

Water Quality: View from a NGO

Arghyam
www.arghyam.org



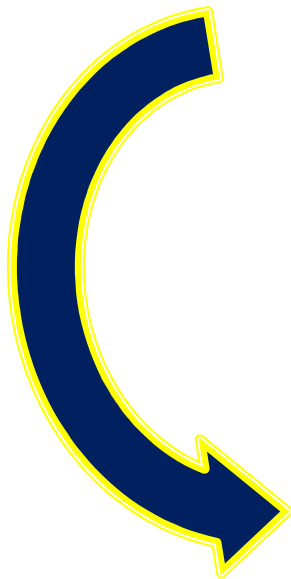
Supporting community water management



Public charitable foundation

40 projects; 18 states

Partners-Government, NGOs, Research institutions



Integrated domestic water management



Water security



Sanitation



Groundwater management



Water quality



Advocacy



Capacity building

Our water quality work

Arsenic: Water for People, West Bengal

Fluoride: SACHETANA govt project, Karnataka

Iron: Water Aid India and SSUD, Orissa

Bacteriological: HSS, Uttarakhand; WWAGS,
Manipur; DA, Bundelkhand etc

Emergency (floods): MPA, Bihar

Some observations from our work

H₂S Strip Test

- A simple, easy-to-use test
- Developed in India, endorsed by WHO, UNICEF
- Why isn't it used more ?
- In this case, tech. solution is there, but ground reach is not there.



The Problem of Nitrates

- Growing problem
- In an extensive survey of rural Karnataka (15000 households, all districts) we found nitrate contamination of 40ppm or above in 20% of samples

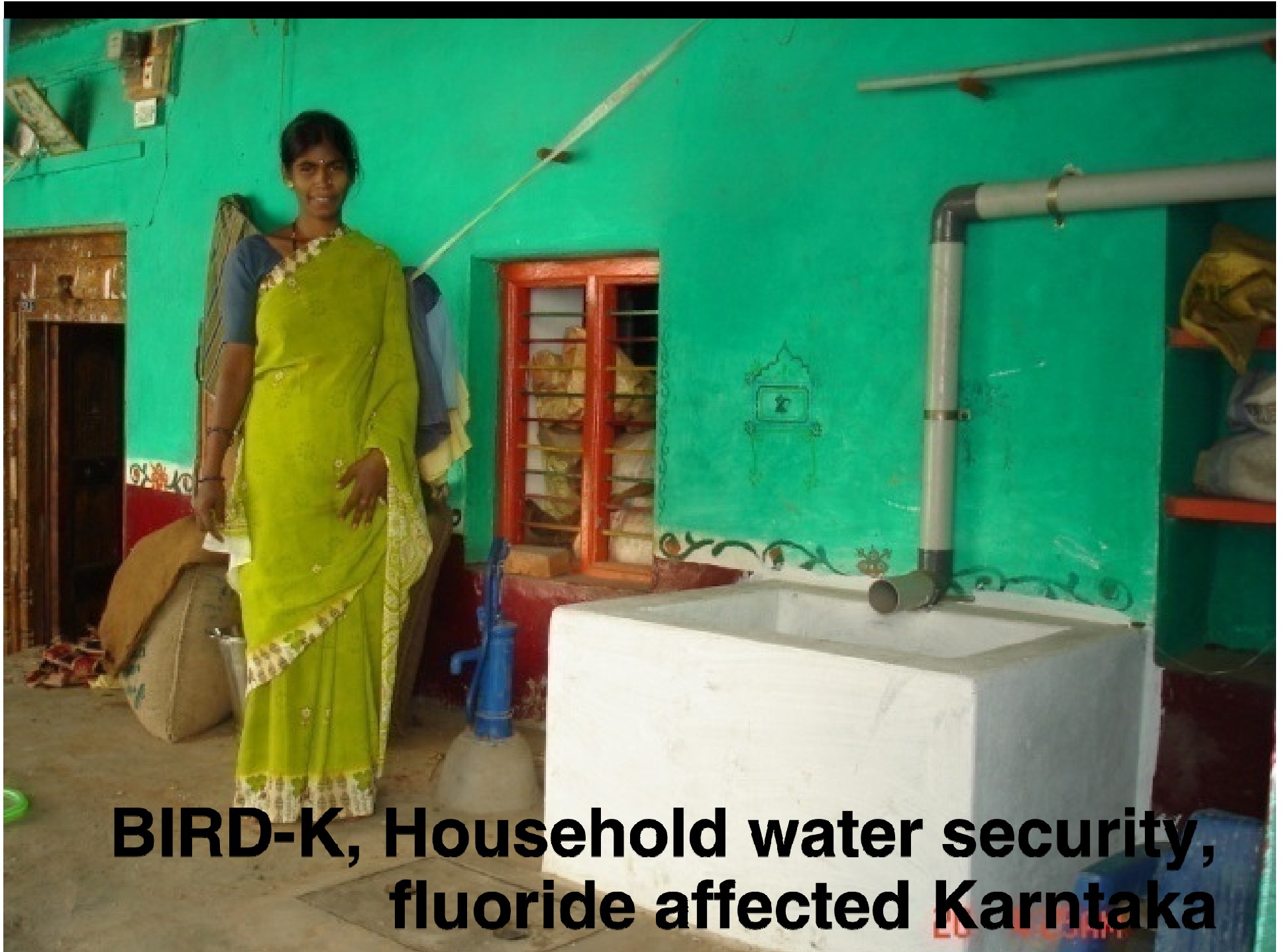


The Problem of Nitrates

- Govt. is not going to build UGD soon in villages
- Current treatment solutions are too high tech
- In this case, we feel right solution is protection of the source, education about nitrates, rigorous testing ; Not a water treatment approach.

RWH, Traditional Knowledge and Solutions

- SACHETANA - In the most fluoride – affected clusters in Karnataka
- Key part of the solution is comprehensive rainwater harvesting at the level of every household



BIRD-K, Household water security, fluoride affected Karnataka

RWH, Traditional Knowledge and solutions

- Some solutions in flood-hit Bihar

Floods & emergencies

RWH, Dug wells, *matka* filters

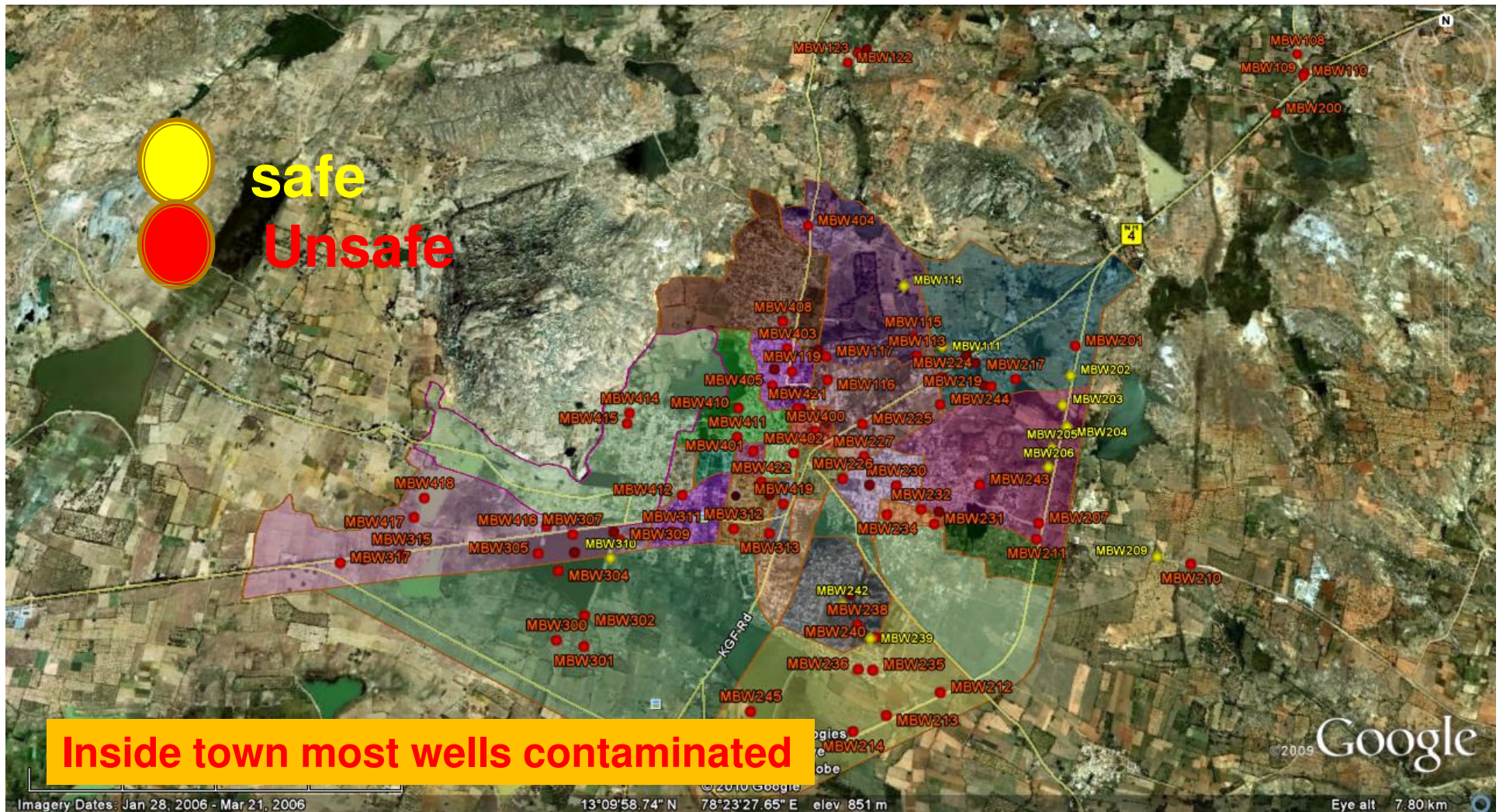


Small town - Mulbagal

For first time scientists (IISC), GO, NGO, and community came together to address water issues

- Data collection 70 wells
- Interpretation by scientists (59 unsafe/11 safe)

Water quality status



Problems with testing kits, treatment technologies

- Basket of technologies
- Supply chains and processes
- Validation of claims
- Education and awareness, capacity-building

What then is the role of NGOs/CBOs

Role of NGOs/CBOs

- Asking questions !
- Taking science to the people
- Information on what really works on the ground

Need symbiotic partnerships

Between communities, NGOs, government and the scientific community

1. Generate awareness
2. Action research: Need for innovation, create body of knowledge, research, explore wide range of options for different typologies
3. Build capacities of communities, NGOs and government in WQ testing, monitoring & surveillance and O&M

India Water Portal

- www.indiawaterportal.org

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Thank You