

Catch Every Drop: The wonder drug rejuvenating lakes

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A polluted lake

Fish has suddenly turned unpalatable for us, thanks to their rising prices. Don't blame the government for inflation; blame yourself for their reduced population.

The sewage we discharge flows into lakes and ponds and reduces the level of diatoms, the 'fundamental building block of life' that boost the growth of fish population.

Nano Scale Nutrient has been developed as a wonder product that cleans up lakes and helps the diatoms grow.

Industries, which are often blamed for polluting our lakes and water bodies, must pay heed. The product, Nano Scale Nutrient, can help them rejuvenate water bodies and grow their profits without harming the environment, Excerpts from an interview with the London School of Economics alumnus:

The Alternative: What is Nano Scale Nutrient and how does it help in lake rejuvenation?

It is a nano-silica based micro-nutrient formulation that accelerates the growth of diatoms, which are responsible for as much 25% of the oxygen in the atmosphere and 40% of the food in the oceans. Used with microbial cultures and enzymes, Nano Scale Nutrient brings down the level of the 'bad' blue-green algae that harms fishes and gives the water its polluted look and odour. Nano Scale Nutrient can be used to clean up lakes and ponds.

Q: And what are diatoms? Why do we need them?

A: Diatoms are one of the reasons life emerged from the swamp. They convert carbon dioxide, nitrogen and phosphorus into dissolved oxygen, oxygen-rich organic compounds and zooplankton.

A large variety of fishes eat zooplankton, which are much easier to digest than other algae. The other algae eat up the oxygen in the water and harm the fishes. Diatoms compete with other forms of algae for nutrients in water, reducing blue-green and filamentous algae.

The more the diatoms in a water body, the more the fish. Diatoms increase the dissolved oxygen content in the water and produce more oxygen in their lifecycle than they consume.

Q: How does Nano Scale Nutrient help in lake rejuvenation?

AD: Wastewater or polluted water has imbalance of nutrients and usually has excess phosphorus and nitrogen, which promotes the growth of blue-green algae. Nano Scale Nutrient addresses that imbalance and corrects these excesses. It introduces micro-nutrients such as silica, iron, manganese, molybdenum, and zinc, among others.

Nano Scale Nutrient increases diatom and zooplankton populations in lakes within 7-10 days of application. The more polluted the lake, the better Nano Scale Nutrient works.

Within 24 hours of adding the Mix to water, the dissolved oxygen levels start rising. Diatom population increases and blue- green algae levels come down.

The time taken to complete the lake clean up depends on how polluted the lake was to begin with. A Bangalore lake took us 60 days to remediate due to its high initial pollution levels.



Diatom & algal growth after spraying

Most lakes in urban areas are being used for sewage discharge. It would be impractical to ask a developing country like India to stop that. This is the solution to that problem.



Q: What is the cost involved?

A: Initially, a lake may need a multi-pronged remediation approach consisting of biological, mechanical and other curative measures along with Nano Scale Nutrient to restore the lake to a certain degree of normalcy. Thereafter, Nano Scale Nutrient can be used as a cost-effective preventative on weekly or bi-weekly basis with dosage levels ranging from 1 to 2 liter an acre depending upon volume, organic load, and sewage inflow of the lake in question.

Q: Which client segments is targeting?

A: Lakes development authorities and municipalities, companies involved in wastewater treatment and lake rejuvenation, industries with large reservoirs and holding tanks, and fisheries. We are focusing more on the private sector.

Q: Please tell us something about how Nano Scale Nutrient was developed...

A: It was developed by a Marine food Agriculturist owned fisheries and noticed

that higher concentration of diatoms in the water led to higher fish yields. After five years of research, he developed Nano Scale Nutrient

Q: Where have you used it so far and how well has it worked?

A: In Hyderabad and Bangalore lakes. At one of the eutrophic lakes in Bangalore, we succeeded in mitigating the odour and transformed not just the quality but also the overall appearance of the lake. Earlier, people would avoid the lake because of the smell. Now, they actually sit by the lake.

Recently, we completed trials at a 60-acre reservoir and at the effluent treatment plant of one of India's largest industrial houses.

We have also done trials at Putanahalli lake in Bangalore. There are only two-three groups across the world working on diatoms and their role in lake rejuvenation. A US-based group— Lake Savers—which is working to rejuvenate lakes internationally has found that the results of Nano Scale Nutrient technology are far better than those of any other comparable bio-acceleration technology.

**For More Details Or Supply of Nano Scale Nutrient
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