WATER QUALITY AND SOIL CONTAMINATION IN SOME INDUSTRIAL AREAS OF PAKISTAN

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ABSTRACT

Field investigations were carried out during 1996-97 to evaluate water quality and soil contamination of agriculture fields in some industrial areas of Pakistan. To evaluate the water quality the samples were collected from different sources viz. canal, shallow and deep ground water and industrial effluents. To assess soil contamination, the soil samples were collected from the agriculture fields located close to the industrial units. The soil and water samples were analyzed for pH, total soluble salts, soluble cations and anions and heavy metals. The results of the study showed that in the industrial areas the quality of water was quite variable. Some industrial effluents were quite low in heavy metals and the others were high in the nickel and manganese. The heavy metals in canal, shallow and deep ground water were quite low also. The chemical analysis of agriculture fields close to the industrial units showed that soils have been deteriorated due to high salinity/sodicity.