

## **URBANIZATION: EFFECT OF WASTE WATER ON SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE**

By

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### **Summary**

As the global Population climbs steadily towards 9 billion, natural systems that support us all may not be able to withstand the pressure that this growth exerts. Water scarcity, land degradation and the loss of natural (ecosystem) services we all depend on, point to fundamental problems caused by unsustainable development. The agricultural sector (in the broad sense, including forestry, animal production, aquaculture, etc.) represents the dominant part of the economy in most countries and provides the majority of employments and livelihoods. Agriculture faces many challenges, making it more and more difficult to achieve its primary objective of feeding the world. Urban agriculture is increasingly recognized for its potential contribution to urban poverty alleviation, food and nutrition security, productive reuse of wastewater, greening and economic empowerment of urban communities through creation of employment. Two main challenges related to water are affecting the sustainability of human urban settlements; the lack of access to safe water and sanitation and increasing water related disasters such as floods and droughts. These problems have enormous consequences on human health and well-being, safety, the environment, economic growth and development. The lack of adequate water and sanitation facilities lead to health issues such as diarrhea, malaria and cholera outbreaks. The uses of waste water for agricultural purposes, such as sewage or recycled water by smallholder farmers play a key role when it comes to ensuring food for all. A more integrated approach is needed which recognizes the impacts of; and relationship between agriculture and other development activities. By neglecting the management of waste water, unsustainable pro-poor land and water allocations which increase resource efficiency in urban areas, our ability to as a global community to meet future food and water needs will be compromised. This paper provides a framework to help city leaders make informed decisions for sustainable development in their cities. It also gives a short description of the potential influence of waste water in our urban areas on agriculture and the environment.

**Keywords:** Agriculture, Environment, Sustainable development, Urbanization, Water

