

Scientist warns against disastrous effects of KC Valley project

CHIKKABALLAPUR: IISc scientist T V Ramachandra said the sewage water from Bengaluru will have catastrophic effects on the environment and biodiversity, if let into tanks without being properly treated.

Speaking at a workshop on KC Valley project, organised by the permanent irrigation committee, here on Tuesday, the scientist said a study conducted by the IISc scientists had found that untreated sewage water was fed to 98 per cent of the lakes in Bengaluru. "Letting this harmful water into lakes has led to the accumulation of heavy metals in the water not just in these lakes, but also in the borewells and tanks in and around them (lakes)," he said.

The scientist lamented that as many as 250 write-ups produced by him since 2005 had failed to give a wake up call to the government.

Bengaluru lakes fall under 'D' and 'E' categories. The water in these 'useless' lakes contains chemicals that are more than the permissible limits prescribed by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and the World Health Organisation, according to the scientist. He said the water was not even fit for agriculture.

He said their study had found harmful chemicals in the vegetables and greens grown using the sewage water in and around

Bengaluru. "The consumption of these vegetables will lead to kidney-related problems. One person for every one lakh population reported kidney problems, when we were young. But the ratio is one person for every 5,000 population today. We do not have to wonder, if every family happens to undergo dialysis in the next five or six years. The rich can buy kidneys. But, where do the poor get this organ from, if theirs are damaged?"

The scientist said the Constitution guaranteed pure water and air to its citizens, and said everyone should question, when their right is breached.

He said the water is not getting treated to the extent claimed by the government. "Let anyone drink this water and prove that this water is fit for drinking. I will withdraw my report," he said.

He said he would have no issues with the project, if the government guaranteed that the water was well treated and free from all chemicals.

Organic farming expert K R Hullunachegowda said the project was likely to show disastrous results in the long run.

Permanent Irrigation Committee president R Anjaneya Reddy, members of the public and various organisations attended the workshop.

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IISc scientist T V Ramachandra addresses participants at a workshop on KC Valley project in Chikkaballapur on Tuesday.

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