

Solar light and plastic to facilitate access to potable water around the world

LOCATION: Puerto Real, Cádiz

DURATION: 1:33

SUMMARY: Researchers of the Department of Environmental Technology at the University of Cádiz have developed a bag that disinfects water by eliminating bacteria through the use of solar rays. It costs only 2 euros per unit, it works for at least six months and it is aimed at poor areas and emergency situations. Every day 6,000 people die worldwide due to the lack of access to safe water. The University of Cádiz created this tool as a solution to one of the major problems facing humanity.

VTR:

The light of the sun, simply its rays, to clean the water contained in bags made of material that facilitates the elimination of the bacteria.

MANUEL FIGUERO
University of Cádiz researcher

"We tested these bags using the three most frequent types of bacteria, and also some viruses."

MANUEL MANZANO
University of Cádiz researcher

"We have observed that we are able to clean it. Yes, it can eliminate cholera."

One in every ten citizens of the world lacks access to potable water. Every day, 6,000 people worldwide die from drinking contaminated water. This device was created by scientists at the University of Cadiz to combat this tragedy.

MANUEL MANZANO
University of Cádiz researcher

"We know that it works, at least for six months."

It only costs 2 euros. It doesn't need chemicals or anything more than solar energy. The exposition time needed depends on the condition of the water and the amount of radiation received in the area. In no more than six hours, four litres can be potable. This material makes it possible.

MANUEL MANZANO
University of Cádiz researcher

"Polyethylene, which is a material that is more transparent to solar radiation; in addition plastic contaminants aren't transferred to water. So you can leave water out in the sun without worries. It is the least reactive plastic that exists."

It's the big advantage above conventional plastic bottles that are used in third world countries as a water treatment method, but carry risks. They have successfully tested this system in disaster areas; but to improve it and start producing it massively...

MANUEL MANZANO
University of Cádiz researcher

"Yes, we need funds."

From the lab, they are combating one of the largest problems facing humanity.

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