





Home > **India** > Report

After Muthia, Golden Corridor toxins in worms' crosshairs

Jumana Shah

Friday, February 13, 2009 9:51 IST

Ahmedabad: The earthworms are all set to have a success run across the state. After the worms cleaned up 60,000 tonnes of toxins at a site adjoining Naroda GIDC estate in Muthia village, the Gujarat Pollution Control Board (GPCB) has consented to emulate the project in at least 10 other polluted sites in Gujarat. These sites are mainly located in the Golden Corridor of the state in South Gujarat.

-  Email
-  Print
-  Text
-  Share



Each of these sites is estimated to contain between 25,000 and one lakh metric tonnes of toxic sludge. A multi-stakeholder group, consisting of GPCB officials, NGOs working in the region and US-based NGO Blacksmith, has been formed. The group will also be funding these projects. In-charge member secretary of GPCB RG Shah says, "We are keen on using this technology on other sites in Gujarat. We are working on the details of the project."

DNA
GPCB, Blacksmith and local NGOs poised to replicate Muthia's success story in other parts of the state.

Dr Suneet Dabke, the Vadodara-based industrial waste expert who discovered this technology, said that Amlakhadi in Ankleshwar, Hema Chemicals site in Vadodara (25,000 tonnes of toxic sludge), River Mini (50,000-60,000 tonnes), Nandesari (25,000 tonnes), three sites in Vapi (30,000-35,000 tonnes), three sites in

Vadodara, and Valad (60,000-70,000 tonnes) on the outskirts of Ahmedabad are some of the shortlisted sites. The stakeholders' group visited Hema Chemicals' site on Thursday to finalise details. The worms are expected to begin work at these sites in about three months.

Blacksmith's country coordinator Promila Sharma says the institute is proud to be associated with these projects in India, and feels this low-cost solution will go a long way in clearing toxic sludge, particularly in developing countries, where methodologies and awareness to dispose toxic industrial discharge is low. "We are hopeful of using this technology in other countries too. Moreover, now that this technology has been successful, we will involve the polluters to take responsibility for the damage and help in cleaning it up," she said.

Blacksmith will approach the Asian Development Bank to fund future projects as they will be long-term projects going on for up to five years, needing more funds if it is to be carried out by professional consultants. In Muthia, the project cost about Rs15 lakh, but a larger site and a professional consultant would push up the cost to Rs 2-5 crore.



[Shop now](#)



To reprint this article [click here](#)

 digg
  reddit
  google
  Facebook
  MySpace
  delicious
  stumbledupon

More in India >>

[Congress attacks Advani's foreign policy comment](#)

[Lanka should take efforts for a political settlement: Karat](#)

[Don't underestimate India's soft power: Chidambaram](#)

[Lanka should facilitate evacuation of civilians: Mukherjee](#)

[Aparna Senapati: 1st US embassy from Parliament to fall](#)

Popular >>

Viewed

Emailed

India >>

1. [Rahul in a hurry lets youth down](#)
2. [Congress claims *Slumdog* credit](#)
3. [Crackers and tears at Resul Pookutty's village](#)
4. [Hungry for 'justice', TN lawyers go without food](#)
5. [BJP gets help from 'unofficial SMS campaign'](#)

Other sections >>

1. [Amitabh Bachchan, Aamir Khan beg to differ on *Slumdog*](#)
2. [Few takers for *Slumdog* actress Freida Pinto](#)
3. [No 'visa power' for Gulzar, Sukhwinder](#)
4. [I did not expect to win: AR Rahman](#)
5. [AR Rahman is special: Mani Ratnam](#)

Gallery >>



[Slumdog Oscar speeches](#)

Here are the Oscar speeches of *Slumdog Millionaire's* winners who raked in eight awards at the Los Angeles

ceremony.



[Mhada too can make it swanky](#)

These are some of the features of the High Income Group flats constructed by the Mumbai Board of Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Authority in Versova.

Newsletter >>

Get daily news in your inbox and read it at your convenience.