ABSTRACT

My aim in the study is to investigate the occurrence of heavy metals in fodders, fruits and vegetables irrigated by Hadiara drain. So a study was conducted along the whole length of Hadiara Drain to assess the heavy metals accumulation in producers. Different samples of fodders, fruits and vegetables were collected from the Agricultural fields that are being permanently irrigated by Hadiara drain.

The heavy metal concentrations in fodders, fruits and vegetables show a significant variations, when compared to permissible standards issued by WHO (1996) and NEQS (2000), significantly high concentrations of heavy metals (Cr, Cu, Fe, Ni, Zn, Na, K, Cl, S, Si, Al, Mg) are found in fodders, fruits and vegetables.

In short we can conclude that Hadiara drain is highly polluted by the addition of untreated industrial effluents and city sewage and heavy metals tend to accumulate significantly in fodders, fruits and vegetables irrigated by Hadiara drain. These results are signals of threat to the entire ecosystem including human population which can receive these pollutants indirectly through food chain.

The consequences may be wide spread as the drain dumps its polluted water in Ravi River that irrigates lot of land of Punjab.