

# Preface

This volume is the result of years of commitment with world-wide sanitation challenges from various research networks linking the editors and authors of this volume to many other sanitation scholars and professionals. Major contributions to this volume are derived from the work done in the PROVIDE project (working on sustainable urban infrastructures in cities of the Lake Victoria Basin, East Africa), the DESAR project (research and pilot projects in Decentralized Sanitation and Reuse, the Netherlands), and among others within NETSSAF (large scale implementation of sanitation in Africa), and EcoSan networks. The major milestone for this book to emerge was however the IWA Sanitation Challenge Conference of May 2008 in Wageningen, the Netherlands where all the authors of this book presented their papers.

The conference was organized by a consortium of sanitation specialists at Wageningen University's Environmental Policy Group (the editors) and the sub-department of Environmental Technology, LeAF (Lettinga Associates Foundation) and Wetsus (Center of Excellence for Sustainable Water Technology in the Netherlands). It was a unique event as it enabled a truly multi-disciplinary approach in discussing Sanitation Challenges in North and South with social and political scientists, natural scientists, environmental engineers and practitioners in one scientific conference.

This volume presents a selection of the social scientific insights and research results presented at the Sanitation Challenge Conference: the concepts, decision-making support tools and the perspectives from farmers and consumers towards sanitation innovation.

The editors would like to thank all contributing authors for their co-operation and time, and the co-organizers, participants and funders of the Sanitation Challenge Conference. Lastly, we thank Corry Rothuizen at the Environmental Policy Group and Marlies Vlot and Takeesha Moerland-Torpey at Springer Academic Publishers for their help in the final editing and processing of the manuscript.

The editors  
Bas van Vliet  
Gert Spaargaren  
Peter Oosterveer