

Strategy

I developed the original Wicking Beds to provide sustenance food in times of draught in famine stricken Africa. They were very simple and cheap that local people could afford to install themselves.

They took off like wildfire and are now virtually everywhere in all sorts of versions - some very complex and expensive - very different from the original version.

However the world is not facing a major epidemic of chronic diseases such as obesity, diabetes, heart attacks, strokes etc. The underlying cause was poor diet however the question is why are people eating such a poor diet? How much and what type of food we eat is strongly determined by our gut biology which acts as a control system and is being compromised by toxic chemicals in our food and totally unnatural foods lacking in minerals and micronutrients which our bodies have not evolved to manage effectively.

The question I faced was how Wicking Beds could be improved to restore our gut biology and provide the essential mineral and micro-nutrients which led to my interest in soil biology and additives which could be used in Wicking Beds.

This led to a modification to the basic Wicking Bed design to use an external reservoir which could in addition to being a reservoir could be used to flood and drain what is essentially a compost tea through the bed. Technically this is still probably the best design for a small bed however I wanted a system which was more automated and robust and suitable for larger - even commercial scale growing.

This has led to the development of the Gbiota bed in which a compost tea and nutrient mix is pumped through the soil.

The main aim still remains to restore our gut biology which is a subject which is still not well understood but what we clearly know is that our guts are a balanced eco-system where harmful bacteria - such as eco-coli - are balanced by an abundance of beneficial bacteria.

While these harmful bacteria may be able to be controlled by anti-biotics there use also kills of the beneficial bacteria so the only real long term solution is to have a balanced eco-system in our guts.

While a major health benefits could result from the wider use of Gbiota beds there is a concern over what could happen if this technology was misapplied as the Wicking Beds story has clearly shown can happen with unrestricted publication on the internet.

It was therefore decided to form the Gbiota club where members could test and refine the system under controlled conditions and information could be readily circulated around the club.

Anyone interested in the Gbiota technology is welcomed to join the club and participate in developing, testing and refining what could become a very important component in modern food production.

This is described in more detail on my web www.waterright.com.au