

Towards an International Global Agenda to Address Pollution from forms of Reactive Nitrogen and Nutrients across Air, Land, Water and Oceans

5th Annual Subcommittee Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

24 October 2018, UN Environment HQ, Nairobi



Nitrogen, Nutrients

What? Why must we be concerned?

- Life's building blocks...
- Foundation of our food production system and industrial production systems
 - Reactive forms of Nitrogen
 - Phosphorus

• **Nutrients are GOOD!!!**

• **BUT...can be BAD** 🙄

• How so???



Source: <http://studentbodyuf.com>



Image source: European Commission

Too much nutrients.... Air, Water, Ocean



THE TIMES OF INDIA
Delhi's polluted air may force Obama to stay indoors

Jayasree Nandi & Indrani Bagchi

New Delhi: Amid reports that the US may curb President Barack Obama's early morning schedule during his visit to Delhi this month, air pollution monitoring agencies said the levels of 'PM2.5' or fine, respirable particles that get lodged in the lungs are likely to be in the range of moderate to high in the period while he's here.

	PM2.5 LEVEL
Jan 26, 2015 (estimated day's avg)	90-110
Jan 26, 2013 6-10am (during R-Day parade)	160-234
Jan 25-27, 2012-14 (3-day average)	130-170

CHOKING IN DELHI

WHAT'S PM2.5: Fine, respirable particles floating in air that get lodged in lungs

SAFE STANDARD

USEPA	WHO	INDIA
15	25	60

Figures in microgram per cubic metre



3 kids died, 64 taken ill due to red tide poisoning

THREE children have died and 64 people were taken ill by red tide poisoning, health and local officials said Tuesday.

Philippine authorities said 2-year-old Caroline Ojeda of Manila, 8-year-old Ruel, 12, both of Zamboanga, and 10-year-old Ruel, 10, both of Zamboanga, died in the Philippines. The 10-year-old Ruel died of red tide poisoning. The other three children died in Manila, Zamboanga, and Zamboanga. The children died after they ate contaminated mussels collected by their father, Ruel, 47, during a fishing trip along with his three other children - Jane, 10, Diana, 7, and Janggaling, 2, - who reported an outbreak of illness at the Philippine General Hospital.

Ojeda died at around 9 p.m. after she had 240 mussels from the Bontoc Mangrove were brought to the Manila General Hospital for treatment. 20 more victims were taken to the Jose Reyes Memorial Hospital, 17 were brought to the PCH, one was admitted at the Capital 1g Hospital and three more in Las Pinas Medical Center.

Doctors at the hospitals said the victims, who were mostly young children, complained of vomiting and abdominal pain, diarrhea. The doctors attributed the symptoms to red tide poisoning.

Officials of Manila, Quezon City and other areas in the metropolitan region all established and started testing in public markets. They issued orders to market vendors to stop selling mussels in jail, including private vendors in jail.

Manila Mayor Ermita, spokeswoman of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquaculture, said health officials in the country from the coast of Manila Bay and Cavite to the far up South. Villavieja said the spread in red tide toxic was reported in some 100 km from here.

RED tide report of the PCH

Fish, shrimp and crabs are also affected. The Bay and Cavite. Cataogayan Bay of the health department said some sea snails or not as long as the mussels and girls are consumed.



సలగొంద జిల్లాను కబళిస్తున్న మరో భూతం

TV 5

సలగొంద జిల్లా

17 Apr 13

NEWS NOW ఒకరు మృతి

విదేశీయుల చేతికి తయారైన గురించి జాగ్రత్తవ్వండి. మీ లోని ప్రతి కదావి, తలచి

TVS USA | 1g or call 1-866-SANKARA

TOP REASONS FOR NITRATES IN WATER

- Agricultural activity
- Inorganic nitrogenous fertilizers and manures
- Erosion of natural deposits
- Leaking from sewer tanks/sewage

Article from the Philippine Daily Inquirer on May 19, 1995, reporting victims who ate green mussels collected from Manila Bay. Used with permission.

BREAKING NEWS

FOX 4 GOV. SCOTT ISSUES EMERGENCY ORDER FOR RED TIDE \$900,000 FOR LEE CO.

FOX 4

6:00 89°

Too little nutrients...

Harvest more than is replaced by nutrients - **nutrient mining**, reduced crop yield and failure



Land degradation



Poor nourishment, social conflict



Action is needed!!!

The nutrient challenge – pervasive, cross-cutting

- **UNEA3 Resolutions on pollution; GOOD anchor...but enough?**
 - Environment and Health
 - Water pollution
 - Soil pollution
- **UN Environment Programme of Work** – Chemicals, Waste & Air Quality Subprogramme
- **Global Programme of Action** – lead on nutrient pollution in oceans
- **Partnerships:**
 - International Nitrogen Initiative
 - Global Partnership on Nutrient Management

