



Due to persistent drought throughout certain states in India, untreated wastewater (not pictured here) is often times the only reliable source of irrigation water for farmers. It has been suggested that approximately 80% of wastewater (partially diluted or undiluted) is used to irrigate fields throughout India. It is used not only for its economic benefits but also as a coping strategy among the poor. The sale of this wastewater is also often times used by economically constrained families as a profitable income-generating activity.

Questions:

1. Who are the two different parties of people and the three different resources that are at risk in this irrigation activity?
2. What potential public health problems (direct and indirect) could arise from this situation?
3. As a public health official in the area, what are the first steps you would take to improve this situation?
4. What are the potential obstacles you could be faced with within rural communities and villages?
5. Who would need to be involved? How would you ensure compliance and cooperation among these individuals?
6. What kind of management support would be needed for your suggested intervention (i.e. monitoring and accountability)?
7. What stakeholders would need to be involved?