Newsletter

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VARSHA JULY/SEPTEMBER 2026
VOL 12 ISSUE III



Connecting Water, Climate & Culture: LRWHF at the 4th IWA Conference in Cambodia

4th International Water Association Conference

Lanka Rain Water Harvesting Forum team successfully concluded its visit to Cambodia from 1st–6th September 2026, taking part in the 4th IWA Rainwater Harvesting and Management Conference on "Rainwater for Tomorrow: Water, Climate and Culture." Organised in partnership with the International Rainwater Harvesting Alliance (IRHA), the International Water Association (IWA), the Mekong Institute and other regional bodies, The conference brought together practitioners from across the globe under one shared theme: connecting people, water, climate and culture for a resilient tomorrow.

The visit provided a valuable opportunity to connect with rainwater harvesting practitioners, researchers, professionals and organisations from around the world, while sharing experiences, knowledge and perspectives on rainwater harvesting, water security and climate resilience.



Field Visits to Local Rainwater Systems

After the formal sessions, the team visited local rainwater harvesting installations across Cambodia, including community storage tanks and household systems. These visits offered a First hand look at how Cambodian communities are adapting rainwater harvesting technology to their own climate and water security needs, and opened the door for direct technical exchange between practitioners.



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Building Global Connections

Beyond the formal sessions, the visit was also about connection and meeting fellow rainwater harvesting advocates, researchers and organisations from across Asia and beyond, and building relationships that extend the reach of this work far past any single country's borders. Exhibition booths, group discussions and cultural exchange sessions all contributed to a rich and collaborative atmosphere throughout the week.





Knowledge Sharing at the Conference

At the conference itself, LRWHF joined sessions covering a wide range of themes, including:

- Maintenance of rainwater harvesting systems in schools
- Ground challenges and innovative solutions for ensuring long-term sustainability
- Education and cultural programmes linked to water
- From challenges to policy and practice: a journey of capacity building on rainwater harvesting

These discussions offered practical insights that LRWHF can bring back to its own project sites, while also giving the team a platform to share Sri Lanka's experience with the wider regional community.

A Journey of Learning and Collaboration

From technical discussions and project experiences to cultural exchange and new professional connections, the Cambodia visit was a meaningful journey of learning and collaboration. LRWHF returns from this conference with fresh ideas, strengthened partnerships and renewed motivation to continue building water security and resilient communities both in Sri Lanka and as part of a growing regional and global network.





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Nepal Delegation Visits LRWHF Project Sites

In August 2026, LRWHF had the pleasure of welcoming Engineer Mrs. Laxmi Gurung and Technician Mr. Ganesh Thapa Magar from Kanchan Nepal for a five-day field visit (10th–14th August) to our project areas in Ehetuwewa, Kirinda, Kotawehera and Thimbiriyaya. The visit marked another step in strengthening the growing partnership between Nepal and Sri Lanka in the field of rainwater harvesting and water security.



Their visit was an opportunity to share knowledge, exchange practical experience and strengthen a common commitment to water security and resilient communities. From rainwater harvesting systems and groundwater recharge to agro-forest gardens, school RWHS and community initiatives, each site reflected how local action can turn rainwater into a valuable resource for people and ecosystems.

The visit began with a presentation session at LRWHF, where the Kanchan Nepal team shared their work with LRWHF members. This was followed by discussions at the LRWHF Regional Office in Nikawaratiya, where both organisations exchanged updates on ongoing activities and future collaboration opportunities.



HIGHLIGHTS



KANCHAN NEPAL TEAM VISIT LRWHF PROJECT SITES

Engineer Mrs. Laxmi Gurung and Technician Mr. Ganesh Thapa Magar visited household sanitation units, household rainwater harvesting systems, and groundwater recharge units during the visit



NEPAL EXPERT SHARES EXPERIENCE WITH LRWHF MEMBERS

Engineer Mrs. Laxmi Gurung presented her rainwater harvesting experience from Nepal to LRWHF board members, sharing valuable insights and lessons from Kanchan Nepal's water conservation initiatives during a dedicated presentation session.



KANCHAN NEPAL TEAM EXPLORES SRI LANKA'S ANCIENT WATER HERITAGE

The Kanchan Nepal team visited Anuradhapura and Sigiriya to observe ancient water conservation systems, gaining insight into Sri Lanka's traditional irrigation and water management heritage

Bridging Sri Lanka and Taiwan: Tamkang University Visits LRWHF

Lanka Rain Water Harvesting Forum hosted students and members of the Economics and Education faculty of Tamkang University, Taiwan, at the Rain Center on 7th July 2026, following a request from the university to learn more about rainwater harvesting practices in Sri Lanka.

Dr. Tanuja Ariyananda, CEO of LRWHF, together with the LRWHF team, warmly received the visiting delegation and shared valuable insights into Sri Lanka's rainwater harvesting systems and practices.



Presentation and Interactive Demonstration

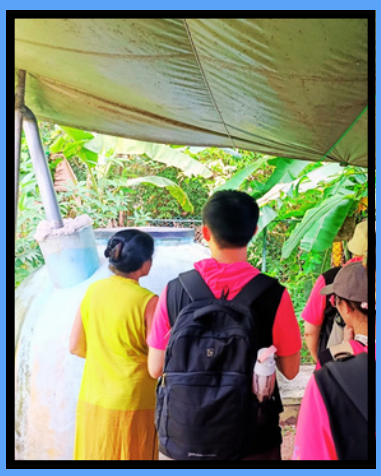
The visit included an informative presentation introducing LRWHF's work, followed by an interactive demonstration of rainwater harvesting processes using 3D modules. This hands-on approach gave the visiting students a clear, practical understanding of how rainwater harvesting systems function, from collection to storage to use — bridging the gap between theory and real-world application.



Knowledge Sharing and Global Collaboration

The session provided a valuable opportunity for knowledge sharing and meaningful discussions on sustainable water management, environmental protection, and climate resilience. By bringing together perspectives from Sri Lanka and Taiwan, the visit created space for cross-cultural learning and reinforced the relevance of rainwater harvesting as a solution shared across borders.

This visit created an opportunity to exchange knowledge and strengthen international collaboration towards a water secure and climate resilient future.



TAMKANG UNIVERSITY, TAIWAN
ECONOMICS & EDUCATION
to the
LANKA RAINWATER HARVESTING FORUM

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Digitalizing Community Monitoring: Thimbiriyawa Youth Lead the Way

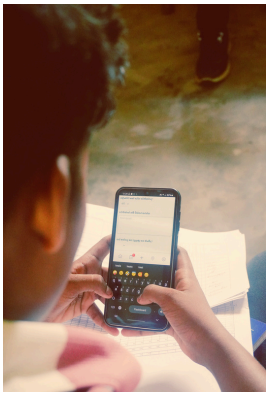




As part of LRWHF's ongoing commitment to community-led development,and build capacity, a series of training programs were conducted to youth to monitor and track impact of the LRWHF project at Ehetuwewa Kurunegala district.

The first session, held on 9th July 2026 at the Thimbiriyawa Community Hall, introduced youth participants to the concept of project monitoring. The training explained how monitoring activities work and the role youth can play in observing and recording progress on environmental and social initiatives within their community.

Building on this foundation, a second training was held on 17th July 2026, focused on practical application. Participants were trained on how to use the mWater Solstice App in the field, learning to collect and submit data directly through the platform using a database questionnaire developed for the project.





"Solstice is a free, cloud based data management platform developed by mWater to help governments, non-profits, and communities collect, visualize, and analyze data to monitor global development and eradicate poverty"

The Results : Community Owned Monitoring System

Following these trainings, the selected youth successfully established a monitoring database covering key environmental and social parameters. An mWater / Solstice App indicator tracking system is now in place, populated with data collected from 135 households across the Ehetuwewa community.

mWater solstice

This initiative reflects LRWHF's broader approach of empowering youth as active partners in community development, equipping them with practical digital skills while strengthening the evidence base for project decision-making.

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2026 අගෝස්තු 20 වන දින, කුරුණෑගල දිස්ත්‍රික්කයේ ඇහැටුවැව ප්‍රාදේශීය ලේකම් කොට්ඨාසයේ තිඹිරියාව ග්‍රාම නිලධාරී වසමේ, වන ගෘහ ගොවිපල (FHG) සමිතිවල සාමාජිකයින් කාබනික දිලීර නාශක සහ පළිබෝධ නාශක සකස් කිරීම පිළිබඳ පුහුණුවකට සහභාගී විය.

මෙම වැඩසටහන කාබනික පළිබෝධ පාලනය පිළිබඳ පුහුණු මාලාවේ අවසන් අදියර වූ අතර, කොහොඹ (Neem) සහ හීන් බිම් කොහොඹ ආශ්‍රිත දිලීර නාශක සකස් කිරීම මෙන්ම ගොම මූලික ජීව පළිබෝධ නාශක ද්‍රාවණ සකස් කිරීම කෙරෙහි විශේෂ අවධානය යොමු කරන ලදී. සහභාගිවන්නන් තක්කාලි, මාළු මිරිස් සහ අනෙකුත් ගෙවතු බෝගවල පළිබෝධ පාලනය සඳහා මෙම ස්වභාවික විකල්ප සකස් කිරීම හා භාවිතා කිරීම පිළිබඳ ප්‍රායෝගික දැනුම ලබා ගත්හ.

මෙම පුහුණුව ජාත්‍යන්තර අවධානයක් ද ලබා ගත් අතර, ශ්‍රී ලංකා සංචාරයේ නිරත වූ කාන්චන් නේපාල් ආයතනයේ ඉන්ජිනේරු ලක්ෂ්මි ගුරං මහත්මිය සහ තාක්ෂණවේදී ගනේෂ් තපා මගර් මහතා මෙම පුහුණු වැඩසටහන නිරීක්ෂණය කළහ. ඔවුන්ගේ පැමිණීම දිගුකාලීන පවත්නා කෘෂිකාර්මික ක්‍රියාමාර්ග පිළිබඳව ආයතන දෙක අතර හුවමාරුවක් සඳහා අවස්ථාවක් විවර කළේය.









Key sectors drive expansion amid steady demand and investor confidence.

මෙම පුහුණුව සමඟින්, තිඹිරියාවේ FHG සමිති සාමාජිකයින් තමන්ගේ බෝග ආරක්ෂා කර ගැනීම සඳහා ප්‍රායෝගික, අඩු වැයදායක සහ පරිසර හිතකාමී ක්‍රම වලින් සන්නද්ධ වී ඇති අතර, එමගින් රසායනික ද්‍රව්‍ය මත යැපීම අවම කරමින් තම පවුල් හා ප්‍රජාවන් සඳහා සෞඛ්‍ය සම්පන්න ගෙවතු නිෂ්පාදන ලබා ගැනීමට හැකි වී ඇත.

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Beekeeping Takes Root: Twenty Beneficiaries Build a Sustainable Income Stream

LRWHF's beekeeping initiative, launched on 9th April 2026, is helping rural households in the Kurunegala district turn a traditional skill into a steady source of income. The programme covers the Ehetuwewa Divisional Secretariat Division, spanning the Diwulgane and Thimbiriyawa Grama Niladhari divisions, and currently supports 20 beneficiaries — 15 men and 5 women.





Growing Colonies, Growing Confidence

In Diwulgane village, seven beneficiaries are actively maintaining 22 bee colonies, while in Thimbiriyawa, five beneficiaries are managing 7 colonies. Together, these households are building hands-on experience in colony management, honey extraction, and hive maintenance — skills that form the backbone of a sustainable, community-based apiculture practice.

Turning Hives into Income

The early results are already translating into tangible earnings. Bee honey products are fetching approximately LKR 4,000 per litre, with beneficiaries collectively earning LKR 12,100 from honey sales so far. In addition, income has been generated from the sale of bee boxes themselves with Seven boxes were sold at LKR 4,500 each, with a profit of LKR 220 per box.Therefore, the total profit from the seven boxes sold was LKR 1,540.

A Model Worth Expanding

With colonies established and active across two villages, and early income already flowing back to beneficiary households, the beekeeping initiative is proving to be a practical, low-investment livelihood option for rural families. LRWHF will continue to support these beekeepers as colonies mature, with an eye toward expanding the programme to more households in the coming seasons.



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வெற்றிக் கதை: நாற்றங்கால்கள் அமைத்தல்







LRWHF நிறுவனத்தின் நிலையான வாழ்வாதார முன்னேற்றத்திற்கான முயற்சிகளின் ஒரு பகுதியாக, 2026 பெப்ரவரி 1ஆம் திகதி முதல் சமூக உறுப்பினர்களால் மூன்று நாற்றங்கால்கள் ஆரம்பிக்கப்பட்டன. இந்த முயற்சி இன்றுவரை தொடர்ந்து இயங்கி வருகிறது, நாற்றுகள் விற்பனை மூலம் உள்ளூர் வருமான ஈட்டலுக்கு உதவுகிறது.

மூன்று நாற்றங்கால்களும் அவற்றின் பயனாளிகளும்:
- தனுஜா நாற்றங்கால்
- இஷினி நாற்றங்கால்
- நெதுலி நாற்றங்கால்



இம்முயற்சியில் மொத்தம் மூன்று பயனாளிகள் ஈடுபட்டுள்ளனர், அதில் ஒருவர் ஆண், இருவர் பெண்.

மாதாந்த விற்பனை வருமானம் தனுஜா நாற்றங்கால்: ரூபா 3,300.00
இஷினி நாற்றங்கால்: ரூபா 1,600.00
நெதுலி நாற்றங்கால்: ரூபா 1,400.00

தற்போதைய நிலை
மூன்று நாற்றங்கால்களிலும் செயற்பாடுகள் தொடர்ந்து நடைபெற்று வருகின்றன. பிரதேசத்தை பாதித்துள்ள கடுமையான வறட்சி காரணமாக நாற்றுகளுக்கான தேவை தற்போது குறைவாகவே உள்ளது, இது விற்பனையின் வளர்ச்சி வாய்ப்பைக் கட்டுப்படுத்தியுள்ளது.

இந்த நடவடிக்கைகளை முறைப்படுத்தும் நடவடிக்கையின் ஒரு பகுதியாக, விவசாய திணைக்களத்தின் விதை சான்றிதழ் சேவையில் நாற்றங்கால்களை பதிவு செய்யும் நடைமுறை ஆரம்பிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது. இது தொடர்பான திட்ட கோரிக்கை கடிதமும் விவாதிக்கப்பட்டு சமர்ப்பிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.

வறட்சியினால் ஏற்பட்டுள்ள தற்போதைய சவால்கள் இருந்த போதிலும், இந்த நாற்றங்கால்களை அமைத்தமை பயனாளி குடும்பங்களுக்கு பல்வகைப்படுத்தப்பட்ட வருமான ஈட்டலை நோக்கிய ஒரு நேர்மறையான படியாகும், சாதகமான காலநிலை மீண்டும் வரும்போது அதிக வருமானம் பெறும் வாய்ப்பும் உள்ளது.

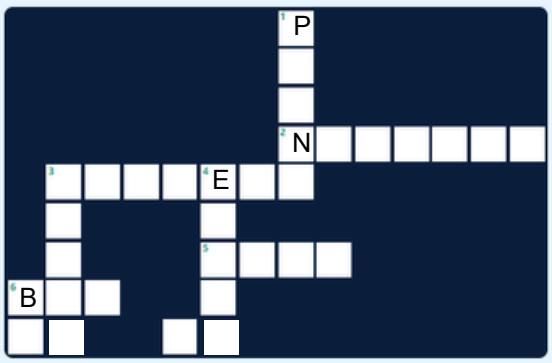
CHILDREN'S CORNER

Collect Today, Use Tomorrow!

Every drop counts!

Rainwater Adventure!

Rainwater harvesting means collecting and storing rainwater for later use. Solve the puzzles and become a Rainwater Hero!



ACROSS

2. A place where young trees and plants are grown before being planted outside. (7)

3. Collecting and storing rainwater for later use is called rainwater ___. (7)

5. A large container used to store harvested rainwater. (4)

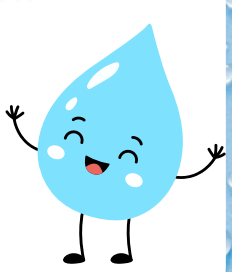
6. A buzzing insect that helps flowers grow and makes honey. (3)

DOWN

1. A living thing with roots and leaves that grows in soil. (5)

3. The sweet golden food made by bees. (5)

4. Typing information into an app like mWater is called data ___. (5)



How to play: These six steps show how rainwater harvesting works, but they are all mixed up. Write a number from 1 to 6 in each box to put them in the correct order.

A	Clean water flows into the storage tank. ☐	**B**	Rain falls onto the roof of the house. ☐
C	The water is used for drinking, washing, or watering plants. ☐	**D**	The water passes through a filter to remove dirt and leaves. ☐
E	The water flows down from the roof into the gutter. ☐	**F**	The water is stored safely until it is needed. ☐

My order: ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___



වර්ෂා

වර්ෂා Varsha வர்ஷா

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

ඔබේ අදහස්, යෝජනා, නිර්මාණ සහ ලිපි මෙම ලිපිනයට එවන්න.

உங்கள் ஆக்கங்கள் , கடிதங்கள், கட்டுரைகள் மற்றும் பரிந்துரைகளை கொடுக்கப்பட்டுள்ள முகவரிக்கு அனுப்பவும்.

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