

Be aware of what you are going to drink before you drink it !

— "Safe drinking water is scarce like diamonds. Be aware, we can live without diamonds but not without drinking water"

Have you ever experienced the taste of pure water in mountain forest streams and springs? Did you ever wonder why these waters are crystal clear and pure while their lower counterparts - the large rivers are not? Yes, it is this type of safe drinking water that is becoming more and more scarce, triggered by various human activities.

In the streams of natural mountain forest, there are natural processes, which purify and maintain the quality of water in good condition. The splitting of water due to fast flowing of stream and water falls, mixes

by Milroy Cooray
Factory Manager
Access Natural Water (Pvt)
Ltd.
"AQUA FRESH"

oxygen in air with water allowing the removal of excess oxidizing components and activating the decomposition of dissolved organic compounds in water by microorganisms. Further more, the water plants like algae and on rocks and their associated living organisms absorb excess mineral ions from water and maintain the composition of mineral ions in a level that is suitable for drinking. This type of purification process done by microcommunities is referred to as biological filtration. Further physical filtration of water (especially large particles in water) happens when these waters go through fine sand and pebble layers. Thus forms the crystal clear natural stream and spring waters in the mountain forests.

Now let's examine what happens to these waters, when they go down the way through urban areas forming larger rivers. The efflu-

ents from domestic areas, especially wastes from kitchens and toilets, contribute much for the contamination of water mainly by harmful microorganisms and thereby mak-



ing water unsuitable for drinking. Presence of a disease causing bacteria, Escherichia coli, in water due to contamination of water with human feces is a common example. The other main threat to safe drinking water

comes from effluents from agricultural lands and industrial effluents. Pesticides and fertilizers, which are added to the fresh water bodies through water run offs from agricultural lands, contribute to the pollution of water with organic poisons and eutrofication (water becoming green coloured and smelly) respectively. The industrial wastes added to water will make it further unsuitable for drinking by adding poisonous chemicals like heavy metals. Thus we see the clean and pure water in streams in natural areas in high elevations become turbid and polluted water, especially in urban areas, which are not safe drinking water.

This is only one side of the problem, that is, polluting the fresh water bodies like rivers and lakes especially in the lowland urban areas making them unsuitable for direct human consumption. On the other hand, the few remaining fresh water bodies especially in mountain forests are fast disappearing due to clearance of these forests. The cleared vegetation exposes soil to direct rain and wind causing soil erosion, which in turn makes waters turbid. Further more, it affects water cycle making springs dry off.

We in Aqua Fresh are fully aware of this situation and we value quenching the thirsty world with the best natural mineral water in the most natural way. Firstly, we have identified the value of a pristine source of water and our source is located in the highest elevations within a forestry area. Continuous water quality tests have proved the natural and pure nature of our source. Secondly, we have adopted a purification system which mimics exactly the activities that occur in the natural streams. It is solely based on biological and physical filtration methods. We do not add any chemicals or use any

possibly harmful methods which are adopted by some for water purification. Our laboratories ensure that the best quality natural

water is supplied to our valued customers, because, we value the importance of safe and natural drinking water for human life.

Catchment
forests tap in 60%
of the rainwater
and feed reservoirs
even during drought.
Cut the forests off,
power cuts
come on.

22nd March 2003
Island