

SARASWATI

AT A GLANCE

Title: Supporting consolidation, replication and up-scaling of sustainable wastewater treatment, reclamation and reuse technologies for India

Instrument: FP7, Collaborative Project

Total Cost: 2,902,870.48 €

EC Contribution: 2,350,000.00 €

Duration: 48 months

Start Date: 01.09.2012

Consortium: 9 partners from 5 countries

Project Coordinator: BOKU University (Austria)

Project Web Site: www.project-saraswati.net

Key Words: wastewater, India, decentralised technologies, evaluation, health, sanitation, technology potential



THE CHALLENGE

A recent initiative of the Asian Development Bank highlighted that about half of the Asian continent's population will live in towns and cities by 2015, and that over 90 per cent of its wastewater will either pollute open water bodies or leak into the soil, leading to dramatic human cost. Dirty rivers, poor groundwater quality and shocking levels of public health, especially among the poor, are the principal by-products of this situation. Furthermore, this causes a severe reduction in the absolute volumes of clean water available for consumption against the background of a rising Asian population, leading to an appalling socioeconomic problem.

India is the Asian continent's second most populous country and the discharge of untreated wastewater is causing high environmental pollution. Population growth, increasing urbanization and rapid economic development are exerting pressure on the already scarce water resources in India. Treatment and reuse of wastewater can play an important role in addressing some of the water challenges in India.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

SARASWATI has three main objectives:

First, it aims at conducting an integrated evaluation of already existing decentralised wastewater treatment and reuse technologies across India. The evaluation will encompass technical-environmental as well as socio-economic aspects.

Second, selected proven European technologies for wastewater treatment and reuse will be piloted in India and their potential for application in the Indian context assessed.

Third, based on the results of the previous two objectives recommendations for replication and up-scaling of suitable wastewater treatment and reuse technologies will be elaborated.



