

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Government of India vide Resolution dated 17.04.2006 has constituted "**Artificial Recharge of Ground Water Advisory Council**" under the Chairmanship of Honorable Union Minister for Water Resources. The main objective of setting up the Council is to popularize the concept of artificial recharge among all stakeholders and its adoption. To follow-up the decisions of the Advisory Council, a Follow-up Actions Committee in the Ministry of Water Resources, GoI, headed by Joint Secretary (A) has been constituted.

In the second meeting of the Advisory Council, "Groundwater quality and related health problems" has been identified as one of the priority areas for meticulous government persuasion to control and remedy by deriving suitable action plans. Arsenic contamination in groundwater being a long standing unresolved issue, it is chosen as the focal area to confront its menace by identifying understanding and technological strength and gaps, and outlining suitable actions plans for mitigation and remedy. Being an area of highly complex and specialized contents on which enormous work have already been done both National and International level, it has thus been decided to develop a position document identifying knowledgebase, understanding and technologies available, gaps persist, and further works to be taken up, etc. Based on which, a comprehensive framework of activities to 'mitigate and remedy of groundwater arsenic contamination' can be derived. This vision document entitled "**Mitigation and Remedy of Groundwater Arsenic Menace in India**" is an outcome of the task assigned by the Follow-up Actions Committee.


On behalf of the National Institute of Hydrology, Roorkee and the Central Ground Water Board, I convey my gratitude to the Ministry of Water Resources, Govt. of India for entrusting this challenging task to NIH and CGWB, and also tender my earnest thanks to the officials of the Ministry of Water Resources for their support and guidance in different forms for successfully bringing out this document. A deep sense of gratitude is conveyed to the Follow-up Actions Committee for its suggestions and guidance, particularly to Shri Ram Mohan Mishra, Joint Secretary (A) and Chairman, Follow-up Actions Committee who has actually motivated and helped to take up this important task.

Effectiveness of a vision document labeling a comprehensive plan of actions depends on how critically and rigorously one has stirred and analyzed the existing state-of-affairs to tag the pertinent problem revolving issues. These objectives have been achieved from contributions of a select group of resource persons conversant on different themes of the subject area. The contributions made by Prof. K. J. Nath, Chairman-West Bengal Arsenic Task Force; Prof. Dipankar Chakraborty, School of Environmental Studies, Jadavpur University; Dr. S. P. Sinha Roy, Ex.-member, CGWB and Former Chairman, Arsenic Task Force, West Bengal; Mr. R. M. Mishra, Joint Secretary(Admn), MoWR; Dr. S. K. Sharma, Consultant (GW), MoWR; Dr. B. B. Basu, Director, School of Fundamental Research, Kolkata; Dr. N. C. Ghosh, Scientist-F, NIH-Roorkee; Dr. C. K. Jain, Scientist-F, NIH-Guwahati; Shri Abhijit Roy,

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