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Management of bio-hazardous waste in Saint Louis (Senegal): How to stop environmental disaster

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Sof Senegal. Consisting of 19,044km² (7,353mi²), the region is limited on the north by the Senegal River, on the west by the Atlantic Ocean, in the south and the east by other regions of the country. There are approximately nine hundred thousand (900 000) inhabitants. Its medical infrastructure includes 2 hospital, 5 public health centers, 1 analysis laboratory and private health facilities. All these together produce an enormous quantity of bio-hazardous wastes but unfortunately there is not a single Bio-Hazardous Waste Treatment unit in the entire region. The only mode of treatment that exists is burning. The consequences of improper disposal of untreated biohazardous wastes are

harmful to both the environment and to humans. Contagious diseases like hepatitis B or poisoning are both two of the possible consequences in humans, and small children are especially vulnerable. In the natural environment both soil and water, whether rivers or oceans, can be contaminated, causing harmful consequences to flora, fauna and the food supply. Same phenomenon is noted in the other regions of the country. In this context, it becomes urgent that Saint-Louis and the other regions of Senegal benefit from a standardized and permanently funded Bio-hazardous Waste Treatment Unit that complies with international standards. To do this there must be private initiatives supported by the state and development partners.

Biography

Cheikh Saya Sow is an engineer Hygiene Quality Safety Environment. He has studied at Polytechnic College of Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar. He has besides a University Degree in Quality Management of Pierre et Marie Curie University (Paris VI). He was the Quality Responsible of BRC EPLS which leads research projects centered on diseases connected to water (Bilharziasises, Malaria) in Senegal River Valley. Currently he has set up a company that offers services in Management of Bio-hazardous waste and Hygiene in general.

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