



UN
2023 WATER
CONFERENCE

Harvesting rainwater: essential to achieve 6.1 and for water security



Reviving Tradition of Rainwater Harvesting in Sri Lanka



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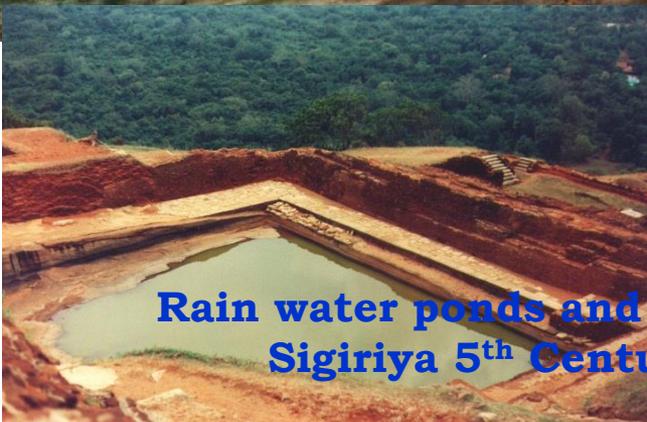


*"Let not a single drop of water that falls from the skies flow to the sea,
without it being used for the benefit of man"*

King Parakramabahu the Great - Sri Lanka (1153-1186 A.D.)



Kuttam Pokuna (Twin Pond) – 3rd century BC



**Rain water ponds and Gardens at
Sigiriya 5th Century BC**



Parakrama Samudraya (Tank) – 11th century





Rainwater Harvesting



Revival

- Community Water & Sanitation project in 3 district introduced RWH 1995
- Public demand due to water issues
- Lanka Rain Water Harvesting Forum Started by a small group in 1996
- Membership from government, NGOs, private, and public sector
- Goal: Lead the nation in rain water harvesting technology, construction, and utilization. Share experience and technology on RWH for domestic use.



Activities of LRWHF



Promotion (Demonstration, Awareness programs, publications, media)



Research and Development



Training



Networking



Promotion Awareness to Community Members



- Water conservation
- Rainwater Harvesting
- Home gardening
- Climate Change and Impacts



School Children

- Water quiz
- School Wall Art competition
- Drama competition
- Awareness programs
- Home garden establishment training
- Exhibitions
- Poster competition
- Weather station monitoring and maintenance
- O&M of RWHS



Publicity/ Publications

The Island Featu

Rainwater free of charge

Rainwater – a source of water during Covid-19 pandemic



Rainwater harvesting

BY DR. TANUJA ARIYANANDA, CEO, Rainwater Harvesting Forum

During the current pandemic, lack of clean water for drinking, domestic purposes and proper hygienic practices was a major concern for many rural households (where pipe supply is not available) in Sri Lanka and the world over.

One of the main objectives of Lanka Rain Water Harvesting Forum (LRWHF) established in 1968 is promoting use of rainwater. Rainwater is a good alternative for drinking water. LRWHF in partnership with USAID is implementing a project titled Safe Disaster

ful as a source of water during the recent COVID-19 pandemic. LRWHF conducted a survey in three dry zone districts to find out how rainwater harvesting benefited households during the pandemic. Out of the 102 beneficiary households involved in the survey, 92% had water in their rainwater harvesting system. Out of those 85% were filled with rainwater.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, beneficiaries have used rainwater mainly for drinking, cooking and hand washing. It is more

56%) followed by own wells. These households have faced difficulty to Sobtain water during curfew imposed times since they have to travel up to 1 km to the public wells. Around 19% of the RWHS beneficiaries have shared their rain water with their neighbours during this situation. Due to imposed curfew people found it difficult to get supply from regular water sources due to accessibility, delays in bowser supply and economic reasons. The Survey reveals that beneficiaries of RWHS were better able to cope with water stresses than non-beneficiaries during government imposed lock down due to COVID-19 pandemic as rainwater was easily available.

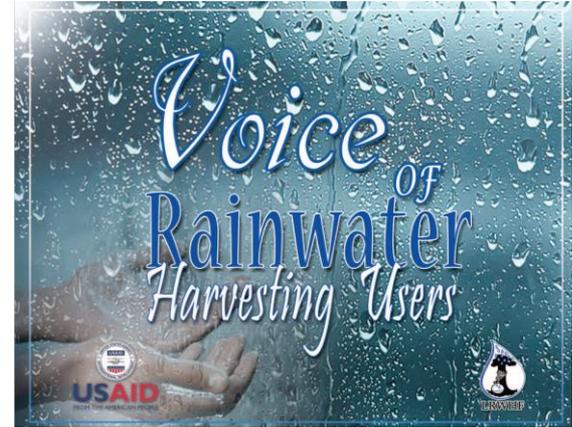
Financial impact of lock-down and growing unemployment means that spending extra on safe water has become a problem for many households. Beneficiaries of RWHS enjoyed having water at their doorstep which is free of charge. Therefore, less economic burden on them during this period, especially for daily earners. Non RWHS householders who did not have a well in the premises had to wait till the cartrow is lifted to get to public wells or RO filters, often traveling up to 1 km to get their drinking water and waiting in queue for up to one hour. Whereas others, who had rain water harvesting system installed got them added storage capacity to get bowser water when it is available at an average cost of 30-50 cents per liter.



Rainwater

Resilient Drinking Water for Flood and Drought prone areas in Sri Lanka. The project which commenced in September 2016 have installed 391 domestic rain water harvesting systems (RWHS) in Kilinochchi district in the Northern province, Badulla and Moneragala districts in the Uva province. Rainwater has been used

often used for hand washing during this time following Sri Lanka government's health authority advice, because it is available at the doorstep. Overall in the three districts, the main water source for hand washing is rain water followed by public well and own well. The main drinking water source for non-beneficiaries of RWHS is public well (



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Newsletter
Lanka Rainwater Harvesting Forum

24th Annual General Meeting of Lanka Rain Water Harvesting Forum

The Lanka Rain Water Harvesting Forum (LRWHF) hosted its 24th Annual General Meeting on the 25th of September 2021. Notably, this was the first time the AGM was hosted on a virtual platform. Former board of directors, members, partners, and staff members of LRWHF participated virtually using the Zoom online meeting platform.

Dr. Tanuja Ariyananda the Chief Executive Officer of LRWHF along with Mr. Rajindra Ariyanandu the Chairperson of LRWHF welcomed the participants for the AGM. Field coordinators and officers of LRWHF sub-offices located in Monaragala, Kilinochchi, and Badulla reported the success of the past year's activities in relevant districts. Mrs. Anis Rajakumaragala the deputy director and project coordinator highlighted the major success, promotion, research and development, network, and exchange of information on rainwater harvesting over the period. Despite constant faced due to the prevailing covid pandemic situation, the forum was able to continue various projects and achieve goals for the year. Members appreciated the outstanding effort of the LRWHF team led by Dr. Tanuja Ariyananda on behalf of the treasurer, Dr. C S Wewarathna, Mr. Rajih Kakkarachchi the finance manager presented the finance report for the year 2020-2021. Both annual and finance reports were endorsed by the members of the forum.

Office bearers for the year 2021/22 was elected as Mr M.M.M Aiyer as the Chairperson whilst Mr. Rajindra de Silva Ariyanandu elected the vice Chairperson, Eng Deva Hapugoda was elected Secretary, and Dr. C.S Wewarathna was elected the Treasurer.

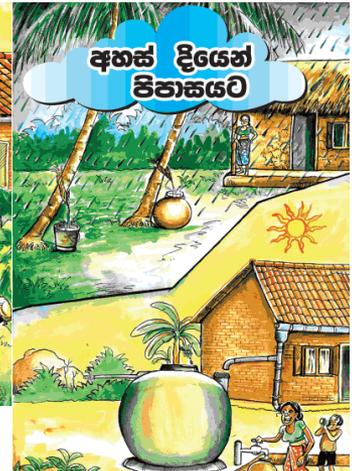
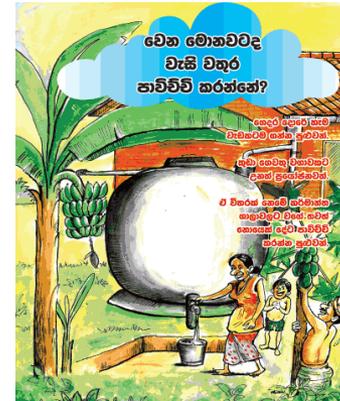
Addressing the members of the forum, newly elected Chairperson, Mr. M M M Aiyer stated "We need to work progressively to mobilize resources to Rain Water Forum, Building partnerships, networking with the public and private sector, NGOs, and donor organizations come up with new ideas and new strategies to go forward with rainwater harvesting, and continue the good work we did past 25 years"

Board Of Directors 2021/2022

Hon'y. Chairperson - Mr M.M.M Aiyer
Hon'y. Vice Chairperson - Mr Rajindra de Silva Ariyanandu
Hon'y. Secretary - Eng Deva Hapugoda
Hon'y. Assistant Secretary - Archi U.S.A. Kasahalya
Hon'y. Treasurer - Dr. C.S Wewarathna
Hon'y. Assistant Treasurer - Mr Esmahal Gunaratnam
Hon'y. Non-Voting Director - Eng N.U.K. Kasahanga

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Children's Corner



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ඊමේල් : lrwhfcm@gmail.lk වෙබ් ලිපිනය : www.rainwaterharvesting.com

Demonstration RWHS

- 49,000 Household: Tsunami effected, Resettlement, Drought and Flood effected, Kidney Disease prevalent areas
- 300 Schools
- 20 Hospitals
- Farms/Home gardens



Research and Development



Low cost RWH Tanks

Study of RWH System usage

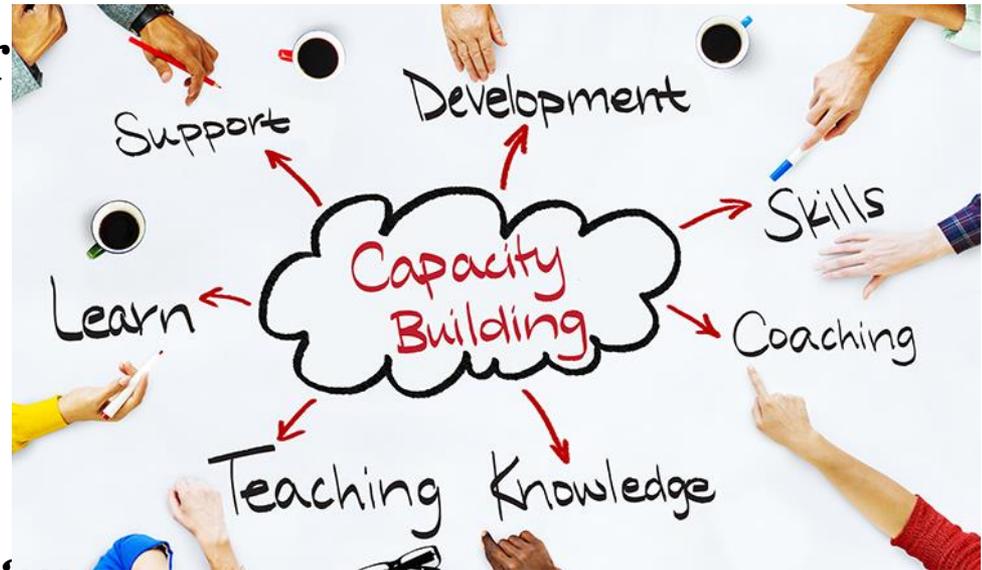
Mobile weather station

Well water recharging



Training / Capacity Building

- Community members
- School children
- Households
- Farmers
- Masons/Plumbers
- Officials/ Professionals
- Media Personnel's
- Policy makers



Farmers

Water conservation
and RWH technology

Organic farming

Plant nursery
keepers

Home gardening





Training : Masons/Plumbers

- Certificated training program
- On the job training
- Over 400 skilled masons across the island
- 2 lady masons in the pool



Training : Officials/Professionals

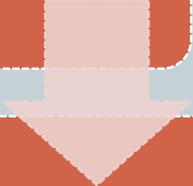
- District level
- National
- South Asian
- International



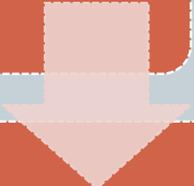
Networking



National Membership of over
70/ 12 National Conference



Regional: SARNET South
Asia Rainwater Network

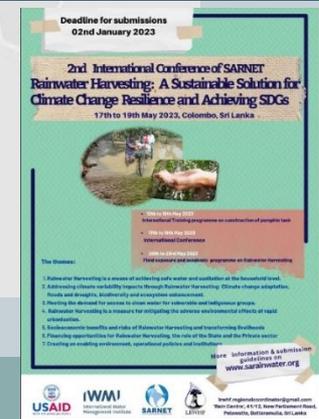


International: IRCSA, IRHA,
Rain School



SARNET Activities

- Members representing 166 countries 14 countries
 - India (28), Nepal(15), Bangladesh(28), Pakistan(22), Afghanistan(2), Bhutan(6), Canada(1), Switzerland(1), Malawi(1), Mexico(1), Ethiopia(3), Myanmar(2) and Saudi Arabia(1), Sri Lanka(15).
- Web site was launched in March 2021
- 11 webinars held
- Virtual 3 day 1st International Conference held Sept 2021 attended by 500 persons
- Youth Rainwater Champion group established 92 members from 17 countries
- 2nd International Conference scheduled for May 2023



Policy and Legislation

National Rainwater Policy and Strategies, June 2005

- aimed at encouraging communities to control water near its source by harvesting rain water

Kandy Declaration, by SAARC Ministers, September 2006

.....Signed by 5 minister of SAARC to promote RWH in their prospective countries

15th SAARC Declaration, August 2008

.... at the looming global water crisis, recognized that South Asia must be at the forefront of bringing a new focus to the conservation of water resources. For this purpose they directed initiation of processes of building and encouraging of research, combining conservation practices such as rainwater harvesting, water conservation.....

Amendment to Urban Development Authority Drainage Act No.36, of 2007 published by gazette September 2007



Achievements

- Over 49,000 domestic RWH in operation providing water to over 200,000 people (SDG 6)
- National Rain Water Harvesting Policy and Strategy 2005
- Regulation which made RWH mandatory in UDA & Municipality area 2009
- Establishment of Rain Center
- RWH included in School/university curriculum
- RWH Adopted by Green Building Council certification criteria
- RWH Adopted by private sector in plantations, factory's, public buildings, residences





Thank you



www.lankarainwater.org