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Impacts of water pollution on food safety and health risk in India

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Food safety is a major concern for the Indian public. Water is an indispensable natural resource on the earth. Two-third of the earth surface is covered by water. Water has extreme importance for survival of all living organisms. The water content in them is almost 70% of their body weight. Natural resources are the important wealth, water is one of them. Water is a wonder of the nature. No life without water-is a common saying depending upon the fact that water is one of the naturally occurring important requirements of all life supporting activities. Environmental pollution and food safety are two of the most important issues. Water pollution, in particular, is having a historically impacted on food safety which represents an important threat to human health. Water scarcity, toxic metals, pesticide over-application, and chemical pollutants are considered to be the most important factors impacting on food safety in India. India, have led to the long-term use of waste-water irrigation to fulfil the water requirements for agricultural production. In some regions, this has caused serious agricultural land and food pollution, especially for heavy metals. It is important, therefore, that issues threatening food safety such as combined pesticide residues and toxic metal pollution are addressed to reduce risks to human health. The increasing negative effects on food safety from water pollution have put more people at risk of carcinogenic diseases. Derived from anthropogenic activities, Nickel (Ni), Copper (Cu), Arsenic (As), Mercury (Hg), Cadmium (Cd) and Lead (Pb) are the most significant toxic metals influencing in water pollution in India.

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