

Workshop
On
Arsenic & Fluoride Removal from Groundwater

Tezpur University
24-25 February 2018

Sponsored by
Department of Science & Technology
New Delhi

Organized by
Department of Chemical Sciences



Tezpur University
Tezpur, Assam

Arsenic and Fluoride contamination of Drinking Water:

Groundwater in vast regions of India is highly contaminated with toxic arsenic and fluoride in alarmingly high concentrations affecting millions of people.

A long term ingestion of arsenic through drinking water causes several diseases and disorders including cancer, skin disease, mental development of child, etc. The states of Assam, West Bengal, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are worst affected by groundwater arsenic.

Presence of excess fluoride in drinking water causes irreversible damage to bone and tooth in addition to some other health problems. Horrific symptoms of fluorosis are seen in several states of India including Assam, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Telengana, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa.

Arsiron Nilogon and Fluoride Nilogon:

Arsiron Nilogon and Fluoride Nilogon are two extremely low-cost, safe and simple methods for removal of arsenic and excess fluoride from contaminated drinking water. The methods are based on oxidation-coagulation at optimized pH and phosphoric acid-crushed limestone treatment, respectively.

Both methods were recently developed by the Research Group of Dr. Robin Kumar Dutta in the Department of Chemical Sciences of Tezpur University which been gaining popularity at household, small community like schools and large community level in Assam as well as some other states.

Theme and plan of the Workshop:

“Give a fish to a man, he will eat for the day; teach him how to catch fish, he will eat for his life.”

Requiring only two containers and some low-cost materials, whose recurring cost is between 0.5-1.0 paisa per liter of treated water, the poorest one can use the methods without looking for any Government support. Therefore, the workshop will focus on training affected people in setting up and use of the methods and planning future strategy for the same.

Day 1 (24/2/2017) and Day 2 (25/2/2017) will be devoted to Arsiron Nilogon and Fluoride Nilogon, respectively.

Participants:

Anybody affected by drinking water arsenic or fluoride or seriously involved/ interested in helping arsenic and/or fluoride-affected people of the country irrespective of educational qualification or occupation are welcome. The participants will include villager, school teacher, NGO-personnel, social activist, media persons, public health workers, college-university student, research scholar, college-university teacher, Industry and entrepreneur.

Poster Presentation:

Papers on arsenic and fluoride contamination of groundwater in India and their health effects, meaningful for the targeted participants, are invited for poster presentation, of size 1mX1m (approx.). The abstract of poster should reach the convener by 3rd February 2018.

Hospitality:

- Accommodation may be provided for needy participants from distant places. Request for accommodation should be made before 3rd February 2018.
- Local hospitality including breakfast, lunch, dinner, tea, etc. will be provided to the participants.

Travel assistance:

- To and fro bus fare or 2nd class train fare of the participants will be reimbursed as per Government of India rules on production of actual tickets. People travelling in groups by own car and taxi may be reimbursed as per rule or lump sum depending on availability of fund subject to submission of copy of car registration certificate/original GST compliant hiring money receipt along with initial and final mileage reading.
- Those claiming travel assistance are requested to intimate the same to the organizers for prior information and consent.

Registration:

- There is no registration fee.
- Interested persons are requested to fill up the enclosed format and send to the convener by e-mail or post at the earliest.
- Registration without accommodation will be open till 23 February 2018.

Registration Format (to be submitted in plain paper to the convener):

Workshop on Arsenic & Fluoride Contamination
Tezpur University: 24-25th February 2018

Name:

Occupation/designation:

Date of birth & sex:

Complete address including phone number and e-mail (if any):

Interested in Arsenic removal/Fluoride removal/both:

Accommodation required or not with date/s if yes:

Travel assistance required or not:

If yes, the mode of travel and approximate fare:

If travelling in group, approximate to & fro rent/claim for group:

Whether intends to present poster or not:

If yes, title of paper:

Signature with date:

Organizing Committee:

Patron: Vice-chancellor, Tezpur University

Advisers: Prof. Ramesh C. Deka, Dean, School of Science, TU
Prof. Ashis K. Mukherjee, Dean, R & D, TU

Chairman: Prof. Ashim J. Thakur, Head, Dept. of Chemical Sciences, TU

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|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Members: | Prof. M. Lakshmi Kantam | Prof. Swapan K. Dolui |
| Prof. Nasreen S. Islam | Prof. Tarun K. Maji | Prof. Niranjana Karak |
| Prof. Ruli Bora | Prof. Ashwini K. Phukan | Dr. Panchanan Puzari |
| Dr. Kusum K. Bania | Dr. Pankaj Bharali | Dr. Nayanmoni Gogoi |
| Dr. Sajal Kumar Das | Dr. Bipul Sarma | Dr. S. P. Mahanta |
| Dr. Sanjay Pratihar | Dr. Biren Gohain | Mr. Biraj K. Borah |
| Mr. Raju Kumar Borah | Mr. Nipu Dutta | Mr. Sankur Phukan |
| Mr. Manoranjan Sarma | Ms. Bobita Das | Mr. Biplab Ozah |
| Mr. Ahmed Ali | Mr. Anup J. Bora | Ms. Barsha R. Goswami |
| Mr. Rajkamal Mohan | Mr. Debajit Gogoi | Ms. Sudha Thapa |
| Mr. Asadulla Asraf Ali | Mr. Pinku Gogoi | Mr. Hridip R. Sarma |

Convener: Prof. Robin Kumar Dutta **Treasurer:** Dr. Utpal Borah

Address for Correspondence (general):

Prof. Robin Kumar Dutta, Department of Chemical Sciences, Tezpur University, Napaam, Tezpur 784 028, Assam, Phone: 9957077808 (M), 03712 265055 (O), Fax: 03712 267005/6, E-mail: asf.nilogon@gmail.com, robind@tezu.ernet.in

Contact for Registration and Poster Presentation:

Ms. Sudha Thapa: 09613530046, Mr. Pinku Gogoi: 08472898679, Mr. Debajit Gogoi: 9859054092, Office: 03712 265090, E-mail: asf.nilogon@gmail.com

Contact for Accommodation:

Prof. Swapan Kumar Dolui: 09957198489, Mr. Rajkamal Mohan: 08876166571, Ms. Sudha Thapa: 09613530046, Office: 03712 265090, E-mail: asf.nilogon@gmail.com

Contact for Transport and Travel Assistance:

Dr. Biren Gohain: 09435711892, Ms. Sudha Thapa: 09613530046, Mr. Nipu Dutta: 07896271267, E-mail: asf.nilogon@gmail.com

How to reach Tezpur University:

Tezpur University is located near Tezpur in central Assam. University buses are available from ASTC bus station (15 km). Shared/hired Tempo/auto-rickshaw is available from Parowa Chariali (7 km). Though Tezpur has an airport and a railway station (Dekargaon, DKGN), air and railway travel to Guwahati may be preferred. By road, Guwahati is 180 km away from Tezpur. Tezpur University website is www.tezu.ernet.in