

National Perspective and Policy Issues

Shashikant Chopde



Urban Wastewater

- ❑ Urban Wastewater adversely impacts Environment and poses health risk
- ❑ Wastewater treatment in India—limited capacity and to inadequate level
- ❑ Conventional approach will be to treat W/W to desired level by considering WQ objective
- ❑ Current Legislative and Policy Framework

Options

- ❑ Need to focus on more realistic options—
Managing or minimizing risk rather than
eliminating risk
- ❑ Decentralized W/W collection and treatment
systems
- ❑ Low cost measures— W/W stabilization
ponds, Up-flow anaerobic sludge blanket
method

Options

- ❑ Combination option of wastewater treatment and protective measures during growth and post-harvest of crops
- ❑ Crop restriction—non-edible, crops which are cooked for consumption
- ❑ Imposing restriction on W/W irrigated crops, esp. which are consumed raw
- ❑ Increase in cess rates for industrial and urban water supply
- ❑ New income generation and reuse options — landscaping, floriculture

Awareness

- ❑ For using boots and gloves
- ❑ Hygiene practices post farming operation - washing
- ❑ Consumer awareness
- ❑ Public Health campaigns to immunize esp. children against potential diseases

Monitoring

- ❑ Soil-nutrient content in W/W irrigated areas (esp. of NPK, Ca, Mg, Na) vs. impact on crop growth and yield
- ❑ Water Quality (GW, SW and parameters— e.g. faecal coliforms, metals)

Multi-stakeholder Platforms

- ❑ The problems with Wastewater Management will increase with increasing population
- ❑ Absence of neutral platform for catalysing debate on options for WW management (many institutions directly/indirectly deal with WW –e.g. NRCD, CPCB, Municipal Bodies, DoE)
- ❑ The formal institutional setup is fractured and issues of wastewater management are complex (treatment and monitoring issues to minimise risks to health and environment)

Multi-stakeholder Platforms

- ❑ Need for a mechanism for catalysing stakeholder consultations on options/technologies for urban wastewater management
- ❑ Facilitation of stakeholders forums for knowledge generation and recommendation
- ❑ Need for regular meetings of the forum

Discussions ...