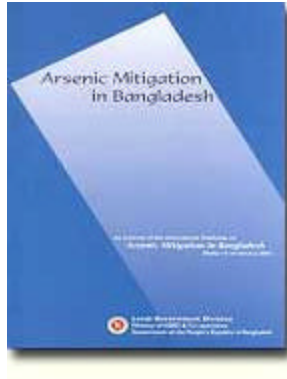


Arsenic Mitigation in Bangladesh

An outcome of the International Workshop on Arsenic Mitigation in Bangladesh, Dhaka 14-16 January, 2002, organized by The Local Government Division, Ministry of Local Government Rural Development & Cooperatives, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.



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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

BAMWSP	Bangladesh Arsenic Mitigation Water Supply Project.
BBS	Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics
BCC	Behaviour Change Communication
BGS	British Geological Survey
BMRC	Bangladesh Medical Research Council
BOGMC	Bangladesh Oil, Gas and Mineral Corporation
BP	Before Present
BRAC	Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee
BRTC	Bureau of Research, Testing and Consultation
BSMMU	Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University
BUET	Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology
CBOs	Community Based Organizations
DANIDA	Danish International Development Agency
DCH	Dhaka Community Hospital
DFID	Department for International Development
DGHS	Directorate General of Health Services
DPHE	Department of Public Health Engineering
DTW	Deep Tubewell
DWASA	Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority
EPC	Engineering and Planning Consultants
EPIWTA	East Pakistan Inland Water Transport Authority
GOB	Government of Bangladesh
GSB	Geological Survey of Bangladesh
HRD	Human Resources Development
HTW	Hand Tubewell
ICDDR,B	Int. Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh
IG	Infiltration Gallery
IRP	Iron Removal Plant
ITN	International Training Network Centre
LGD	Local Government Division
LGED	Local Government Engineering Department
LGIs	Local Government Institutions

M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MIS	Management Information System
MOHFW	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
MLGRD&C	Ministry of Local Govt., Rural Dev. & Cooperatives
MPO	Master Plan Organization
NAMIC	National Arsenic Mitigation Information Centre
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NILG	National Institute of Local Government
NIPSOM	National Institute of Preventive and Social Medicine
O&M	Operation and Maintenance
R&D	Research & Development
RDA	Rural Development Academy
RWH	Rain Water Harvesting
RWS	Rural Water Supply
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Co-operation
SSF	Slow Sand Filter
SST	Shallow Shrouded Tubewell
STW	Shallow Tubewell
TA	Technical Assistance
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
TCD	Technical Cooperation for Development
UP	Union Parisad
VSST	Very Shallow Shrouded Tubewell
WASA	Water Supply and Sewerage Authority
WatSan	Water and Sanitation
WHO	World Health Organization
WSS	Water Supply and Sanitation
WSP – SA	Water and Sanitation Program – South Asia
WB	The World Bank

FOREWORD

The problem of arsenic contamination of ground water, with its serious multi-sectoral impacts confronts the Government of Bangladesh with several challenges - (i) providing safe drinking water to the affected community (ii) management of the arsenicosis patients and (iii) looking into some crucial hydro-geological issues being the most urgent of them.

With a view to arriving at a general consensus on some technical issues of emergency nature and to get guidance from the national and international experts for addressing these technical issues the Government of Bangladesh organized a three-day International Workshop on Arsenic Mitigation during January 14-16, 2002.

Experts on the relevant fields from home and abroad attended the workshop and came up with three sets of recommendations focusing on relevant hydro-geological issues, health issues and alternative water supply options.

We believe that the recommendations of the workshop would help us design and refine our strategies for arsenic mitigation.

A Y B I Siddiqi

Convener, Workshop Organizing Committee &

Secretary,

Local Government Division

Ministry of Local Government Division, Rural Development & Cooperatives

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

PREFACE

Arsenic contamination of ground has been recognized as major public health problem in Bangladesh. A three-day international workshop on Arsenic Mitigation in Bangladesh was held during January 14-16, 2002 in Dhaka. The workshop was organized by the Local Government Division, Ministry of LGRD & Co-operatives with support from WHO, JICA, DANIDA, UNICEF, CIDA, DFID and WSP-SA.

Mrs. Khaleda Zia, Honourable Prime Minister of Bangladesh inaugurated the workshop. Her inaugural address contained important policy directives regarding arsenic mitigation in the country. Here we publish the unofficial English translation of the inaugural speech of the Honourable Prime Minister.

The workshop focussed on some important technical issues regarding hydrogeological and health aspects of arsenic contamination and alternative water supply options for arsenic mitigation. The issues were discussed in three parallel technical sessions, attended by local and international experts in the relevant fields. Three theme papers, prepared on three major issues by local experts provided for the basis of discussions in the technical sessions.

The three theme papers and the recommendations of the workshop summarize some crucial aspects of the arsenic problem in Bangladesh and provide for the foundation of a comprehensive arsenic mitigation strategy for the country. We hope this publication will be a useful document for arsenic mitigation in Bangladesh.

M. Feroze Ahmed
Chowdhury Mufad Ahmed
Editors

