

# The Royal Institute of Technology will complete the arsenic mitigation implementation study in 2014

*The arsenic challenge – to find an efficient weapon against a stealth killer*

Arsenic is a dangerous poison. In large quantities it leads to immediate death. In smaller quantities it slowly breaks down the immune response. Death is not imminent but comes after years or decades of slowly worsening illnesses - very much the same symptoms as with AIDS.

Arsenic is one of the most common minerals in the ground. In some places of the world the levels of natural arsenic are extremely high. As surface waters deteriorate more and more people have to resort to new ground-water sources. Many of these contain arsenic. When new wells are sunk in arsenic-rich ground the arsenic will seep into these wells.

Arsenic is difficult to remove with existing water treatment technologies. The technology that HVR uses is however been proven to remove arsenic efficiently and completely. The challenge has been to design an affordable and robust product.

The Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) is now funding a feasibility study for implementing HVRs technology. It is being pursued the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH) of Stockholm, Sweden and Grameen Shakti, a subsidiary of Grameen Bank, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

The study is called Biogas based poly-generation for rural development in Bangladesh (Access to clean energy and services) and looks at the possibility to introduce polygeneration systems for providing electricity and pure water (arsenic free) on the community level in communities that are afflicted by arsenic or salinity in well water.

During 2014 a plan will be prepared to set up demonstration units.

There is hope for tens of millions in Bangladesh (and perhaps hundreds of millions around the world) who are today suffering from arsenic poisoning. Arsenic is a stealth killer.

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