

THE INFLUENCE OF DRINKING WATER QUALITY ON HEALTH AND FOOD SECURITY IN TARABA STATE, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

Water is life, only when it's safe and wholesome, and therefore an essential ingredient for the maintenance of life as well as good and healthy environment. The significance of access to safe water and effective sanitation is fundamental for any developmental transformation and linked to the overall achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Water quality is usually not given the required attention it deserved in Nigeria. Government and private sectors involved in water supply projects are yet to meet the targets of providing sufficient and safe access to good water supply to the populace, despite being requisite and vital to the social, health and economic wellbeing of the people, which undoubtedly are the overriding factors that determines food security. Though there are a number of bottlenecks to achieving this social responsibility, particularly in developing countries like Nigeria. In situations where these services are provided, consistent maintenance and sustainability cultures are lacking. Therefore, the assessment of drinking water quality in Taraba State was conducted with a view to having a far-reaching understanding of the linkage between drinking water quality, health (i.e. wellbeing) and food security in the State.

Keywords: Drinking water quality, food security, health, millennium development goals (MDGs), sanitation.