditions
C1.2: Describe types and functioning/ working of biodigesters	 P1: Describe different types of biodigesters and their strengths and weaknesses P2: Explain components of a floating drum biodigester and function(s) of each component P3: Explain inter-relations of different components of a floating drum biodigester P4: Describe criteria to select a particular design of a floating drum biodigesters 	 K1: Different types of biodigesters and their comparative advantages K2: Components and functions of a floating drum biodigesters K3: Working principle of a floating drum biodigester K4: Merits and demerits of different designs (MS Steel drum or wire-mesh-reinforced concrete or fiber-cement drum or glass-fiber reinforced plastic or high-density polyethylene or PVC drum) of floating drum biodigesters in

		particular context
	P5: Explain suitability of floating drum designs for	K5: Strengths and weaknesses of floating
	electricity generation	drum design for electricity generation
C1.3: Describe	P1: Explain the products of a biodigester	K1: Products of biodigesters – biogas and
benefits of floating		bioslurry
drum biodigesters and	P2: Recall various end use applications of biogas	K2: Diversified use of biogas – cooking,
importance of the		lighting, running an engine
technology in Pakistan	P3: Recall advantages of bioslurry over FYM	K3: Comparative advantage and
		disadvantages of FYM and bioslurry
	P4: Explain benefits of biogas at household and	K4: Benefits of biogas over conventional fuel
	community level	sources
	P5: Explain why biodigester technology is important for Pakistan	K5: General energy scenario in Pakistan

Standard 2: Read and interpret drawings of floating drum biodigesters

Overview: This competency standard ensures that the participants are familiar with different types of drawings and they are able to read and interpret drawings of floating drum biodigesters.

Competency Unit	Performance Criteria	Knowledge and Understanding
C2.1: Describe the	P1: Tell why drawing is needed	K1: The need and importance of drawing
basic concepts of a	P2: Describe the concept of plan, elevation and	K2: Notion of plan, elevation and sections of a
drawing of an object	sections while preparing drawings	drawing
C2.2: Demonstrate	P1: Explain the concept of foot-inch and meter-	K1: Different systems of measurement and use
ability to read basic	centimeter system of measurement	of measuring tape
drawings	P2: Demonstrate ability to distinguish different	K2: Different types of drawings – isometric
	types of drawings	view, sectional elevations, plan, elevation etc.
C2.3: Demonstrate	P1: Describe the dimensions of various	K1: Working of floating-drum biodigester, its
ability of interpret	components of a floating-drum biodigesters	components and dimension of various parts.
drawing of floating	P2: Define plan, section, isometric view, and half	K2: Methods of reading drawings of different
drum biodigesters	sectional elevation of biodigesters	components of a floating-drum biodigester
	P3: Describe inter-relationship of various	K3: Inter-relationship of various floating-drum
	components of a floating-drum biodigester	biodigester components
C2.4: Read and	P1: Read drawings of various sizes of templates	K1: Templates and their uses
interpret drawings of	P2: Read drawing of mixing devices	K2: Mixing device and its use
templates, appliances,	P4: Read drawing of biogas stoves and lamps	K3: Biogas stoves and lamps
pipes and fittings and filter systems	P5:Read drawings of pipes and fittings	K4: Pipes and fittings such as tee, elbow, nipple, valves, socket
	P6: Read drawings of filter systems	K5: H_2S filter, moisture filter, CO_2 filter

Standard 3: Select suitable type and appropriate size of floating-drum biodigester and carry out basic calculations

Overview: This competency standard ensures that the participants are familiar with different criteria to be considered while selecting best suitable type and size of a biodigester and be able to carry out simple calculations.

Competency Unit	Performance Criteria	Knowledge and Understanding
C3.1: Select suitable type of biodigester	P1: Explain pre-requisite for the selection of biodigester type such as consideration on durability, reliability, affordability, user-friendliness for construction and operation P2: Describe suitability of different designs in specific site conditions	K1: Criteria to select suitable type of biodigester K2: Different designs of floating drum biodigester (MS Steel drum or wire-mesh- reinforced concrete or fiber-cement drum or glass-fiber reinforced plastic or high-density polyethylene or PVC drum) and their suitability in different context
C3.2: Select suitable size of biodigester	P1: Explain pre-requisite for the selection of biodigester size	K1: Criteria to select suitable size of biodigester
	P2: Estimate the quantity of feeding materials (cattle dung) available and gas production	K2: Calculation of quantity of feeding materials and gas production
	P3: Estimate the quantity of gas required based upon end-use applications	K3: Various end-use application and gas requirements
	P4: Select suitable size of biodigester based upon main selection criteria	K4: Different sizes of biodigesters and gas production
C3.3: Carry out basic calculations	P1: Practice addition, subtraction and multiplication of measurement units	K1: Basic addition, subtraction and multiplication
	P2: Calculate material needed and related cost	K2: Use of calculators
	P3: Describe the quantity of various construction materials needed for different sizes of biodigesters	K3: Types and quantity of construction materials needed for construction

C3.4: Interpret the relation between HRT, quantity of feeding materials and required size of biodigester	 P1: Describe the effect of HRT on size selection P2: Explain relation between quantity of feeding and HRT P3: Select size of biodigester based upon feeding materials and estimated HRT 	 K1: Concept of HRT and its effect on size selection K2: Types of feeding materials and estimated HRT K3: Different sizes of floating-drum biodigesters and quantity of feeding materials needed.
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Standard 4: Select construction materials and construction site

Overview: This competency standard ensures that the participants are able to name the construction materials required for the construction of a floating-drum biodigester and select construction materials to comply with the set quality standards.

Competency Unit	Performance Criteria	Knowledge and Understanding
C4.1: Name different types of construction materials needed for constructing a floating-drum biodigester	P1: State the type of construction materials needed for construction	K1: Different construction materials needed for floating-drum biodigesters (MS Steel drum or wire-mesh-reinforced concrete or fiber-cement drum or glass-fiber reinforced plastic or high- density polyethylene or PVC drum)
C4.2: Appraise quality standards of construction materials	 P1: Describe quality standards of bricks and stones P2: Describe quality standards of cement P3: Describe quality standards of sand P4: Describe quality standards of aggregate/gravel P5: Describe quality standards of MS rod P6: Describe quality standards of steel floating drum P7: Describe quality standards of other types of floating drum (MS Steel drum or wire-mesh-reinforced concrete or fiber-cement drum or glass-fiber reinforced plastic or high-density polyethylene or PVC drum) 	 K1: Types and quality of bricks and stones and their uses, hitting and abrasion tests K2: Cement grade and OPC, storing and handling of cement K3: Bottle test for assessing quality of sand, calculations of % of impurity in sand K4: Different sizes of aggregate and their uses K5: Types of MS rod and their uses K6: Thickness of iron sheet, priming and coating (oil paints, synthetic paints and bitumen paints), welding and gas tightness K7: Thickness of drum, uniformity, smoothness, gas-tightness, slope of roof, welding and jointing
C4.3: Explain criteria for selection of construction site	P1: Explain why biodigester should be constructed near cattle shed P2: Explain why biodigester should be located in sunny place	K1: The fact that feeding will be difficult and tiresome if biodigester is far from cattle shed K2: Effect of outside temperature on biodigester

	 P3: Explain why the distance between biodigester and point of use should be as minimum as possible P4: Explain why biodigester should not be constructed too close to foundation of structures, growing trees, main trail and machines producing vibrations P5: Explain why biodigesters should not be constructed in water logging areas and slide-prone areas P6: Explain the characteristics of best site for constructing biodigesters 	 K3: Effect of longer conveyance system on installation cost and operation and maintenance K4: Safety in construction, potential damage to biodigester because of roots of a tree and vibrating machines. K5: Potential danger of flooding and cracking of digesters because of water logging and ground movements K6: Characteristics of best site for construction of a biodigester
C4.4: Explain steps (sequences) of construction of a floating drum biodigester	P1: Describe methods of construction of different components of a floating drum biodigester P2: Describe relative positioning of different components of a floating drum biodigesters P3: Explain the importance of reference line	K1: Sequence of construction activitiesK2: Functioning of different components of a floating drum biodigestersK3: Reference line and its use during construction

Standard 5: Construct structural component of a floating-drum biodigester

Overview: This competency standard ensures that the participants are able to construct civil structures of a floating-drum biodigester complying with set quality standards.

Competency Unit	Performance Criteria	Knowledge and Understanding
C5.1: Construct	P1: Demonstrate methods for lay out	K1: Drawing, measurement and marking
digester	(demarcation) of biodigester	methods
	P2: Supervise the excavation of pit	K2: Pit diameter and depth, excavation tools and uses
	P3: Prepare mortar	K3: Mixing ratio and methods of preparing mortar of different ratio
	P4: Prepare base of the digester and construct	K4: Methods of leveling, compacting and
	foundation	ramming
	P5: Construct digester walls	K5: Use of different construction tools and
		equipment, masonry skills
	P6: Fix inlet and outlet pipes	K6: Proper location of inlet and outlet pipes
		K7: Importance of baffle wall
	P7: Construct baffle walls	K7: Plastering skill, knowledge of ratio of
	P7: Plaster digester walls	mortar
		K8: Proper use of plumb-bob
	P8: Maintain plumb of digester wall	
C5.2: Install floating	P1: Prepare scaffolding and formworks for erecting	K1: Fitting of scaffolding and formworks for
drum (gas holder) – (MS Steel drum or	floating drum P2: Install central guide frame	casting gas holder K2: Positioning of central guide frame,
wire-mesh-reinforced	P3: Install internal/external guide frame and	maintaining verticality.
concrete or fiber-	support ledge	K3: Positioning of guide-frame and support
cement drum or glass-	P4: Install floating drum (normal or water-jacket)	ledge
fiber reinforced plastic		K4: Installing water jacket-floating drum and
or high-density		normal floating drum, knowledge of different
polyethylene or PVC		types of floating drum (MS Steel drum or wire-
drum)		mesh-reinforced concrete or fiber-cement
		drum or glass-fiber reinforced plastic or high-
		density polyethylene or PVC drum)

P1: Fix outlet pipe	
F I. I IX Outlet pipe	K1: Methods of fixing outlet pipe
P2: Construct outlet walls	K2: Methods of use of different construction tools and equipment, masonry skills
P3: Plaster outlet walls	K3: Plastering skill, knowledge of ratio of mortar
P4: Maintain plumb of outlet wall	K4: Correct use of plumb-bob
P5: Cast concrete cover slab for outlet and fit in place	K5: Mixing ratio and methods of preparing mortar of different ratio, methods of casting
	concrete
P1: Construct platform for inlet tank	K1: Use of different construction tools and equipment, masonry skills
P2: Construct walls of inlet tank	K2: Types of masonry woks
P3: Plaster inlet tank	K3: Plastering skill, knowledge of ratio of mortar
P4: Fix mixing device	K4: Vertical and horizontal mixture machines
P1: Select location of slurry collection and	K1: Proper handling and application of
composing pit	bioslurry
P2: Decide the size of collection and composing pits	K2: General thumb rule to decide the size of slurry pit
P3: Supervise excavation of pits	K3: Pit dimensions, excavation tools and their uses
P3: Construct walls and roof of the pits	K3: Use of different construction tools and equipment, masonry skills
	 P3: Plaster outlet walls P4: Maintain plumb of outlet wall P5: Cast concrete cover slab for outlet and fit in place P1: Construct platform for inlet tank P2: Construct walls of inlet tank P3: Plaster inlet tank P4: Fix mixing device P1: Select location of slurry collection and composing pit P2: Decide the size of collection and composing pits P3: Supervise excavation of pits

Standard 6: Install pipeline and electro-mechanical components

Overview: This competency standard ensures that the participants are able to install biogas conveyance system, biogas filtration system and biogas utilization system as per set quality standards.

Competency Unit	Performance Criteria	Knowledge and Understanding
C6.1: Install pipeline	P1: Describe quality standard of pipes and fittings	K1: Quality standards of pipes and fittings
	P2: Select correct size of pipes and fitting	K2: Flow of gas and distance vs. pipe size
	D0. Only of head all suggests from the other in a	K3: Effect of longer pipe on cost as well as risk
	P3: Select best alignment for pipe laying	of biogas leakage K4: Plumbing skill and knowledge on fittings
	P4: Join pipes using correct fitting and sealing	and sealing agents such as Teflon tape
	agent	K5: Methods to protect pipeline against
	P5: Protect pipeline against possible damage	possible damage
C6.2: Install	P1: Name different types of biogas appliances	K1: Types of biogas appliances such as
appliances/accessories	and end use applications	stoves, lamps, water heaters, rice-cookers,
		generators
	P2: Describe quality standards of appliances	K2: Quality standards of biogas appliances
	P3: Fix biogas stoves, lamps and other appliances	K3: Methods of fitting appliances, plumbing
	as per users' need	skills
	P4: Install pressure gauge, gas-flow meter and	K4: Plumbing skill, functioning of pressure
	temperature gauge	gauge, gas-flow meter and temperature gauge
C6.3: Install gas	P1: Describe quality standards of filter system	K1: Quality standards of biogas purification
filtration/purification		system
system	P2: Install CO ₂ scrubber (for larger biodigesters,	K2: Plumbing skill, understanding of
	more than 100 cum)	functioning of CO ₂ scrubber and safe disposal
		of carbonated water
	P3: Install H ₂ S remover	K3: Plumbing skill, understanding of
		functioning of H ₂ S remover
	P4: Install moisture removal	K4: Plumbing skill, understanding of
		functioning of moisture removal

C6.4: Install pump	P1: Describe quality standards of pump/generator	K1: Quality standards of pump/generators
and/or generator	P2: Calculate gas demand and select suitable	K2: Knowledge of calculating gas demand and
	pump/generator size	suitable size of pump/generators
	P3: Explain modifications of conventional	K3: Working principle of biogas operated
	machines to operate with biogas	engines
	P4: Install pumping arrangements, generators and	K4: Plumbing skill, knowledge of working of
	control systems and blower or compressor	biogas operated engines

Standard 7: Perform routine operation and minor maintenance tasks

Overview: This competency standard ensures that the participants are familiar with the routine operational activities as well as minor repair works and they are capable of imparting effective operation and maintenance training to biogas users.

Competency Unit	Performance Criteria	Knowledge and Understanding
C7.1: Describe routine operation activities for trouble-free functioning of	P1: Prescribe correct quantity of feedingP2: Describe the effect of under-feeding and over-feedingP3: Demonstrate efficient use of different	K1: Quantity of feeding/biodigester loading rateK2: Effects of underfeeding and overfeeding,change in HRTK3: Operation of different appliances, working
biodigester	appliances such as water drain, main valve, gas taps	principle of appliances
	P4: Perform leakage testing	K4: Leakage testing methods and protocols, use of soap-water solution, colour smoke etc.
	P5: Explain dos and don'ts dos for effective	K5: dos and don'ts dos for effective
	functioning of biodigesters	functioning of biodigesters
C7.2: Conduct minor	P1: Demonstrate painting of floating-drum	K1: Methods to protect drum against
repair and		corrosion, suitable coating products such as,
maintenance works		oil paints, synthetic paints and bitumen paints.
	P2: Perform greasing/oiling of movable parts	K2: Greasing techniques, use of repair and maintenance tools
	P3: Perform minor repair of appliances	K3: Working of appliances, se of repair and maintenance tools
	P4: Perform repair of leaked pipeline	K4: Use of plumbing tools, sealing agents, pressure testing and application of soap water solution
	P5: Maintain central and side guide frames	K5: Need for the verticality of guide-frames, reasons for tilting of drum
C7.3: Identify potential	P1: Demonstrate the use of pH meter, pressure	K1: Functioning and use of testing tools and
problems and likely solutions	meter, foot pump, gas flow meter to identify potential problems	equipment
	P2: Carry out pressure testing to detect biogas	

	leakages	K2: Pressure testing methods and protocols
	P3: Inspect the colour of bioslurry, water dung ratio, flow pattern and odour of bioslurry to asses potential problems	K3: Changes in slurry during the process of biogas formation.
C7.4: Explain methods for optimum utilization of biogas and bioslurry	 P1: Describe different uses of biogas and biogas appliances P2: Identify potentials for diversification of biogas end use applications P3: Tell the effect of under-utilisation of biogas 	 K1: Different end-use applications and biogas consumption rates of different appliances K2: Various end-use applications of biogas K3: Harmful effect of biogas when escaped in atmosphere
	 P4: Describe characteristics and benefits of bioslurry P5: Apply suitable methods for optimal utilisation of bioslurry P6: Describe the benefits of composting of bioslurry 	K4: Characteristics and benefits of bioslurryK5: Methods of bioslurry applicationsK5: Nutrient content on composted bioslurry and its comparative benefit over FYM
C7.5: Instruct users for effective operation and maintenance of biodigester	 P1: Inform potential problems and likely solutions to users P2: Teach users to carry out effective operation works P3: Teach users to carry out minor repair and maintenance works 	K1: Common/ potential problems and likely solutions K2: Facilitation skill, effective operation activities K3: Facilitation skill, repair and maintenance skill
C7.6: Ensure sustainable benefits from biodigester	 P1: Provide warranty to ensure long term functioning of biodigester P2: Perform timely after-sale services P3: Provide user's manual 	K1: Guarantee provisions and criteria K2: Provision of effective after-sale-services K1: Importance of user's manual

Standard 8: Practice quality norms and ensure the compliance of quality standards while construction

Overview: This competency standard ensures that the participants are able to realize the importance of quality assurance and practice quality norms while construction and installation.

Competency Unit	Performance Criteria	Knowledge and Understanding
C8.1: Describe the importance of quality	P1: Describe the definition of quality assurance while constructing biodigester	K1: Quality assurance norms and methods
		K2: Effect of sub-standard quality of work on
assurance	P2: Explain why quality is needed while construction/installation	K2: Effect of sub-standard quality of work on
		functioning of a biodigester
	P3: Explain how quality is maintained during	K3: Methods to maintain quality
	construction/installation	
C8.2: Practice quality	P1: Explain quality standards to be complied while	K1: Quality standards and norms
norms during	construction/installation	
construction	P2: Comply with set quality standards while	K2: Methods to comply with quality standards
	constructing biodigester	and norms
C8.3: Describe the	P1: Tell roles and responsibilities of a biogas	K1: Internalization of roles and responsibilities
roles and	technician while construction	of a biogas technician
responsibilities of a	P2: Describe what happens if a biogas technician	K2: Effects of sub-standard works on quality of
biogas technician	does not fulfil his/her responsibilities	end-product and functioning of a biodigester
C8.4: Practice	P1: Demonstrate proper use of personal safety	K1: Use of safety gears during construction
occupational health	gears such as helmet, dongri, safety shoes, safety	and their uses
and safety measures	belt	
	P2: Exhibit safe use of construction tools and	K2: Construction tools and equipment and their
	equipment	safe uses
	P3: Practice safety measures at works	K3: General safety measures at work

List of Tools, Machinery & Equipment

Name of	Trade Training of Biodigester Techr Biodigesters for Running Pum	nicians (Masons) to Construct Floating drum
Duration	Four weeks (24 days or 192 h	
Sr. No.	Name of Item/ Equipment / Tools Quantity	
	Training Equipment	1
1.	Computer	1
2.	Over-head Projector with screen	1
3.	White board	1
4.	Model/prototype of biodigester	1
5.	Flip chard board and paper	1
6.	Camera	1
7.	Construction video/DVD	1
8.	Calculators	1
	Masonry Tools	
9.	Measuring tape – 5m and 30m length	5
10.	Plumb-bob	5
11.	Water level	2
12.	Mason's Trowel	25
13.	Plastering trowel- 2 types	5
14.	Pointing trowel	5
15.	Pick axe with handle	5
16.	Wheel barrow	2
17.	Chisel sets – 9" and 12"	5
18.	Mason's hammer	5
19.	Hammer – 1.5 kg and 3 kg	5
20.	Straight Edge (4 ft long), metal or wooden	5
21.	Level pipe (transparent plastic)	2
22.	String/thread roll	5
23.	Lime for layout	5 kg
24.	Iron trough/mortar pan – GI 18" dia (for handling co	
25.	Line and pins	LS
26.	Spirit level	3
27.	Brushes (wire brush, painting brush)	10
28.	Shovel with handle	5
29.	Builders square	5
30.	Striker for horizontal and vertical joints	5

31.	Steel float – small, medium and large	5
32.	Wooden float - small, medium and large	5
33.	Mason's Tool bag	25
	Plumbing tools	
34.	Hexa-frame and blade sets	5
35.	Pipe wrench – 9" and 12"	2
36.	Plier/slide wrench	2
37.	Spanners	2
38.	Needle file	2
39.	Dice and vice set	1
	Personal Protective equipment	
40.	Helmet	25
41.	Dungaree (Working Uniform)	25
42.	Safety belt	25
43.	Boots/shoes	25
44.	Gloves	25
45.	Rain coats	25
	Biogas Related Appliances/Equipment	
46.	Pressure gauge	1
47.	Biogas analyser	1
48.	pH meter	1
49.	Thermometer with probes	1
50.	Foot or hand pump	1
51.	Gas flow meter	1

List of Consumable Supplies

Name of Trade		Training of Biodigester Technicians (Masons) to Construct Floating drum Biodigesters for Running Pumps	
Duration		Four weeks (24 days or 192 hours)	
Sr. No.	Name of Consumable Supplies (for a group of 25 participants) Quantity		Quantity
	Stationaries		
1.	Flip chart paper		60 sheets
2.	Meta cards – different colours 10		100 sheets
3.	Marker pens (Permanent and board marker) 10		10
4.	Masking tape (rolls)		5
5.	Cello tape 2		2

6.	Lime or marking powder	2 kg
7.	Biodigester drawing	25
8.	Construction manuals	25
9.	Operation manual	25
10.	Ball pen	35
11.	Pencils	35
12.	Erasers	35
13.	Writing pad/note book	25
14.	Glue stick	2
15.	Brochures of biodigester technology	50
16.	Plastic bag	25
17.	White paper (A4)	1 rim
	Construction Materials and appliances for 20 m ³ floating drum biodigester	
18.	Cement	
19.	Bricks	
20.	Sand	
21.	Aggregates 20mm	
22.	Inlet pipes PVC 110 mm diameter 3 m long	
23.	MS Rod 10 mm diameter	
24.	Binding wire	
25.	Gas storage drum	
26.	Angle Iron for Guiding frames	
27.	Scaffolding	
28.	PVC/GI pipe and fittings as per site condition	
29.	Biogas filters (CO ₂ scrubber, H ₂ S remover, moisture remover)	
30.	Biogas appliances (as per sit condition and users' need)	
31.	Control valves – as per site condition	
32.	Main gas pipe – GI 1.5" diameter, 1 m long with reducing elbow	
33.	Teflon tape	
34.	Pressure gauge	
35.	Biogas flow meter	
36.	Temperature gauge	
37.	Pressure meter	

Worker Traits and Related Knowledge

Traits:

- Physically fit/healthy
- Sincere
- Interactive
- Good listener

- Able to work under pressure and difficult circumstances
- Polite
- Cooperative
- Dedicated
- Working with humility
- Intuitive and creative
- Motivating
- Team-spirit
- Trustworthy
- Good communicator
- Influencing
- Hard working
- Out-spoken
- Helpful
- Friendly
- Proactive/ active

Related Knowledge:

- Basic principle of biogas generation
- Types and functioning of a biodigester
- Measurement, Units of measurements
- Basic mathematics/calculations
- Drawing reading an interpretation
- Masonry works/ construction methods
- Plumbing works
- Mechanical works
- Operation and functions of different biogas appliances
- Quality standards of construction materials and appliances
- Use of biogas
- Application of bioslurry
- Routine Operational activities
- Minor repair and maintenance of biodigester
- Potential problems and likely solution
- Gas filtering mechanisms
- Effective communication



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