Arsenic Exposure of the Rural Poor in Bangladesh

Arsenic-related impacts continue to be important health concerns in rural Bangladesh, with considerable effort still being extended to attenuate the exposure. Examples of assessments which are showing promise will be discussed, including:

(i) Rainwater harvesting – which shows promise but the opportunities have limited capability and the likelihood that it will become more challenging with climate change, is not good news;
(ii) Arsenic Iron Removal Plants (AIRPs) – which have considerable potential to decrease exposure scenarios but only where there is significant iron for co-precipitation;
(iii) Food types and food preparation activities which influence exposure scenarios; and,
(iv) Using relationships between arsenicosis and arsenic in groundwater to identify areas where the risks are greatest which are proving of value but aren’t as effective as originally hoped.

The summary demonstrates that there is much room for improvement.