

Wastewater Production, Treatment, and Use in Lesotho

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Wastewater production and treatment

Recent estimate on the total volume of wastewater generated by the domestic, municipal, and industrial sectors in Lesotho is 7.2 million cubic meters. Wastewater in Lesotho is mainly produced from pollution caused by human body's waste products, namely urine and faeces which are carried away by water to form a polluted liquid called sewerage from domestic and municipal sector as well as the effluent from the industrial sector. The primary treatment type is the dominant wastewater treatment in Lesotho. However, the rapid populations increase seen nowadays (particularly in the urban areas) together with an increase of human and industrial activities have brought constraint to wastewater treatment.

Wastewater use/disposal

Wastewater use in Lesotho is minimal because it is used in industrial sector sometimes for certain purposes. After being treated to required standards wastewater is disposed into the Mohokare (Caledon) River System.

Policies and institutional set-up for wastewater management

Water and Sewage Company (WASCO) is the only institutions involved in wastewater collection, conveyance, and treatment. There are no policies in place yet for wastewater use especially for agriculture in Lesotho.

Research/practice on different aspects of wastewater

Due to limited time I was not able to get major recent past and ongoing research projects related to safe wastewater irrigation but I will make find-outs and will compile a report about them if there are any.

Status and need for the knowledge and skills on the safe use of wastewater

There is a need for training to farmers on the safe use of wastewater in irrigation by institutions dealing with wastewater management. And later the public education and the awareness campaigns can be done to the public about the importance and safe use of wastewater in agriculture.