

PREFACE

Arsenic contamination of groundwater in the alluvial aquifer underlying Bangladesh and India has been recognized as a major problem of catastrophic proportions. Groundwater extracted by shallow tubewells from this aquifer has been found to contain high levels of arsenic which are unsafe for drinking and cooking purposes. Thousands of people have already been identified to be affected by arsenic poisoning, in addition to the millions potentially under threat from drinking contaminated water. Provision of arsenic free water is urgently needed for immediate protection of health and well being of the people living in arsenic affected areas. In most situations, substitution of tubewell water by an alternative safe and reliable source of water supply is not an easy task. Treatment of arsenic-contaminated tubewell water is one prominent option in the acute arsenic affected areas in Bangladesh and India.

This publication comprises a compilation of papers presented at the BUET-UNU International workshop on *Technologies for Arsenic Removal from Drinking Water*. The papers describe a broad range of activities in the areas of research, development and evaluation of various arsenic removal technologies. It is anticipated that the information contained in this document will be useful in understanding the current technological developments in arsenic removal as well as their limitations. This effort is also useful in identifying the areas needing further improvement for successful implementation and adaptation of technologies to rural conditions. We hope that this publication of BUET-UNU workshop will be useful to the scientists, engineers, researchers, policy planners and decision-makers working for arsenic mitigation in various parts of the world, including Bangladesh and India.

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Editors