



28/3 A, Subadrarama Lane,
Nugegoda.
Tel: 011-5524612 / 011-
2820851

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**LANKA
RAIN
WATER
HARVESTING
FORUM**

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10th Anniversary of LRWHF

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:	PAGE
Path of decade of LRWHF	2
වැසි ජලය ආරාම සම්පාදන	3
Ongoing projects of LRWHF	3
Policy update	4
දිය බිංහු මත අමතයි	4
Rain water safety plan	5
Rain water harvesting (Tamil)	6
වැසි ජලයේ පිවිසෙයි	6
Children's page	8

Lanka Rain Water Harvesting Forum held its 10th Anniversary celebration and annual symposium, on the **23rd June 2007** at Savsiripaya, Wijerama Road, Colombo 07. Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena, the Minister for Urban Development and Sacred Area Development graced the occasion as the chief guest.

In his address minister Gunawardena congratulated LRWHF for achieving so much in the field of rain water harvesting, and thanked the members of LRWHF, for the services provided for the people of Sri Lanka. He announced that the Legal Draftsman has approved the draft legislation to amend the UDA laws to incorporate rain water harvesting. He also mentioned that different authorities, agencies, institutions of the country should take serious concern and effective measures to implement rain water harvesting to meet the national requirement of water and MDG goal that has been laid down by the international community and Sri Lanka.

Lanka Rain Water Harvesting Forum presented a model of RWH system to the Hon. minister as a token of appreciation for his contribution in promoting RWH in Sri Lanka.

The symposium was aimed to share experiences and findings of different rain water harvesting user groups such as domestic, industrial and public institutions. Presentations were made by Mr Duleep Gunawardena on Update on legisla-



tion changes for rain water harvesting ; Mr Victor Gunathilaka, on Rain water harvesting for domestic need in the urban areas; Major Jayantha Gunathilaka on Rain water harvesting system at Sabaragamuwa Provincial Council Building at New Town Ratnapura and Mr Neil Perera on rain water harvesting system at David Pieris Motor Company factory complex.

An exhibition of posters from school children from the South and East of the country as well as a photograph collection of 10 years of achievements of LRWHF were on display. Umbrellas printed with messages promoting rain water harvesting were given to all guests who attended the occasion.

Tanuja Ariyananda, Director, LRWHF

Message from the Chairman - LRWHF

It is with great pleasure that I send this message to the news letter of LRWHF. This year, LRWHF celebrate its 10th Anniversary. LRWHF has come a long way since its inception in 1997. It has 3 offices and 12 staff members and has expanded its activities throughout the island.

We have not only been able to promote the concept of rainwater harvesting in all districts through demonstration projects, awareness programs and training, but also have been

successful in influencing the government to make rain water harvesting legalized in Sri Lanka. This year marks the passing of the bill to amend the UDA drainage laws to incorporate rain water harvesting in new buildings.

I wish the LRWHF, its partners and supporters every success in promoting rain water harvesting to serve the people who suffer due to problems of water.

Lahiru Perera, Chairman, LRWHF



...Rainwater harvesting...

Path of decade of LRWHF

In 1996 a small group of interested persons came together to organize a network to collect & share the experiences in rain water harvesting within the country. Following the response from the public to a advertisement placed in the newspapers, the group considered its role and potential in promoting the use of rain water harvesting and formed into a Forum with the aim to, identify existing rain water harvesting practices in the country, develop further techniques for collection of rain water, promote the application of rain water for domestic purposes through information, communication, awareness raising, initiate further study to make recommendations for maintaining good rain water harvesting practices.

The main areas of activities the Forum proposed to be involved were promotion, research and development, information and communication on rain water harvesting.

The Forum was officially launched as Lanka Rain Water Harvesting Forum on 19th of March 1997 by the then Minister for National Housing & Public Utilities, Hon.Nimal Siripala de Silva. The Forum was registered under the companies act No.17 of 1982, Registration No.NA 599. Forum logo was patented and registered with patent and trade mark office. The first Council of management of LRWHF was appointed by the 7 founder members. Mr S.H.C. de Silva, the Former President of Institute of Engineers and Director of Department of Irrigation was appointed the first Chairman. At the initiation there were 49 members in the Forum.

During the first year of operation the Forum received funding from Netherlands Embassy Local Environmental Fund to promote, demonstrate, research on rain water harvesting for domestic use in Sri Lanka. During the 2nd year, the forum had

over 60 members, from government, non- government organizations, research institutes as well as interested individuals. During this period the Forum office established at Vijay Kumaratunga Mawatha, Colombo 5 and had recruited 3 staff members. LRWHF organized a multi disciplinary symposium in collaboration with Open University of Sri Lanka to encourage researchers, practitioners and others to share their findings and to promote rain water as an option for domestic water supply. The awareness programs conducted by the Forum in the media as well as in the form of seminars have created much public & official interest in rain water harvesting.

In addition, the Forum won a research award from the European Union to conduct a 3 year research study titled Domestic Roof water harvesting in the Humid Tropic with partnership with Warwick University, UK, IIT Delhi, India, and FAKT, Germany

During the 3rd year, LRWHF was able to promote rain water harvesting in 6 districts through demonstration projects, conduct training programs for trainers, training for masons on construction and conduct awareness programs for government & non government organizations. The Forum through the local communities, NGO's & local authorities promoted the application of rain water harvesting and created a pool of skilled masons on construction of rain water harvesting systems in Puttlam, Trincomalee, Anuradhapura, Hambantota, Ampara, & Gampaha districts.

The total membership of LRWHF increased to 87 during the 4th year. Several demonstration tanks were constructed and a number of research studies were conducted during this year.

Research studies were done on quality of collected rain water, and establish the concept of household water security using rain water Harvesting in rural Sri Lanka.

During the 5th year the Forum, was successful in promoting rain water harvesting through demonstration projects in 7 districts. In this period the attention went to Anuradhapura, Hambantota, Kegalle, Kurunegalla, Colombo, Embilitipitiya and Vavuniya districts. Also in this year the total membership reached the limitation of 100. Mainly the main phase of DFID KaR funded project to research study on "Low Cost Roof water Harvesting for very poor households in the humid tropics" was launched in partnership with Warwick University, Water Action Ethiopia and ACCORD Uganda.

During the 6th year of LRWHF, the special event was that the forum receiving the Green award as the best environmental NGO by the Sri Lanka Environment Journalist Foundation (SLEJF) in collaboration with Asia - Pacific Forum of Environmental Journalist (APFEJ). The forum obtained funds from GTZ to promote rain water harvesting in urban areas. Also construction of demonstration tanks, awareness programs and mason training programs were conducted during this year.

During the year 2003/04, the 7th year of LRWHF, it was possible to promote rain water harvesting and its technology in the North and the East district through demonstration projects and training programs. Projects were implemented in Vavuniya, Vanathavillu, Mihinhale, Padaviya, Ambanpola & Colombo.

The Forum launched activities in two new areas of rain water harvesting. These were on, rain water for enhancing biodiversity in home gardens in the dry zone and a study to use rain water in cash crop production funded by UNDP and Center for Poverty Analysis.

(contd.....page 7)

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ක්ෂේත්‍ර නිලධාරී දකුණු ව්‍යාපෘතිය
ලංකා වැසි ජලය රැස් කරන්නන්ගේ සංසදය

සර්ම කලාපීය රටක් වන ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ නිවර්තන වැසි වනාන්තර බොහෝ සෙයින් දැකිය හැකිය. එසේම බිමට සුදුසු ජල උල්පත් සහ මිරිදිය ජලාශ වලින් සපිරී මේ සුන්දර දිවයින එහි වාසය කරන්නන්ට මහගු සම්පතකි. නමුත් ලංකාවේ සමහර ප්‍රදේශ වල පුද්ගලයන්ට බිමට සහ විදිනෙදා පරිභෝජනය සඳහා ජලය ලබාගැනීමේ දී යම් යම් අපහසුතා වලට මුහුණ දීමට සිදුවේ.

මේවාට බොහෝ සෙයින් හේතු වී ඇත්තේ පසුගිය කාලයේ ලංකාවට මුහුණ දීමට සිදුවූ සුනාමි උවදුර සහ ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ භූ විශමතාවයයි. එසේම භූගත ජලයේ කඩිනතාවයද මෙයට බොහෝ සෙයින් බලපා ඇත.

සුනාමි උවදුර නිසා ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ වෙරළාශ්‍රිත ප්‍රදේශ වල මිරිදිය ලිං වලට හා භූගත ජලයට කරදිය මිශ්‍ර වීමෙන් ඒවා භාවිතයට ගත නොහැකි තත්වයට පත්විය. එසේම උස් කඳු සහිත ප්‍රදේශ වල ජනතාවට ද ජලය ලබා ගැනීමේදී විවිධ දුෂ්කරතා වලට මුහුණ දීමට සිදුව ඇත්තේ භූගත ජල මට්ටම ඉතා ගැඹුරින් පිහිටා තිබෙන බැවිනි.

එසේම අනෙක් සාධකය වන්නේ ජලයේ කඩිනතාවයයි. ජලයේ කඩිනතාවය යනු භූගත ජලයේ Ca⁺⁺ සාන්ද්‍රණය වැඩිවීම වන අතර මෙම ජලයද පානයට හුදුදුසු තත්වයක ඇත. එසේම වෙරළාශ්‍රිතව භූගත ජලයේ Cl⁻ අයන වැඩි සාන්ද්‍රණයකින් අඩංගු වීම ද එම ජලය පරිභෝජනයෙන් ජනතාව ඉවත් කිරීමට හේතුවක් වී ඇත.

මෙවැනි ප්‍රදේශ වලට ඉතාමත් විශිෂ්ඨ ආදේශකයක් ලෙස වැසි ජලය රැස් කිරීම හඳුන්වා දිය හැකිය. මනා කළමනාකාරිත්වයකින් යුතුව එක් රැස් කර ගත් වැසි ජලය තමන්ගේ පරිභෝජනයට ගැනීම සඳහා හුරු වීමෙන් වෙනත් ප්‍රභව වලින් ජලය ලබා ගැනීමට යාමේදී වැයවන අමතර වියදම් සහ කාලය තමා වෙත ඉතිරි කර ගැනීමට හැකියාව ඇත.

වැසි ජලය එක් රැස් කර ප්‍රයෝජනයට ගැනීම ශ්‍රී ලාංකිකයන් වන අපට හුහුරු හුපුරුදු දෙයක් නොවන අතර අතීතයේ සිට මිනිසුන් ඊට පුරුදු වී සිටියේය. පොල් අත්තක් හෝ කෙසෙල් කොළයක් ගසක ගැට ගසා එහි පහළ කෙළවරට කලුයක් තැබීමෙන් ඔවුන් ජලය එක් රැස් කරගෙන ඇත. එසේම අද ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ ජල අපහසුතා ඇති ප්‍රදේශ වල ජනතාව සිය වහළට පිලි යොදා වාසික් ගලා එන වැසි ජලය ප්‍රමස්ථික් රැකියක් හෝ විශාල බැරලයක් හා වීතයෙන් එකතු කර ගැනීම දුර්ලභ දසුනක් නොවේ.

වැසි ජලය රැස් කිරීම පිලිබඳ සිය අවධානය තදින්ම යොමු කර ඇති, වසර දහයකට වැඩි කාලයක් එම ක්ෂේත්‍රයේ කටයුතු කරන ආයතනයක් ලෙස ලංකා වැසි ජලය රැස් කරන්නන්ගේ සංසදය හඳුන්වා දිය හැකිය. දැනට මෙම ආයතනය මගින් දකුණු පළාතේ ගාල්ල, මාතර සහ හම්බන්තොට දිස්ත්‍රික්කවල ක්‍රියාත්මක කරමින් පවතින ජල අපහසුතා පවතින පුද්ගලයන්ට නොමිලයේ වැසි ජල පද්ධති ලබාදීමේ වැඩපිලිවෙල මීට හොඳම නිදසුනක් ලෙස දැක්විය හැකිය.

අපගේ යන ජලය මනා කළමනාකාරිත්වයකින් යුතුව එක් රැස් කිරීම පමණක් නොව නාගරික ජල ගැලීම් ද නවතා ලීමට හැකිවීම තුලින් වැසි ජලය රැස් කිරීම විශිෂ්ඨ ක්‍රියාවලියක පෙරගමන්කරු වී ඇත.

ONGOING PROJECTS OF LRWHF

- ◆ **Project to implement rain water harvesting in Tsunami affected areas of the Southern Province**
 - Construction of 3,000 RWH systems in Galle, Matara, Hambanthota
 - Conduct awareness programs, Exhibitions, Training to promote RWH
- ◆ **Pilot project to introduce drip irrigation practices with Rain Water Harvesting**
- ◆ **Project to implement rain water harvesting in Tsunami affected areas of the Ampara district**
 - Conduct 140 RWH systems in Ampara district
 - Construct 10 RWH systems in schools



Rain water harvesting tanks in Rathgama – Nisalasewana (Tsunami housing scheme)

Update on National Rain Water Harvesting Policy

Following the launching of the National Policy on Rain Water Harvesting on 25 June, 2005 a bill was gazetted by the Minister of Urban Development and Sacred Area Development on the 25th August 2007 to amend the UDA Law, No. 41 of 1978, to facilitate rain water harvesting.

The regulation propose that

- Every building both existing and proposed shall have adequate gutters and down pipe to ensure collecting rain water from roof and that minimum rain water falls directly from the roof to the ground.
- Infiltration ground without causing dampness to adjacent buildings and walls.
- Collected water is stored in a rain water holding facility as specified capacity as recommended by Scheduled VI
- After satisfying the Minimum Equivalent Rain water Holding Provision specified by Schedule VI excess water may be discharged to the street drains or an approved outlet.
- Every plan submitted for obtaining development permit, Shall comply with the Schedule VI Requirements for Provision of Rain water Harvesting measures.

Annual RF (mm)	Minimum volume(m ³) required per 100m ² of roof area & hard paved area				
	Residential		Commercial	Industrial	Institution
	Domestic	Apartments / Condominiums			
750-1000	1.5	2.5	5	8	10
1000-1500	1.5	2.5	3	8	10
1500-2000	1.5	2.5	3	5	10
2000-2500	1.5	2.5	3	3	5
2500-3000	1.5	2.5	2	2	3
3000-4000	1.5	2.5	1	1	2
4000-5000	1.5	2.5	0.5	1	1
5000-6000	1.5	2.5	0.5	0.5	0.5

(Extraction of schedule IV: Minimum Equivalent Rain water Holding Provision)

Tanuja Ariyananda, Director, LRWHF

දිය බිංදුව ඔබ අමතයි

මෙසිරි ලක් දෙර	ණේ	අහසින් බිමට ව	○
දිනුව විරුවන් පොර	ණේ	බිඳුවක් නෑර නතු කො	○
අහිනි වැව් තැනු	ණේ	වැඩ ගනිව් හැම වි	○
මගේ ජීවය විහිද රැඳ	ණේ	කිය පැරකුම් නිරිඳු ඔබ හ	○
උස් වු කඳු මුදුනෙ	න්	අයාලේ නොය	වා
පහත් තැන තැනි පොළොවෙ	න්	අපට නිවසක් සඳ	වා
තුරු ලියට පැහැප	න්	චතුල අප රඳ	වා
තැනුවෙ පසුබිම මමයි කවද	න්	ගතොත් ඔබ හට සෙනක් වෙන	වා
සිය ගණන් අක්ක	ර		
කුඹුරු බිමකට පත්ක	ර		
අස්වනු රටක් බ	ර		
ගන්න සහයද දුනිමි සිත්යු	ර		
විසින් මතු නොනැව	න		
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මහින් විඳලිය ඔබට දෙමි මි	න		

දම්දස් ලියනගේ
පිච්ඡුරු කවි සමාජය
උතුරුමුත්ත



There is no better quality water Available naturally Than Rain water

(From page 02

The major success during the 8th year of LRWHF during 2004/2005 period was the approval of rain water harvesting policy by the Cabinet of Ministers on the 26th July 2005. Following the 7th symposium of LRWHF on urban rain water harvesting, agreed by the Hon. Dinesh Gunawardana, Minister for Urban Development & Water Supply, a committee was appointed to formulate a policy and strategy for rain water harvesting. The committee drafted the policy and after public consultation presented it to parliament for approval. The Forum implemented several major projects during this period in the North and East, urban areas and in the dry zone areas.

The major success during the 9th year, period (2005/2006) was the support to establish the Rain Water Secretariat at the Ministry of Urban Development & Water Supply. Rain water harvesting was also recognized and recommended for reconstruction of houses for the tsunami victims by the Ministry of Urban Development & Water Supply.

During this period, Lanka Rain Water Harvesting Forum extended their social aids for tsunami victims. Two major pro-

jects were implemented in the Eastern and the Southern province of Sri Lanka. In the east, the project was funded by NWS & DB/Danida Tsunami water project to construct 210 rain water harvesting systems for the tsunami affected households in Kalmunai. Project in the south was a 3 year project funded by Malteser International / UNICEF to construct 3300 rain water harvesting systems in Galle, Matara and Hambantota districts. Two other projects implemented during this period were 1. pilot study to construct a rain water harvesting system in Carolina estate funded by TFSR-RV and 2. pilot project to improving home gardening through drip irrigation in the dry lands in Sri Lanka funded by IDE.

This year Lanka Rain Harvesting Forum celebrated its 10th anniversary. The major success during the 10th year (2006/2007) is the approval of legislation to implement rain water harvesting at household and institution level, by the Cabinet of Ministers. In September 2006, LRWHF supported to organized an international workshop on rain water harvesting in Kandy in collaboration with Ministry of Urban Development and Water Supply and National Water Sup-

ply and Drainage Board to share experience and knowledge with experts in the South Asian region.

The workshop was attended by 5 relevant ministers from SAARC countries namely, India, Nepal, Maldives, Bhutan & Sri Lanka. The ministers present signed a declaration to promote rain water harvesting in their respective countries at this workshop. The major projects of the year were Tsunami water projects in South & East. 1200 tanks in the south & 508 tanks in the east were constructed for Tsunami houses this year.

Lanka Rain Harvesting Forum has been giving support to many people around the island suffering from water scarcity as well to tsunami victims. Also LRWHF hope to promote rain water harvesting providing long term solution for water scarcity as well flooding problems in urban areas .

Sanduni Ariyawansa
Office Administrator
LRWHF

(6 පිටුවෙන්)

දැනට ලංකාවේ බොහෝ ප්‍රදේශවල ලංකා වැසි ජලය රැස්කරන්නන්ගේ සංඝදය තුලින් ටැංකි විශාල ප්‍රමාණයක් සාදා ඇති අතර ඒ සඳහා විශාල මුදලක් දරන බව ද අපි දැනුවු. ඔයින් කිව නොහැකි තරම් මහත් සේවාවක් සිදුවනු ඇත. නිවෙස් වල සිමෙන්තියෙන් ඉදිවන මෙම ටැංකි සඳහා සුළු ප්‍රමාණයෙන් මුදල් වියදමක් යන අතර ඉන් පසු ලබන්නා වූ ආර්ථික වාසිය ගැන කිසිවෙක් නොසිතනවා ඇත. මෙමගින් වෙනත් ජල මූලාශ්‍රයකින් ජලය ගෙන ඒමට යවන කාලය ඉතිරි කර යම් ප්‍රයෝජනවත් කාර්යකට යෙදවීමට ද ජල බිල්පත් සඳහා ගෙවන මුදල ඉතිරි කර ගැනීමට ද හැකි වනු ඇත. මෙම ටැංකි නිවස අසලම ඉදිකර ඇති නිසා වීමගින් මගින් ඉතිරි වන කාලය හා ශ්‍රමය වැය කොට වෙනත් ආර්ථික වාසියක් සලසා ගත හැක. මෙම වැසි ජලය රැස් කිරීමේ ක්‍රමය මගින් ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ බොහෝ ප්‍රදේශ වල පවතින ජල හිඟයට පිලියමක් ලැබෙනු ඇත.

සරත් විජේතුංග
ක්ෂේත්‍ර නිලධාරී දකුණු ව්‍යාපෘතිය
ලංකා වැසි ජලය රැස් කරන්නන්ගේ සංඝදය

[Data base on Rain water Harvesting tanks.](#)

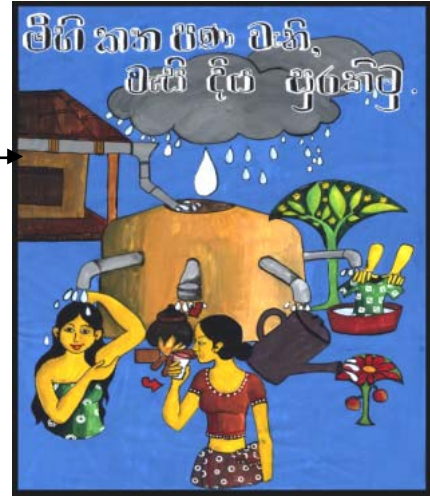
LRWHF is in the process of updating its the data base on rain water harvesting tanks, in order to have a clear picture, how far RWH technology has contributed as an alternative solution to the water problem of the country.

Therefore we would be grateful if you could send us details of your RWH projects. Format to send information can be downloaded from our website at www.lankarainwater.org or call our office on 011-5524612 or email lrwhf@sltnet.lk

CHILDREN'S PAGE



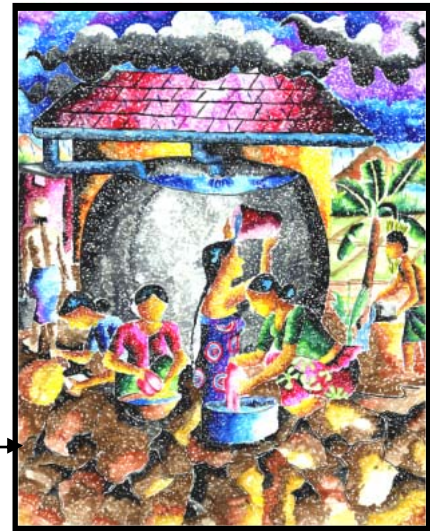
Sujatha Balika
Vidyalaya—
Matara



Sujatha Balika
Vidyalaya—
Matara



Mahinda
Vidyalaya—
Matara



Winners of a poster competition held in schools of Matara district,
March 2007

වර්ෂා

වර්ෂා varsha වාර්ෂා

Please send your creations, ideas, letters, articles, suggestions to the address below.

මමේ අදහස්, යෝජනා, හිඳිමාන සහ ලිපි පත ලිපිනයට විවේචන
උදාහරණ ආකාරයට, ආලෝපිතයන්, පට්ටපුස්කන්, කඳුතැන්කන් මඟුරු
කැරුණකොටුම කීටුකපනුම මුකවාරිකු අනුප්පුමානු තපවුඩන්
වෙණ් ධිකුකොලුකිරොම.

2007/08- Dec/Jan

From: Lanka Rain Water Harvesting Forum
28/3 A,
Subadrarama Lane,
Nugegoda.

ලංකා වැසි ජලය රැකිකරන්නේ සංසදය
28/3 A
සුභද්‍රාම මාවත
නුගේගොඩ

இலங்கை மழை நீர் சேகரிக்கும்
ஒன்றியம்
28/3A,
சுபத்ராராம ஒளங்கை,
நுகேகோட.