

Rain Water Harvesting Activities of Sri Lanka Water Partnership

Rain Water Harvesting (RWH) has been an integral component in promotion of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), the core mission of the Sri Lanka Water Partnership (SLWP). As early as 2004, SLWP under its “Water Messenger” Programme linked the necessity of using rainwater for school sanitation and ancillary activities where regular access to water was not available.

SLWP realized that the Central catchment areas in the Central Province suffered severe seasonal droughts which especially affected school community. A RWH system was first installed at Meegahatenna Maha Vidyalaya, a severely disadvantaged school for estate children in Sabaragamuwa in 2005. Nugawela Balika MV in Central province was provided with RWH system as well as improvements to school toilets making them girl friendly. Further, provision of RWH systems in 17 selected schools was supported by the National Development Bank in 2013.

In 2017 with support of the Hatton National Bank under its CSR initiative, 10 schools whose students were severely affected by landslides In Aranayake were provided with RWH systems.



SLWP partners too supported RWH as a means of enhancing water security. NetWwater a SLWP partner too provided RWH systems for 26 hospitals in Central Province with support from the Timmermans Foundation, Netherlands. SLWP has understood the challenges faced by the estate sector schools in particular which suffer from lack of water for school sanitation which especially affects health of the children. At present 10 schools in Hatton/Talawakelle have been selected for support and 6 schools are currently being provided with RWH systems with support from the Hatton National Bank in collaboration with the Central Province Education Department.

Concomitantly the use of rainwater for agriculture has been actively promoted under the water and climate resilience programme (WACREP) of SLWP including it as part of climate change adaptation, where the use of RWH systems for supplementary irrigation in conjunction with improved technological options such as drip and sprinkler irrigation and its use for ground water recharge is emphasized.

This expanded programme undertaken in collaboration with the Irrigation Department, the Irrigation Management Division of the Irrigation Ministry and the Department of Agriculture has covered most major and medium irrigation systems in the dry zone including in the North and East. Wet zone areas have been since covered in 2016 as were the plantation sector (Coconut and Export Agriculture) in 2017 and 2018.



Rain Water Harvesting for Agriculture NWP

Knowledge Products on RWH and related technical options have been developed in collaboration with the Field Crops Research and Development Institute Maha Illupallama, the Oil Crops and Legumes Development Centre and Agricultural School on Angunkolapelessa and the Rice Research and Development Institute Batalagoda. These programmes have been implemented in collaboration and support of the Universities of Ruhuna, Rajarata, Sabaragamuwa and the Post Graduate Institute of Agriculture Peradeniya.

The knowledge products which in both in Sinhala and Tamil, are available free of charge .They are in very high demand by field staff of agencies, community and farmer organizations.



Rain Water Harvesting Knowledge Products

[External Link : Article by Lanka Rainwater Harvesting Forum](#)