

Water Resource Management

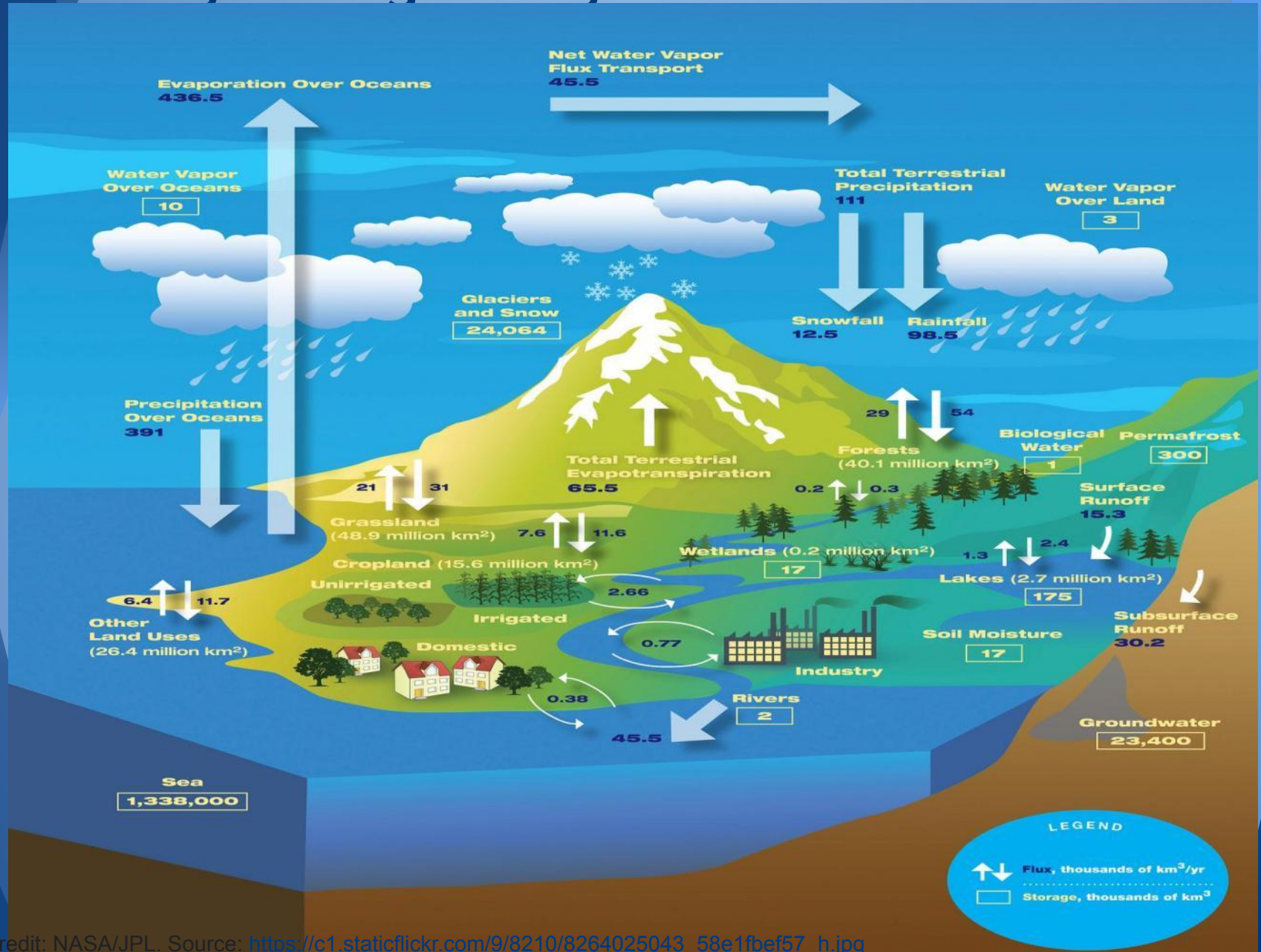
Outline

- Water Cycle
- India's Water Crisis: Depleting resources, pollution, dams agitations, scarcity.
- Sustainable Solutions
 - Supply Side
 - Rainwater Harvesting
 - Watershed Management
 - Demand Side
 - Conservation in Agriculture
 - Conservation in Industry
 - Conservation in Domestic Use

Water Cycle

Watch Video: The Water Cycle (6.46 min).

The Hydrological Cycle



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India's Water Availability

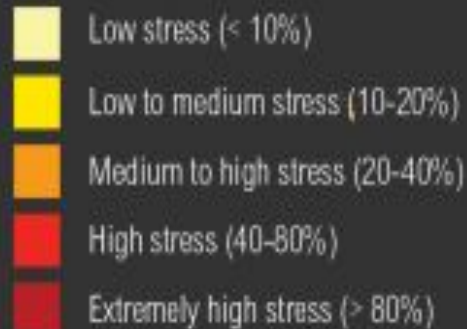
- Per capita availability of water is rapidly declining:
 - Yr. 1951: 5177 m³/yr
 - Yr. 2001: 1816 m³/yr
 - Yr. 2011: 1588 m³/yr [\[ref\]](#)
- India is now a water-stressed country (<1700 m³/yr per capita)
- 128 mi. lack safe water
- More than 60,000 villages without a source of drinking water.



Water-Stressed India

WATER STRESS BY COUNTRY

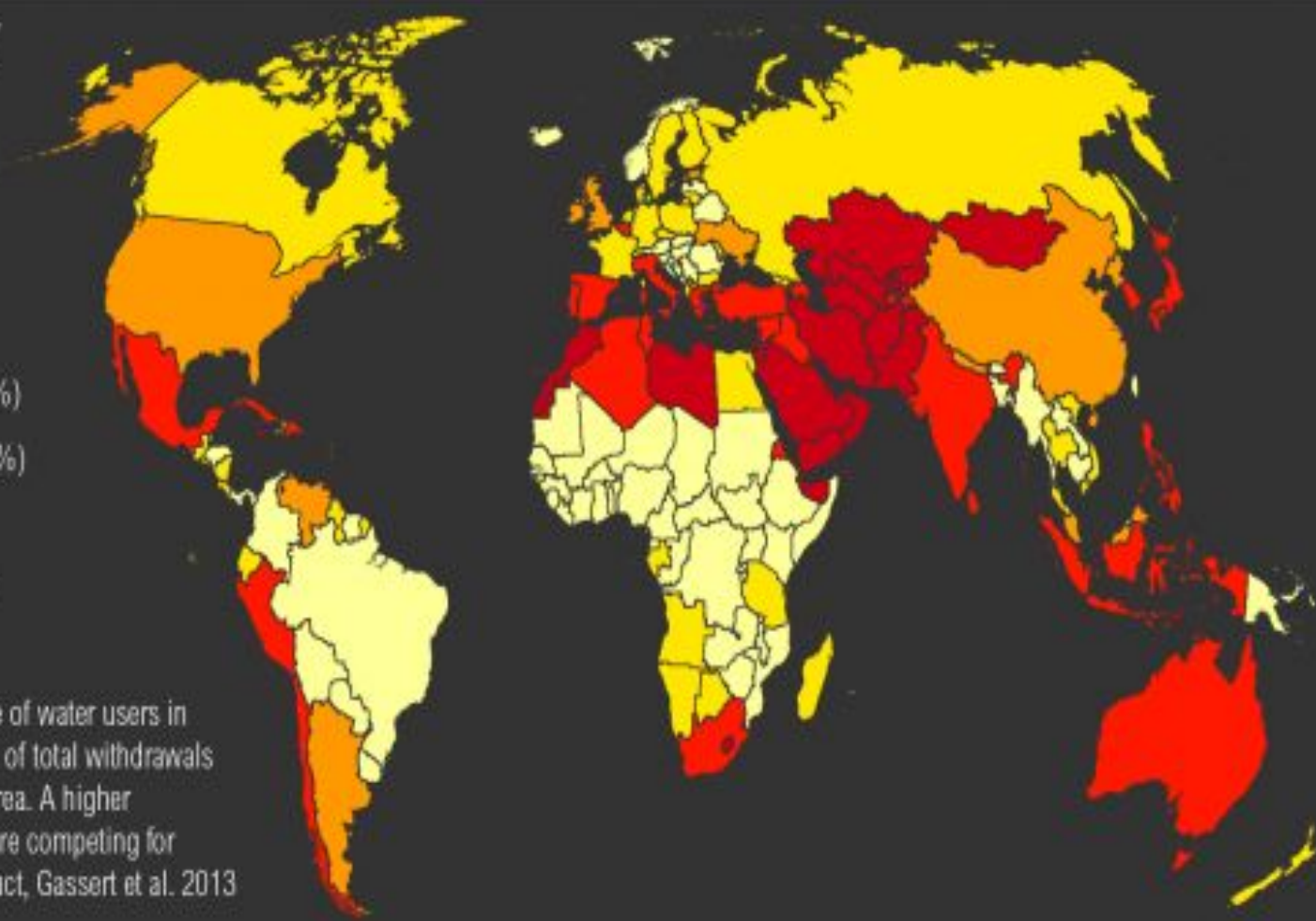
ratio of withdrawals to supply



This map shows the average exposure of water users in each country to water stress, the ratio of total withdrawals to total renewable supply in a given area. A higher percentage means more water users are competing for limited supplies. Source: WRI Aqueduct, Gassert et al. 2013

 AQUEDUCT

 WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE



Why can't we build more dams to increase water supply?

Dammed Rivers--Damned Lives

- Unacceptable socio-environmental impacts [\[ref\]](#)
 - Unfavorable benefit:cost ratio
 - Large scale displacements of populations; poor compensation
 - Disproportionate share of losses borne by people who enjoy little benefits.
 - Downstream impacts unaccounted.
 - Reduced sediment and freshwater discharge to floodplains, riverine and estuarine ecosystems.
 - Severe disruptions in migratory fauna.
- Major people's agitations



Related Reading Material

World Commission on Dams - Dams and Development Project

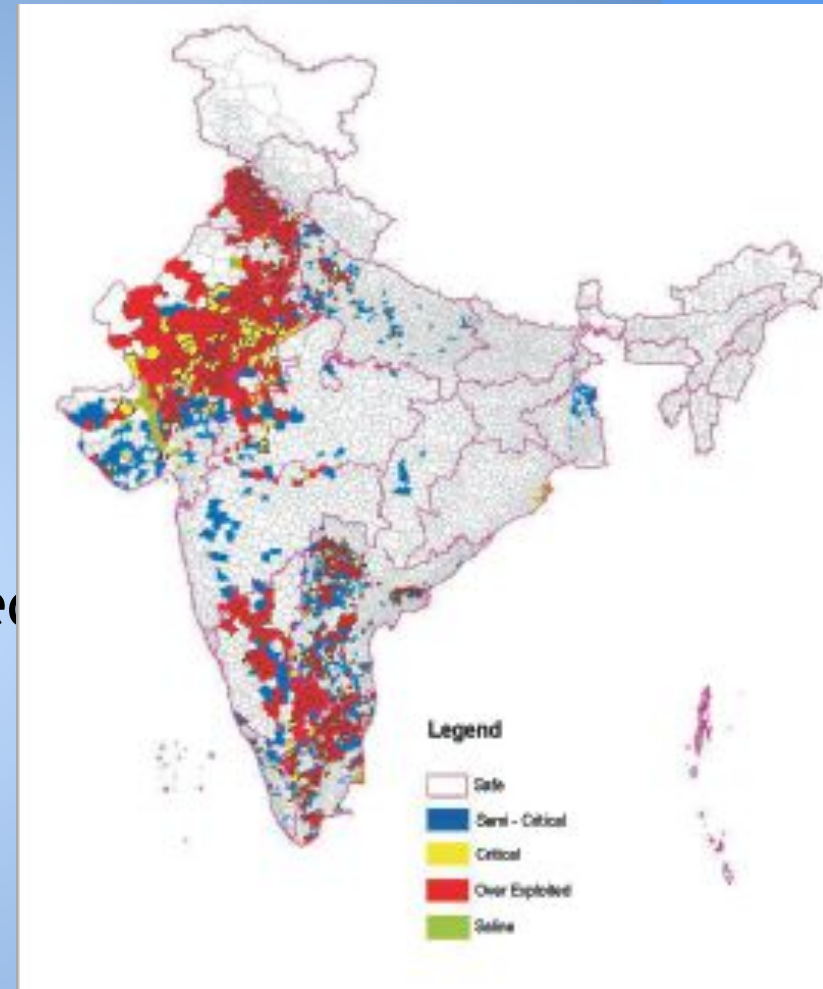
Report of the World Commission on Dams - UNEP
A Brief Introduction To The Narmada Issue

<http://www.internationalrivers.org/>

Why can't we drill more borewells to increase water supply?

India's Groundwater Depletion

- Groundwater
 - Feeds 50-75% of agriculture land
 - 600 mi. overly depend on it. [ref]
 - >90% of it is used for agriculture [ref]
 - 60% will be critically degraded in 20 yrs. [ref]
- Alarming depletion of groundwater
 - Mean rates: 4 cm/yr ($17\text{km}^3/\text{yr}$) [ref]
 - Much higher rates locally.



Central Groundwater Board: <http://www.cgwb.gov.in/>
<http://www.cgwb.gov.in/documents/Dynamic-GW-Resources-2004.pdf>

Why not interlink the major rivers so that the excess water in one river can be diverted to other rivers which have a shortage?

Inter-linking of rivers

Claimed benefits of interlinking Indian rivers:

- No more droughts in the south
- No more floods in Ganga and Brahmaputra
- More power – 30,000 MW of hydropower will be generated

Inter-linking of rivers

- Budget Rs. 5600 to 10,000 billion
- Lowest estimate equals to 25 % of GDP, 2.5 times of our tax collection
- Funds to be raised from international sources
- Even if we succeed in raising funds annual interest alone would amount to Rs. 200-300 billion
- Water will have to be priced high

Inter-linking of rivers

Issues

- People's and political willingness to share water
- Not yet clear whether rivers like Ganga, Brahmaputra, Mahanadi and Godavari are water surplus – as the sources of these rivers are drying up and rivers themselves choked with silt
- Ecological consequences of building over 200 reservoirs and network of canals cannot be assessed

Inter-linking of rivers

Issues

- Large quantity of electricity needed to pump enormous quantity of water over the elevated Deccan Plateau



Inter-linking of rivers

Issues

- Submergence of habitats, forests and fertile land
- Destruction of wildlife and biodiversity
- Displacement of large populations of people

If water availability is reducing, why not reduce water use?

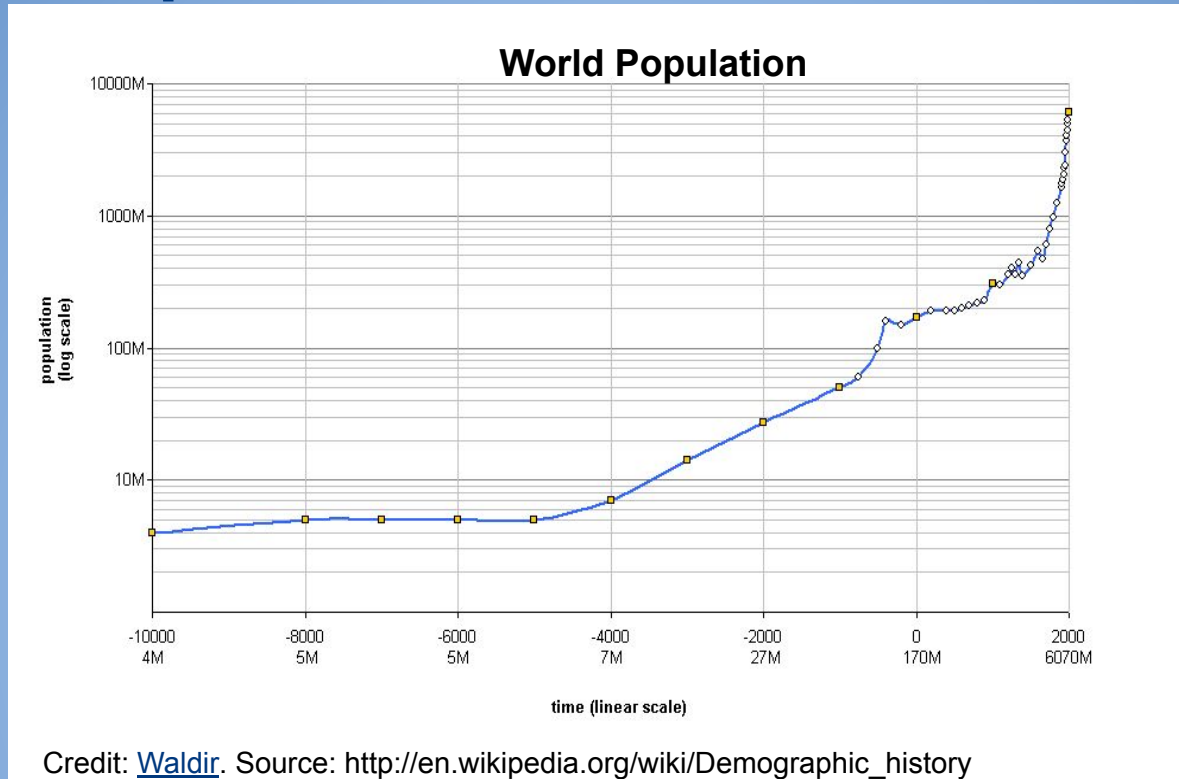
Complications: Food Crisis

- >78% water goes for agriculture.
 - Food for the growing population
 - Increased irrigation demands
 - >50% food comes from irrigated land (35% of arable land).
 - Yields of rainfed arable land (65% of total arable) low due to lack of irrigation and land degradation.
 - **Reducing water use directly conflicts with food production.**



But India is supposed to be the land of great rivers and lakes.
What has become of them?

India's Population Growth



India's Population [\[ref\]](#)

- 1950: 359.0 mi.
- 2014: 1238.9 mi.
- India has some of the highest population densities in the world.

India's Water Pollution

- >70% of India's surface water resources are polluted by sewage and toxic chemicals [[ref](#)]
- Sewage treatment facilities in towns and cities:
 - Full facilities in only 8 cities [[ref](#)]
 - Partial facilities in 209 (6.7%) out of 3,119.
 - Over 114 Indian cities dumping untreated sewage and partially cremated bodies directly into the Ganges. [[ref](#)]



Direct from the tanneries

Tannery Waste
Containing Chromium
Dumped in the Ganges



India's Sewage Treatment

- Installed sewage treatment capacity in India's Class I cities and Class II towns in 2008: [\[ref\]](#) [\[ref\]](#)
 - Only 31.3% (11787 MLD) of total sewage generated (38254 MLD).
 - i.e. 68.7% of sewage is discharged untreated
- Treatment is virtually nonexistent in smaller towns



If the water is polluted, we must provide purified drinking water to all

- Purifying heavily polluted water is expensive!
- Contaminants can include, particulates, dissolved (ionic) impurities, biological contaminants, heavy metals and organic chemicals.
- The cheaper methods of drinking water treatment are often inadequate to remove all the above contaminants.
- The more comprehensive and sophisticated methods are expensive.
- The poorest in the country are hardest-hit by poor water quality.

DRINKING WATER SPECIFICATION: IS: 10500, 1992

WHO Guidelines for drinking-water quality

WHO Guidelines for Recreational, or bathing, waters

Then let's develop innovative cheap water filters or some other technology to purify water.

- Firstly, purifying heavily polluted water is not cheap.
- Besides, this simplistic approach completely misses the complexity of the issue.
- Uncontrolled pollution and depletion of water resources and mismanagement of wastewater are also part of the problem. The solution should give consideration to all these aspects.
- It means we must first understand these aspects adequately...

Come on! There's no need to panic...Indians have a tough immune system...our bodies can surely handle a little water contamination...

Health Effects of Water Pollution

- Water, sanitation, and hygiene-related deaths: 0.4 mi./yr. (WHO 2007).
- The socio-economic costs of water pollution are extremely high: 1.5 mi./yr. children (<5 yrs.) die due to water related diseases,
- 200 mi. person-days of work are lost each year in India.
- National loss of INR 366 bi./year due to water related diseases (Parikh 2004).

<http://www.idfc.com/pdf/report/2011/Chp-19-Water-Pollution-in-India-An-Economic-Appraisal.pdf>

" No single measure would do more to reduce disease and save lives in the developing world than bringing safe water and adequate sanitation to all."

- UN Secretary General Kofi Annan

Ok, fine. How do the infections get into our drinking water anyway?

Through untreated sewage entering water sources
and

OPEN DEFECATION

Rain washes it all into our water bodies.

India's Sanitation

[ref]	Urban	Rural	Total
Improved water supply	96%	84%	88%
Improved sanitation	54%	21%	31%

- No sanitation services for 839 mi.
- Open Defecation
 - India: >50% population (638 mi.)
 - Bangladesh and Brazil: 7%
 - China 4%

Providing Sanitation

- Improved water supply and sanitation increases water demand
 - But supply is already short of the demand.
- It also increases the sewage to be treated
 - Installed treatment capacity is already far short of the requirement.



So the solution is simple: simply provide modern sanitation to all.

Then let's treat all the sewage with the well-established sewage treatment technologies.

Cost of Sewage Treatment

- Energy costs of treatment
 - Conventional: 320 KWh/ML [ref]
- Breakup of energy consumed
 - **Aeration 60%**
 - Anaerobic 11%
 - Pumping 12%
- Energy requirements for treatment
 - 9280 MWh/day (29000MLD x 320 KWh/ML with only 31% population having improved sanitation)
 - 13,449 MWh/day if 100% population enjoys improved sanitation.



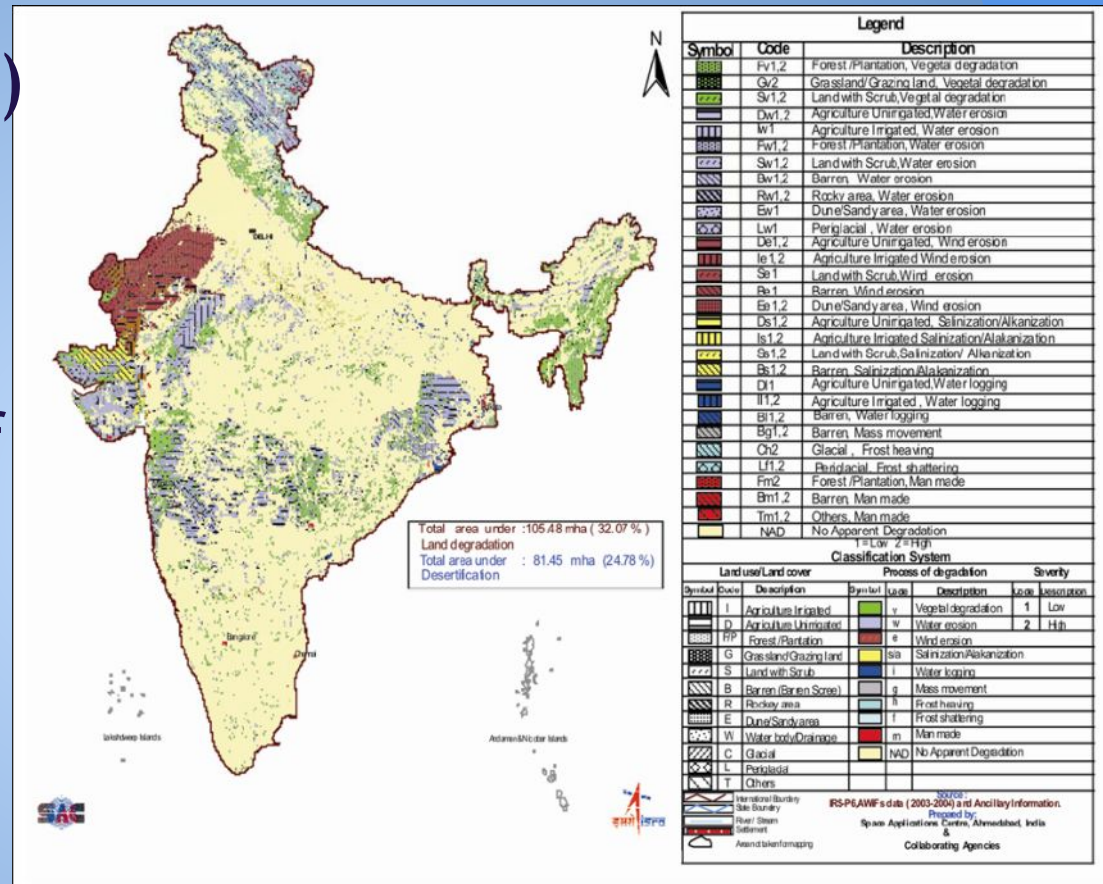
In a country undergoing an ENERGY CRISIS, how can we spend large amounts of power for treating sewage?

There are many other related complicating factors...

For instance, lack of irrigation is not the only reason for low agricultural productivity...

Complications: Land Degradation

- Land Degradation: 105 mi. ha (32.07%)
- Desertification 81.45 mi. ha (24.78%)
- Productivity loss of Rs. 28,500cr./yr
- Equivalent to 12% loss in total value productivity of these lands.
- Organic carbon inputs can be beneficial



Many socio-environmental problems are related to overcrowding and unplanned urbanization...

Bad governance is of course an important factor causing unsustainability...

So solving India's water crisis, is not going to be easy.

Activity: Water Quality in Nearby Sources

- Choose a nearby river, lake, or groundwater source.
- It may be conducted as a:
 - Field trip + Home Assignment
 - Home Assignment
 - Class Activity (by teacher providing necessary data).
- Have them fill out a form with the relevant information:
 - Use internet resources, newspaper clippings
 - Contact government bodies
 - Contact local NGOs working in the field of water.

Compare it with IS: 10500 or WHO Guidelines

- Identify main water quality issues (eg. hardness, coliform organisms, specific contaminants etc.)
- Identify other issues (such as eutrophication, drying out, flooding, etc.) and their causes.

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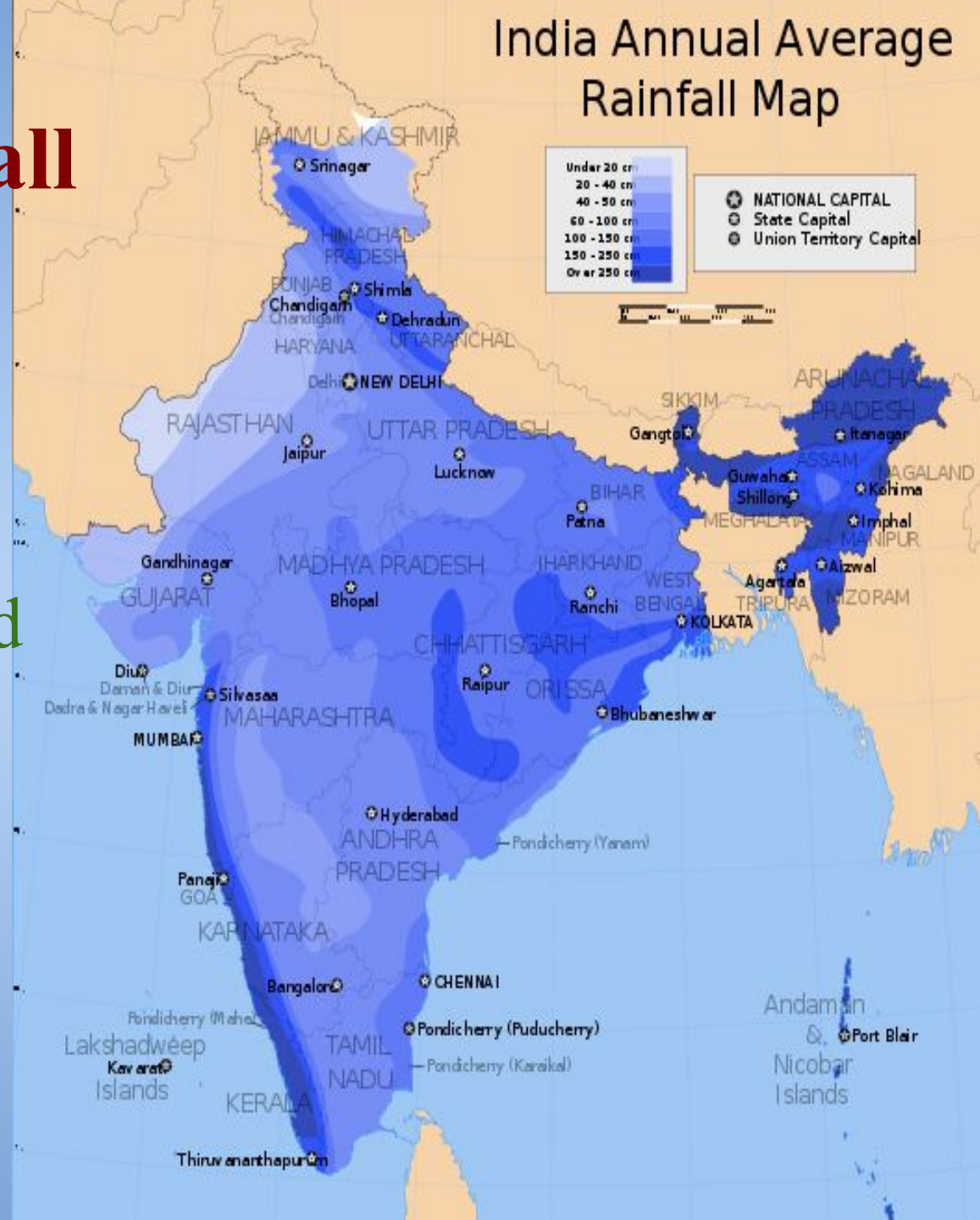
Evolving Solutions

- Coordinated efforts from various sectors and agencies are required.
- Interventions in two areas required:
 - Making more water available (Supply side)
 - Rainwater Harvesting
 - Watershed Management
 - Using water efficiently, without polluting resources (Demand Side)
 - Agriculture
 - Industry
 - Domestic

India Annual Average Rainfall Map

India's Rainfall

- >80% of India gets at least 40 cm rain.
- Watershed management and rainwater harvesting is convenient for most places in India.



Solutions: Rainwater Harvesting

- Rainwater harvesting^[ref] for **drinking water**
 - Need: 5 L/capita/day; **1825 L/capita/yr**
 - Collection: L/m²/capita per cm of avg. annual rainfall.
 - Assuming >70% India gets at least 40 cm rain.
 - >70% population has more than 5 m²/capita roof area
 - With 5 m² roof area and 40 cm rain, **2000L** can be collected.
 - Storage costs: Rs. 0.50-10/L (Rs. 1000-20,000/capita)
 - Cost reduction through community self-help.
 - Excess collected water to recharge aquifer through borewell or recharge wells.

Drinking Water: Collecting and Storing; Not Purification

- **Water purification to drinking standards**
 - Requires removal of hardness, dissolved organic and ionic contaminants, and disinfection.
 - High technology problem: desalination, ultrafiltration etc.
 - Cost reduction requires technological advances.
- **Collecting and storing (already clean) rainwater**
 - Low tech problem, with different cost options.
 - The lower cost options are communal storage, which involve the community owning up the responsibility to build and maintain the clean drinking water infrastructure.
 - More consistent with a sustainable community development.

Activity: Rainwater Harvesting for Your Home

- Calculate the total rooftop area for your family and per capita.
- Find out the average annual rainfall for your city
- Calculate the amount of rainwater falling on your roof that can be stored
 - Assume 20% losses (evaporation and first wash rejected).
- Design your own rainwater harvesting system, employing the local plumber.
- Calculate system cost.

Other high tech and high cost options to purify water may be used in the limited cases and regions, where rainwater harvesting is not possible.

Outline

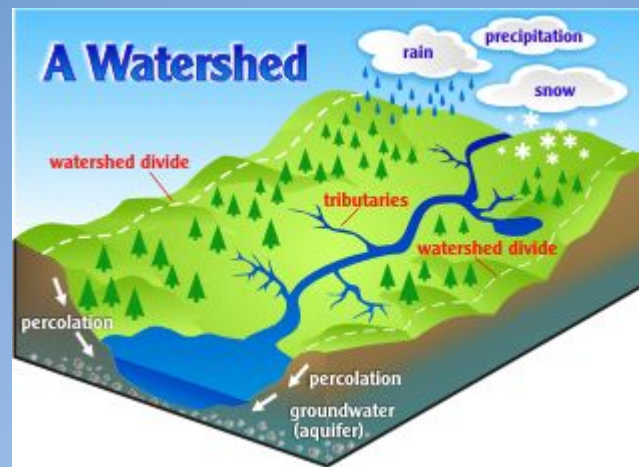
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How to ensure that enough water is made available for all our other requirements?

Making More Water Available

- Water circulates in the biosphere through the Water Cycle.
- Water is directly useful for humans in only part of that cycle: **from rainfall to until it flows to the sea.**
- India's monsoon: 80% of rainfall in June-September [\[ref\]](#)
- Good management of water during this part can significantly increase both the quality and quantity of water available.
- This is called Watershed Management.
- Let's first try to understand what is meant by a Watershed.

Watershed



Credit: Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. Source: <http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt?open=514&objID=588795&mode=2>

- The area from which all the water flows to the same place (larger river, lake or ocean.)
- It contains streams, rivers and underground flow.
- Smaller watersheds (the size of a village) are part of larger watersheds (size of states).
- Natural ecosystems (forests, wetlands) are part of the watershed.
- Our homes, roads, cities are part of some watershed.
- Pollutants are carried downstream with the water.

Slowing the Flow of Water

- The basic principle is to slow down the flow of water after rainfall.
 - Water flowing over the surface can reach the ocean in a matter of days...no water for the dry months.
 - Water that is held up in tanks, or which infiltrates the ground, takes months or years to reach the ocean...and can be used during the dry months.
- Adequate availability of water, more even distribution (in space and time) and its quality depends on good management practices throughout the watershed.

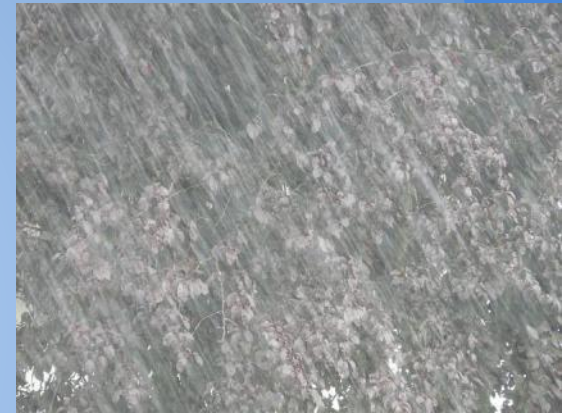
Natural Ecosystems Are Essential

- Natural ecosystems (consisting of plants) are part of watersheds and are essential in maintaining their health.
- They improve the quality and quantity of water and available to humans.

Let's see how...

How Do Plants Protect the Soil and Water?

- Raindrops impact the soil at their terminal velocity (At sea level, 7.2-32 km/h. [ref])
- Create small craters, [6] & eject soil particles upto 0.6 m vertically and 1.5 m horizontally.
- If soil is vegetated or covered with ground litter, the impact is intercepted.
 - Water trickles gently to the soil, preventing soil damage.



Vegetated Soils Reduce Runoff

- Vegetation slows runoff velocity: limits sheet erosion.
- Roots hold the soil; prevent gully formation.
- Vegetated soil (shade and ground litter) provides shade and moisture for soil creatures that burrow and turn the soil.
- The plant root mass and ground litter adds organic matter to soil, which provides nutrients and soil carbon (humus) to the soil; improves fertility.
- Some plants fix nitrogen and improve fertility.

How Do Plants Protect the Soil and Water?

- Soil rich in organic carbon → absorbs water like a sponge → greater moisture retained → improved productivity of the the land.
- Such soil has a crumbly structure (high porosity). Also, it has burrows of soil organisms like earthworms.
- This leads to high rates of ground infiltration of rainwater → high aquifer recharge; reduced runoff.
- Reduced runoff and reduced silt load.

Plants--Essential for Water Management

Rain falling on→ Causes:	Barren Land	Vegetated Land
Direct impact of raindrops on soil	Yes	No
Loss of soil structure, soil erosion	Yes	No
Ground infiltration, aquifer recharge, slow discharge to streams and rivers throughout the year	Low	High
Surface runoff and downstream flooding, silting of downstream dams.	High	Low
Potential downstream usability of water by humans throughout the year (via wells, borewells and rivers)	Low	High

Watershed as a Whole

- As water flows downstream after rainfall we must:
 - Slow it down to prevent erosion.
 - Store it in tanks, ponds and lakes wherever possible.
 - Encourage ground infiltration (aquifer recharge).
 - Prevent pollution (urban or agricultural pollution)
 - Prevent over-extraction. Plan water use based on availability.
 - Minimize leakages and evaporative losses
 - Consume consciously.

Watershed Management Practices

- Protection of vegetation in the catchment (control of deforestation, overgrazing and fire).
- Terracing, contour trenches, planted bunds, swales.
- Tanks, Farm ponds, percolation tanks.
- Check-dams, small and medium dams.
- Prevention of overuse and wastage of ground and surface water.
- Planting of water conserving and locally & seasonally adapted crops.
- Prevention of water pollution.

Watch Video: [Watershed Management](#) (2.10 min)

Flood Management in Watersheds

- Reducing the scale of floods through better catchment management, controlling runoff, and protection of wetlands.
- Multiple small dams (with fish ladders etc), bunds, percolation tanks throughout catchment
- Isolation of flood threat by flood embankments, flood proofing and limiting floodplain development.
- Increasing people's coping capacity with emergency planning, forecasting, warnings, evacuation, compensation and insurance.

Energy in Watersheds

- Large hydroelectric projects generate large amounts of power but have high socio-environmental costs.
- Alternative watershed management programs can also generate power by:
 - Distributed micro-hydro (<100KW) & mini-hydro (<10MW) projects.
 - Deploying other renewable energy sources such as wind, solar and biogas throughout the watershed...

Need for Community Involvement

- Community-driven, awareness, education, gender-equality, justice, local livelihood generation.

Watch Videos: Hiware Bazar: The town of 52 Millionaires (9 min).

The ideal village in india -- hiware bazaar (8.43min)

Dying wisdom

Ancient methods intercepted the flow of water without ecological disturbance.

- **Hill and mountain regions:**
 - Diversion channels (*guhls* and *kuhls* of western Himalaya).
- **Arid and semi-arid regions:**
 - Tanks (the *eri* system of Tamil Nadu).
 - Checkdams (*johads* of Rajasthan).
- **Plains and floodplains:**
 - Inundation channels (West Bengal).
- **Coastal area:**
 - Control saline water intrusion(*khazana* lands of Goa).

Low cost, community controlled, adapted to local ecology and offered protection from droughts and floods.

Activity: Identify Your Watershed

- Which watershed do you belong?
- Classify: Well-vegetated, partly, degraded, urban
- What are the major issues?
- Intervening for Solutions:
 - Identify governmental agencies
 - Identify NGOs
 - Form or join citizens groups
 - Industry associations
 - Legal instruments

National Rural Employment Guarantee Act
Watershed Works Manual 2006

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Once we have enough water available for our use, how can we maximize its benefit?

Or how do we use the minimum water to get the desired benefit?

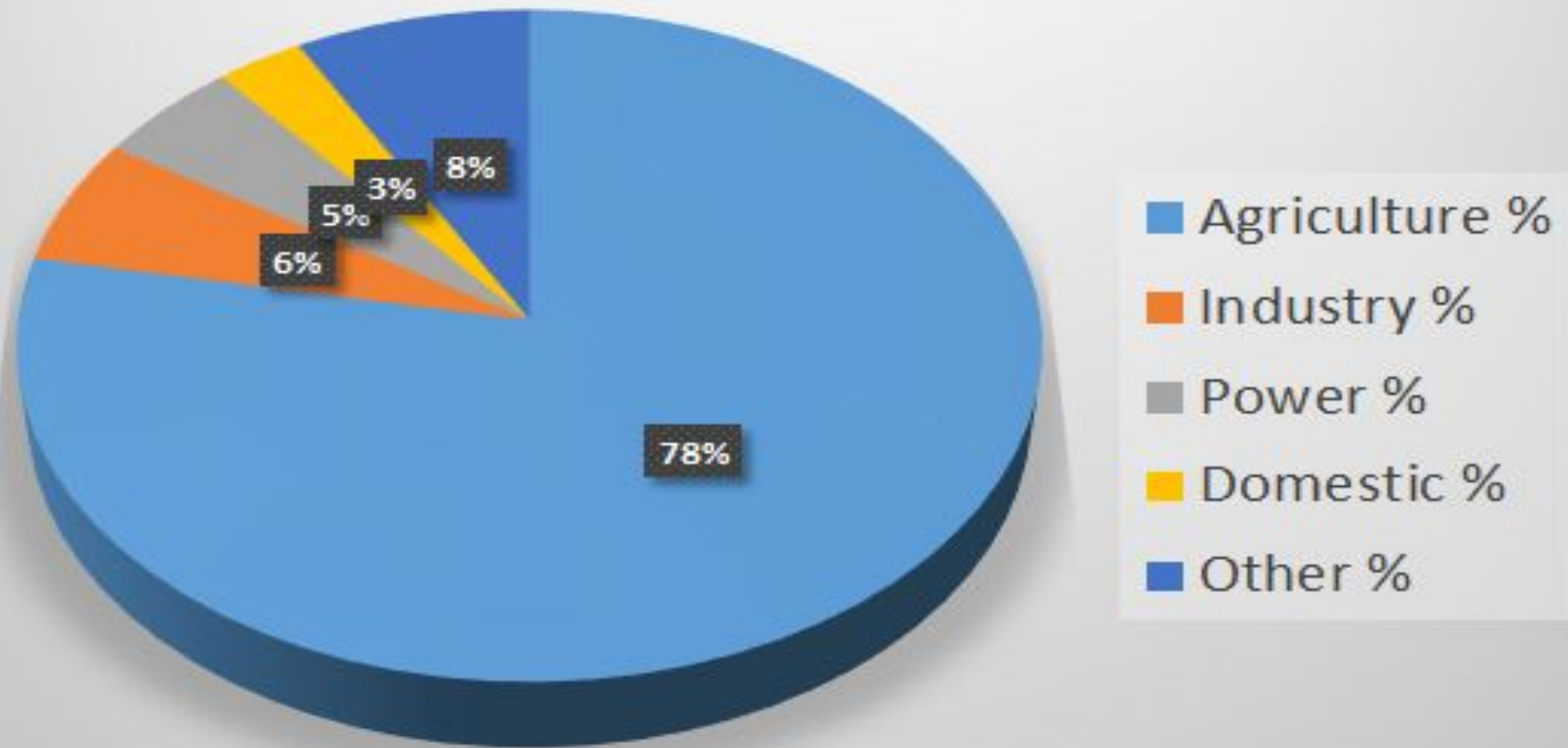
India's Water Consuming Sectors

Sector	2010	2050
Agriculture %	78	68
Industry %	6	7
Power Development %	5	6
Domestic %	3	9.5
Other % (evaporation, environment, navigation)	8	9.5
TOTAL (BCM*)	710	1180

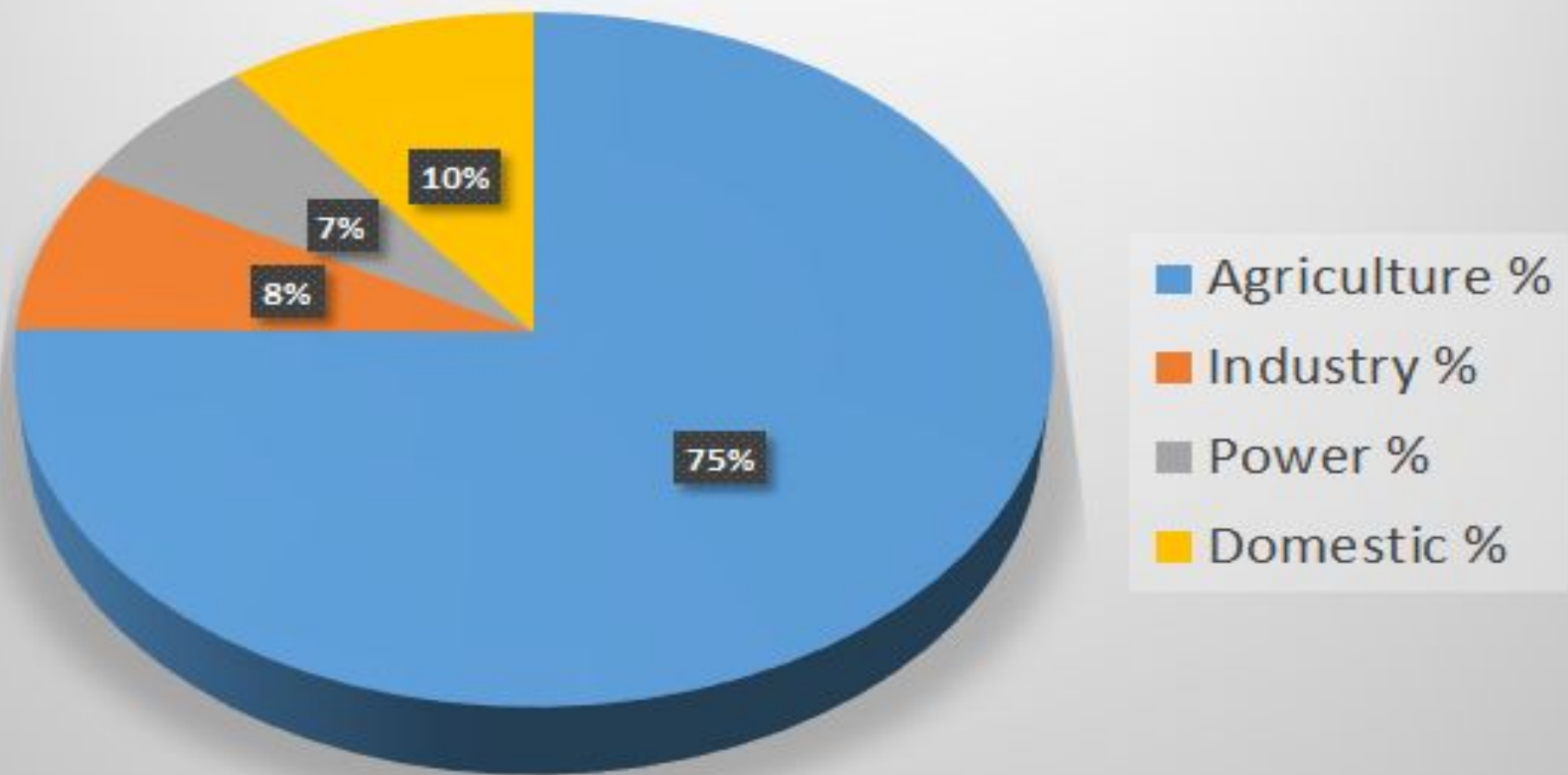
* Billion cubic meter

The National Commission for Integrated Water Resources Development (NCIWRD)

India's Sector-Wise Water Consumption 2010



India's Sector-Wise Water Consumption 2050



Water in Agriculture (78% of total)

Water, agriculture, food and waste are inseparable.

- 78% water goes for agriculture.
- >50% food comes from irrigated land (35% of arable land).
- Land Degradation (loss of soil carbon and moisture) affects 105 mi. ha (32.07%)-- **A Rs. 28,500cr./yr loss of productivity.**
- **Low input organic polycultures (agro-ecosystems) can revolutionize agriculture and water use.**
 - Yields of rainfed arable land (65% of total arable) can be improved drastically (15-150%)
 - Can drastically reduce the water use of irrigated lands while providing the same yield.
 - Inputs of carbonaceous waste to soil can drastically improve productivity & reduce water use.

Food, Water, Land

Watch:

- [Change the Way You Think About Food](#) (2.16min). --WWF.
- [300 Year Old Food Forest in Vietnam](#) (6 min)

Low Input Organic Polycultures

Need to develop highly productive low input polycultures/ intercropping/ agro-ecosystems with the following features:

- Max. food calories/liter water^{[\[ref\]](#)}.
- High diversity including alternative crops such as minor millets and vegetables, tree crops etc.
- Crops adapted to local conditions: temperature, drought, salinity, pest and disease resilience etc. so that minimum inputs are required.
- Strategies such as mulching, biochar amendment to reduce soil water evaporation, retain soil moisture and nutrients.
- Use conservation irrigation practices such as drip irrigation.
- Using greywater / reclaimed water for irrigation.
- Conservation-favoring water tariffs, regulation, subsidies.

Industrial Water Use (6% of total)

- **Industry runs to provide us with the products we buy. All of them need water and energy to make, distribute, use and discard.**
- All products contain embodied water:
 - Potato (100g) 25L
 - Slice of bread (30g) 40L
 - Cup of coffee (125ml) 140L
 - Bag of potato crisps (200g) 185L
 - Glass of milk (200ml) 200L
 - Hamburger (150g) 2400L
 - Cotton T-shirt (medium, 500g) 4100L
 - Pair of shoes (bovine leather) 8000L

Your shopping drains the nation of water and energy!

Reducing consumerism reduces the crisis in water and energy.

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Industrial Water Use

- Specialized treatment is needed for industrial effluent.
- **Green chemistry and green production processes can reduce the environmental impacts significantly.**
- Industries must gradually evolve towards recycling water 100%; closed loop production.
 - This can raise production costs & encourage conscientious consumption.
- Industrial symbiosis networks can allow exchange of material and energy streams between processes within the same industry and other industries and industry to non-food agriculture.
- **Use low-energy water treatment and recycling where water is free of persistent and highly toxic pollutants.**
 - e.g. Planted filters, constructed wetlands, soil biotechnology (IIT-B), DEWATS etc.

Case Studies of Industries having closed the
water loop. [\[ref\]](#)

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Domestic Water Use in India (3-5% of total)

- Local scarcities are common: high pop. density relative to water availability.
- Sewage contamination is a major contributor to water pollution.
- 70% surface water sources polluted.
 - *68% wastewater is discharged into river, lakes and ground, untreated.*
- Conventional treatment costs are high; but alternatives exist.
- Sewage contains Rs 1,091 mi. of agro-fertilization value that is lost annually. **Can we recover this value?**

Greening Domestic Water Use

- Integrated water, energy, waste disposal and food production systems at household/community scale.
- Eliminate persistent chemicals from the water use cycle to facilitate recycling and reuse.
- **Separation of greywater from blackwater (approx. 50-50 proportion)**
 - facilitates water reuse
 - reduces energy consumption and cost of treatment.
- **Composting toilets can**
 - Reduce the household water use by nearly 50% (flush-free)
 - Save a lot of energy.
 - Yield compost with high nutrient value for agriculture or gardening.

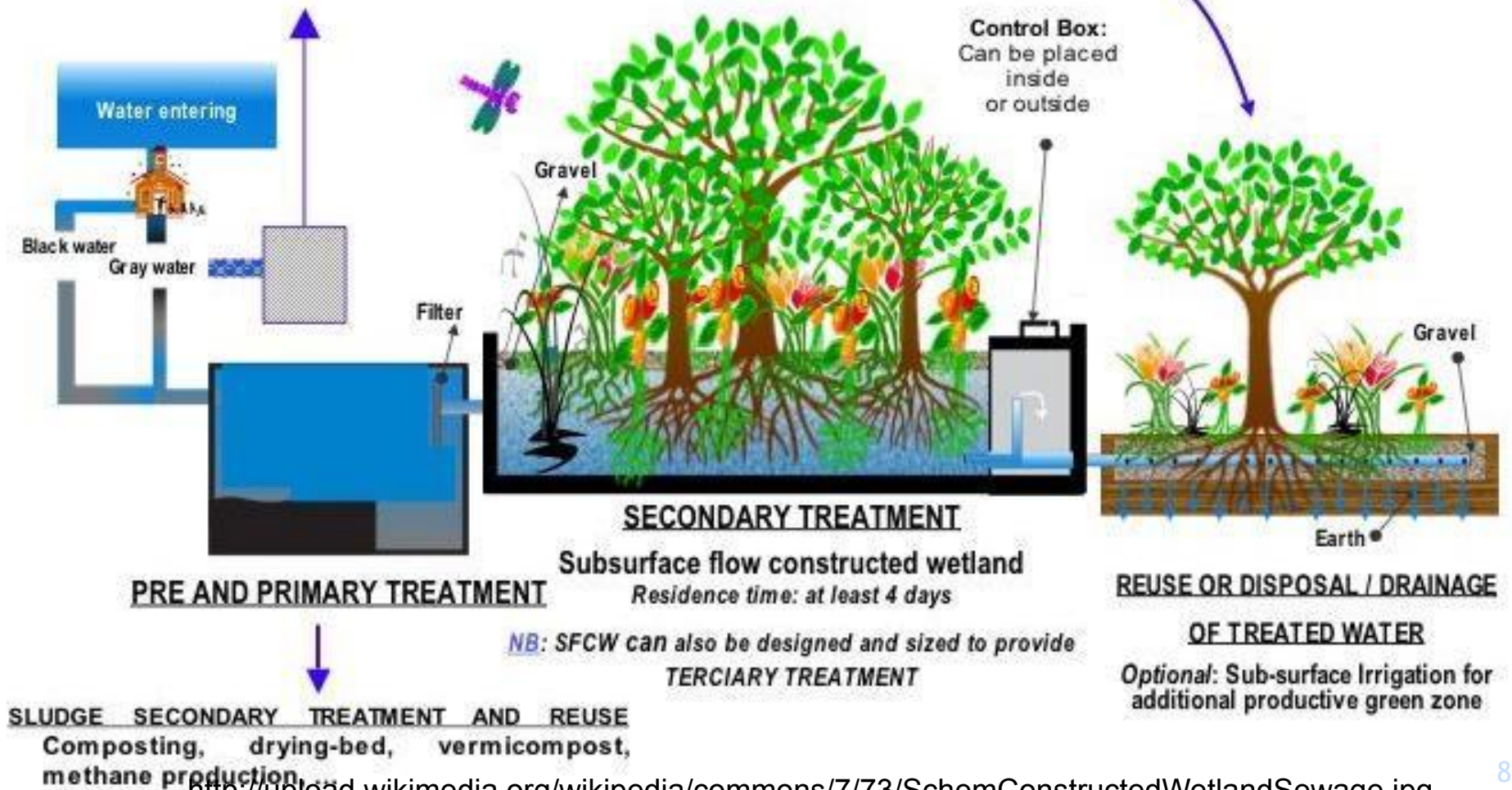
Alternative Wastewater Treatment Methods

- **Alternative methods of wastewater treatment can save a lot of energy (& money):**
 - **Conventional: 1800-8000 KWh/MG**
 - **Alternative method (Video: [Soil biotech method, IITB 7.28 min](#)): 0.01 KWh/MG** [[ref1](#) [ref2](#) [ref3](#)]
 - **Planted filters, constructed wetlands, DEWATS etc.**
 - Provide substantial benefits (like compost, agricultural produce, biogas etc.)
 - Can have longer treatment times and greater land requirements.

Alternative Wastewater Treatment

Subsurface flow constructed wetlands (SFCW)

NB: When possible gray water to be separated from the black water



Domestic Effluent
(Sewage)

Effluent Treatment
Plant

Reclaimed
Water

Sludge

High electricity, inputs

Land Application
(Pollution?)

- **Simple system**
- Low output of value-added products
- High external inputs
- Lower infrastructure
- Lower long-term profitability

Domestic Effluent
(Sewage)

Open wetland with
ducks

Plant Biomass (e.g. water
hyacinth, algae)

Biogas or
Pyrolysis Plant

Reclaimed
Water

Eggs

Energy

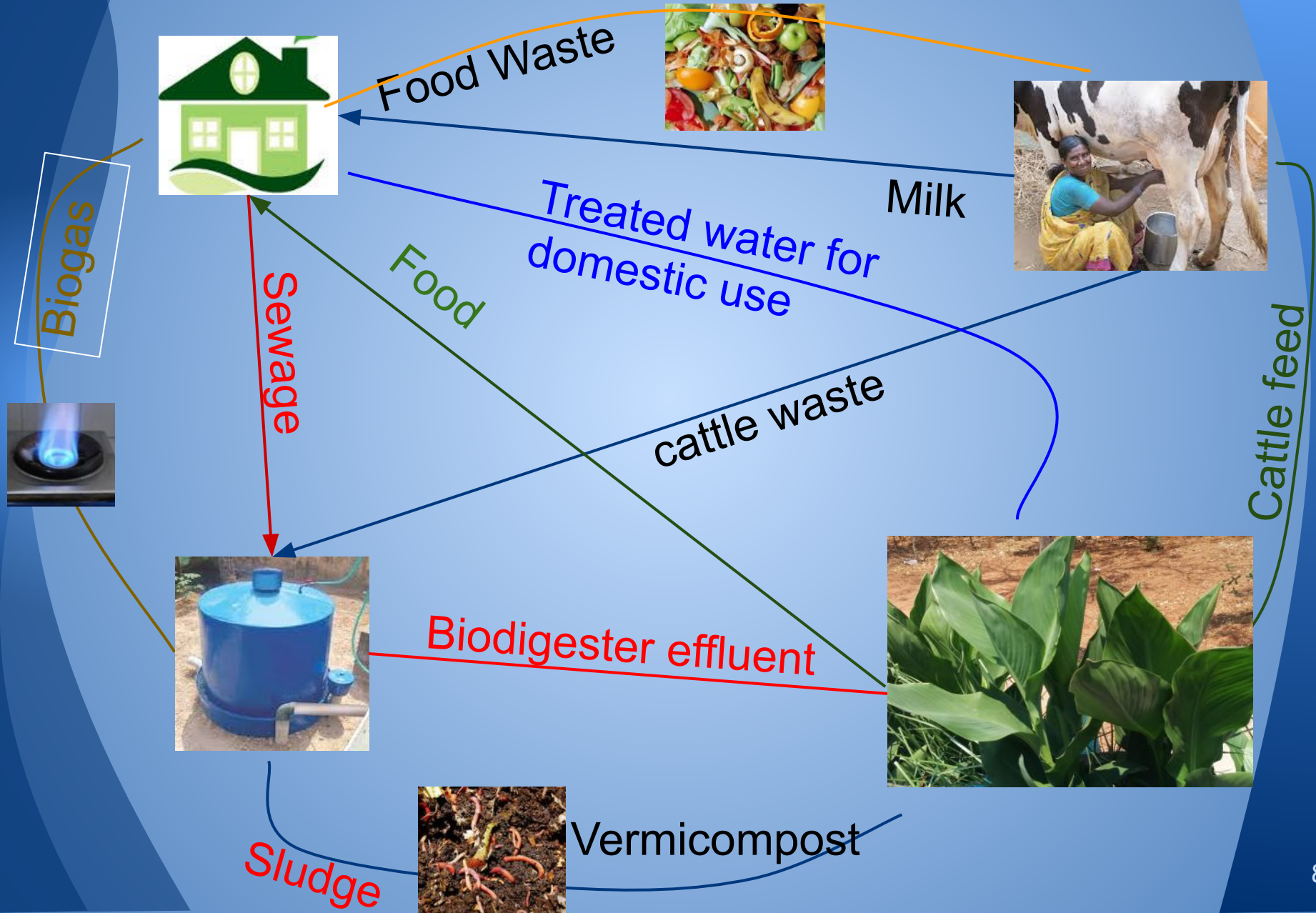
- **Complex system**
- High output of value-added products
- Low external inputs
- Higher infrastructure
- Drastically higher long-term profitability

Adapted from:
<http://www.indiangreenservice.com/resources.html>

Solution for Multiple Related Problems

- A water-management strategy that:
 - Treats wastewater to domestic use quality (pathogen removal, BOD reduction, turbidity and odor removal).
 - Provides reclaimed water (reduces the need to extract water from environmental sources.)
 - Consumes less energy or...PROVIDES ENERGY!!
 - Is low cost or...GENERATES REVENUE!!
 - Consumes less space or provides multiple uses of the same space.
 - Provides other products such as food or wood (reduces the need for irrigation elsewhere)
 - Reduces problems of urbanization by providing green spaces, recreation.

Schematic of a Multi-Utility System



Potential System Outputs

- Treated water returned for domestic use.
- Vermicompost
- Biogas
- Food (fruits and vegetables)
- Milk
- Wood

Planted Filter



Watch Video: Smart & Ecological Use of Roofs (5.10)

Relevant resources: <http://www.sswm.info/>

What can I do?

- Minimize personal water use (domestic, gardening, etc)
- Consume only what you need. Shop less and waste nothing!
- Install/build home greywater recycling systems.
- Use the recycled water for a kitchen garden.
- Install water-conserving toilets or composting toilets
- Close / repair leaking taps
- Use natural domestic and personal cleaners and cosmetics.
Avoid toxic chemicals in the home and garden.
- Install rainwater harvesting.
- Disseminate information on efficient technologies, organic farming.

Thank You!

Extra Resources

What is Watershed Development? (2.10min)

Drainage System in India | 3D Animated Education Video of Class 9, 10 | ncert history (9min)

Environmental Science videos on Consortium on Educational Communication-UGC.