

Slow Poisoning - III

Ganga- Meghna - Brahmaputra (GMB) Plain



This CD-ROM of 50 minutes contains an audiovisual representation summarizing the last eighteen year long research study on arsenic contamination done by School of Environmental Studies (SOES), Jadavpur University, Kolkata in collaboration with different medical organizations both in India and Bangladesh. It discusses in length arsenic problem in the states and countries lying in the Ganga-Meghna-Brahmaputra (GMB) plain of area about 600,000 sq. km and population over 500 million, like West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Assam in India, a large part of Bangladesh and Nepal.

The spread of arsenic problem is multidimensional in nature. The different facets of the arsenic scenario like discovery of the affected regions, clinical manifestations in the affected population, as well as the different remediation approaches like dugwell, surface water, rain water harvesting, deep tubewell and arsenic removal systems are presented on basis of our eighteen years experience. This presentation touches upon medical aspects covering some unique cases along with general manifestations of arsenic toxicity, as revealed to our medical team during innumerable field trips. Through help of visuals and video clippings we have tried to bring out the acute suffering of the arsenic affected people from physical, psychological and socioeconomic viewpoint in all states in India lying in the GMB plain. This study shows not only in drinking water, arsenic creeps into food chain; domestic animals are also found to be in danger in the affected regions. Continuous monitoring of water quality is another important factor since we have disturbing evidences of increase in arsenic concentration with time in some areas. The success of any remedial measure would be largely dependent on mass awareness along with people's participation in combating the problem.

At a glance this is a unique collection of research highlights of School of Environmental Studies in collaboration with other medical organizations, covering a gamut of topics related to the arsenic contamination problem in the GMB plain.

Please note SOES is a self sufficient organization and we don't accept any national and international funding. We have a support scheme for the arsenic affected families who have lost their earning members, under which we send monetary allowance to a good number of families.

This CD-ROM costs Thirty US Dollars including postage. In case you find this unsatisfactory the return of the amount is guaranteed.

Contact person: - Dipankar Chakraborti, School of Environmental Studies, Jadavpur University, Kolkata - 700032. Phone No: +9133 24146760/6233, Fax. No.: +9133 24146266, Email: dcsoesju@vsnl.com, Website: www.soesju.org.