

# The Hyderabad Declaration on Wastewater Use in Agriculture

14 November 2002

1. Rapid urbanisation places immense pressure on the world's fragile and dwindling fresh water resources and over-burdened sanitation systems, leading to environmental degradation. We as water, health, environment, agriculture, and aquaculture researchers and practitioners from 27 institutions and representing experiences in wastewater management from 18 countries recognise that:

1.1 Wastewater (raw, diluted or treated) is a resource of increasing global importance, particularly in urban and peri-urban agriculture

1.2 With proper management, wastewater use contributes significantly to sustaining livelihoods, food security and the quality of the environment

1.3 Without proper management, wastewater use poses serious risks to human health and the environment.

2. We declare that in order to enhance the positive outcomes while minimising the risks of wastewater use, there exist feasible and sound measures that need to be applied. These measures include:

2.1 Cost-effective and appropriate treatment suitable for wastewater, supported by guidelines and their application

2.2 Where wastewater is insufficiently treated, until treatment becomes feasible:

– Development and application of guidelines for untreated wastewater use to safeguard livelihoods, public health and the environment

– Application of appropriate irrigation, agricultural, post-harvest, education and public health practices that limit risks to farming communities, vendors, and consumers.

2.3 Health, agriculture and environmental quality guidelines that are linked and implemented in a step-wise approach

2.4 Reduction at source of toxic contaminants in wastewater.

3. We also declare that:

3.1 Knowledge needs should be addressed through research to support the measures outlined above

3.2 Institutional coordination and integration together with increased financial allocations are required.

4. Therefore, we strongly urge policy-makers and authorities in the fields of water, agriculture, aquaculture, health, environment and urban planning, as well as donors and the private sector to:

***Safeguard and strengthen livelihoods and food security, mitigate health and environmental risks and conserve water resources by confronting the realities of wastewater use in agriculture through the adoption of appropriate policies and the commitment of financial resources for policy implementation.***