

Bacteria to treat wastewater and save energy

LOCATION: El Priorato (Seville)

DURATION: 1'28"

SUMMARY: Manuel Ramírez and Víctor Marchena, two entrepreneurs from Seville, have created Star-Bac Technology. They put a mixture of bacteria into dispensers and place them in different parts of the public sewer, this way they decompose organic matter, considerably reducing its polluting action. They have implanted the system, which is still in experimental phase, in several villages, and they assure that they have proved to be effective.

VTR:

BACKGROUND:- "Thirty per cent?" - "Yes".

MANUEL RAMÍREZ
Fundador Star Bac Technology

"It is the only biological wastewater treatment that is being applied in Europe."

BACKGROUND: "Look! Look at the activity! Do you see it?"

They are observing the bacteria they use to treat and clean the wastewater produced in this village of the province of Seville.

VÍCTOR MARCHENA
Founder of Star Bac Technology

"We use the piping network of the village as a biological reactor."

How? They place dispenser like this one in different parts of the public sewer. Inside, there's a mixture of bacteria and enzymes that decompose the organic matter that pollutes water, basically transforming it into oxygen.

VÍCTOR MARCHENA
Founder of Star Bac Technology

"Depending on the area, it releases a drop with a frequency that ranges between two and a half and five minutes. Every drop contains one million bacteria"

And those millions of bacteria are spread all over the network. They have implanted this system in several villages of Seville. The idea is to bring it to small villages that, like El Priorato, don't have a wastewater treatment plant. It saves a considerable amount of energy. And its cost is between three and seven euros per person a year.

MANUEL RAMÍREZ
Founder of Star Bac Technology

"Depending on the amount of organic matter that we need to clean, and on the number of citizens."

Their idea came out of an experiment conducted by American researchers in Ríotinto in the late 80's. They used bacteria to regenerate flora and fauna. These Andalusian entrepreneurs use them to treat wastewater in towns like this one. And the proof of their success is the clean water of this stream.

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