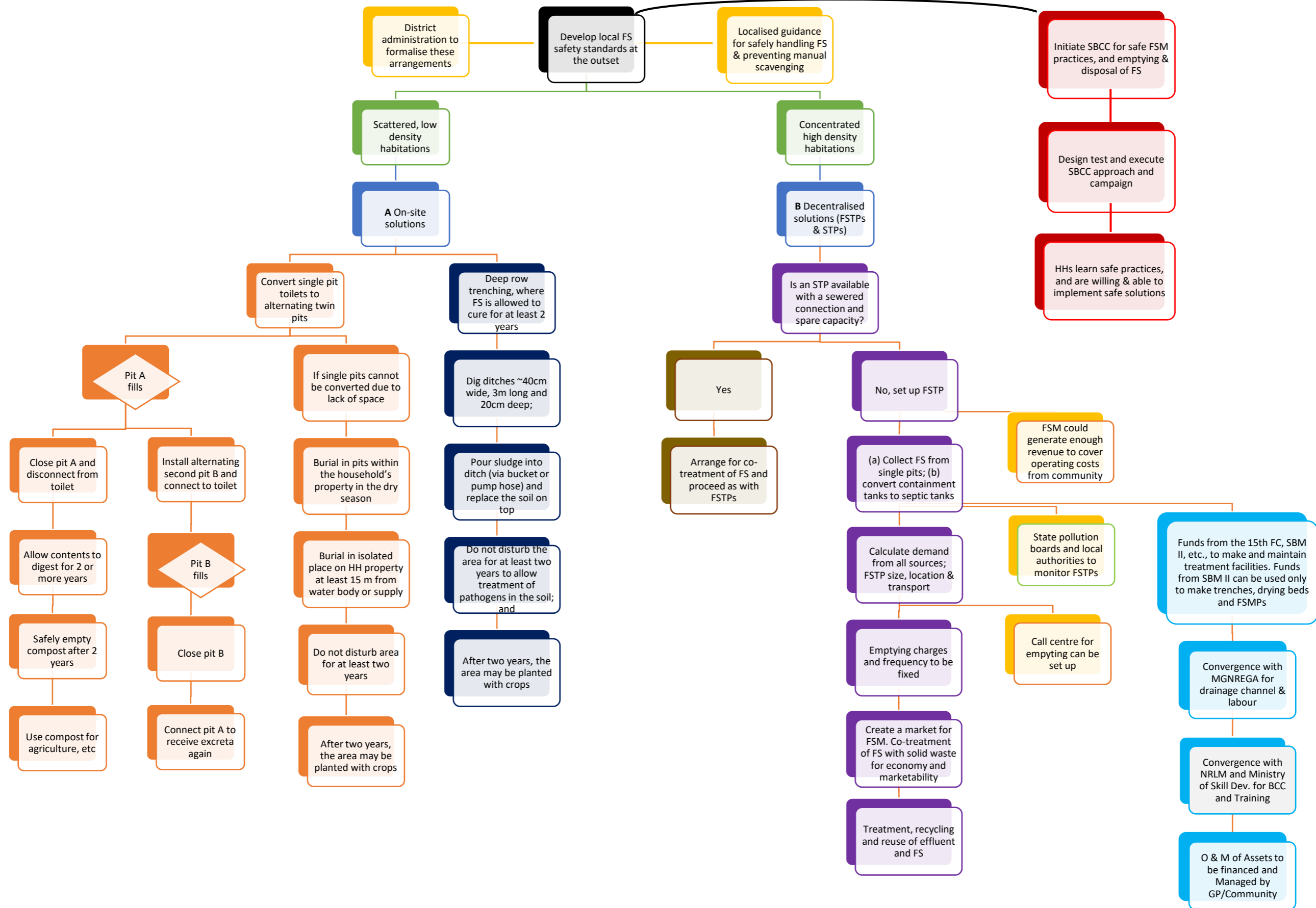


# A Decision for rural Faecal Sludge Management



### Do's and do not's of rural faecal sludge management\*

Do's	Do Not's
<b>Managing the latrine and latrine pit</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DO invest in an alternating twin pit latrine configuration because it is the best way to manage rural faecal sludge.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do NOT ignore decisions on how to best manage faecal sludge in a safe way.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DO consult with village leaders if you have any questions about how to manage your faecal sludge safely.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DO periodically monitor the contents of faecal sludge in your latrine pit(s).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do NOT allow latrine pits to overflow or leak.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DO use a neighbour's latrine if your latrine is full and your toilet can no longer be used.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do NOT start defecating in the open if the latrine pit becomes full.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DO build a latrine pit that is offset (set a distance away from, rather than directly underneath) from the latrine pan.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do NOT build pour-flush latrines with the pit directly below the pan, as this makes it difficult to monitor and access.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DO keep the latrine pit covered at all times, unless it needs to be opened for inspection or emptying. Pit opening at all times must be supervised.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do NOT leave latrine pits uncovered and unattended at any time to prevent accidents (e.g., children falling into pits) and health risks associated to faecal sludge (and flies) exposure.</li> </ul>
<b>Faecal sludge conveyance</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DO wear appropriate personal protective equipment – including clothing to cover your body, gloves, mask, and goggles, if possible – to avoid exposure to faecal sludge and pathogens.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do NOT allow faecal sludge to contact your body and skin, due to potential health risks.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DO use motorised pumps or covered buckets to remove faecal sludge from pit.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do NOT enter a latrine pit under any circumstances.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DO make sure that only healthy, strong, and able-bodied individuals undertake pit emptying.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do NOT allow the elderly, sick, or people living with disabilities to empty a pit, due to the difficulty and dangers involved.</li> </ul>
<b>Faecal sludge conveyance</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DO use containers for faecal sludge conveyance that prevent leaking or spillage.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do NOT use containers for faecal sludge conveyance that are uncovered, unsealed, or susceptible to leakage.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DO clean up leaks and spills by burying.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do NOT leave leaks and spills without cleaning them up.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DO clean and disinfect contaminated clothing and items that have been in contact with faecal sludge using household bleach or an equivalent disinfectant.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do NOT leave contaminated clothing and materials unwashed and properly disinfected.</li> </ul>
<b>Faecal sludge disposal</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DO dispose of faecal sludge under the ground according to local burial guidelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do NOT dispose of faecal sludge on the open ground or in a water body, because pathogens can easily enter the environment and eventually be transferred to humans.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DO ensure that nearby water supplies are protected from the buried faecal sludge. This can be done by ensuring an adequate distance from the source of potential contamination (at least 10-15 metres) and ensuring that nearby water supplies are protected (such as lining and sealing dug wells, tube wells, and boreholes).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do NOT assume that faecal sludge will not contaminate the environment after burial.</li> </ul>
<b>Faecal sludge reuse</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DO wait for faecal sludge to decompose and dewater – either underground after burial OR in a closed alternating twin pit – for at least two years prior to removal.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do NOT remove faecal sludge that has been buried or stored in a closed ATP until it has dried up and rested for at least two years.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DO safely handle and dispose of liquid faecal sludge as per local/government guidelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do NOT use liquid faecal sludge as a fertiliser because it is unsafe.</li> </ul>

\* Extracted from: Department of Rural Health Care, Ministry of Rural Development, Cambodia. 2020. National Faecal Sludge Management Guidelines for Rural Households. March. Cambodia. (Available at [cambodia-national-fsm-guidelines-eng-21032020.pdf](http://cambodia-national-fsm-guidelines-eng-21032020.pdf) (snv.org) Last accessed August 2022)