

26th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Lanka Rain Water Harvesting Forum (LRWHF)



The 26th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Lanka Rain Water Harvesting Forum (LRWHF) took place on September 9, 2023. The meeting was presided over by Mr. M. M. Aheeyar, the Chairperson of the Lanka Rain Water Harvesting Forum (2022/2023), and attended by LRWHF members and staff. The AGM provided an opportunity for the LRWHF to update its members on the progress made over the past year.

Dr. Tanuja Ariyananda, the Chief Executive Officer of the Lanka Rain Water Harvesting Forum, commenced the proceedings with a warm welcome to all attendees. Her presentation shed light on LRWHF's successes from the previous year, including significant milestones such as the 2nd International Conference of SARNET, Technical Training Programs for SARNET members, and productive engagements with the private sector. Dr. Ariyananda delved into the core of LRWHF's activities, elaborating on its objectives: promotion, research and development, training, networking, and the exchange of valuable information.

At the conclusion of her presentation, LRWHF members expressed their appreciation for the achievements of the LRWHF team, led by Dr. Tanuja Ariyananda. Mr. Rajith Kakillaarchchi, the finance manager of the Lanka Rain Water Harvesting Forum, presented the audited financial statements for the year ending March 31, 2023. All AGM attendees received hardcopies of the both annual reports and LRWHF Financial Statements for FY 2022/23.

INSIDE THE ISSUE

PAGE 01 ,02	26th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Lanka Rain Water Harvesting Forum (LRWHF)
PAGE 03	The SARNET YouTube channel joins to share best practices and experiences on water conservation
PAGE 04	Bringing Clean Drinking Water to Sorabora Colony and Mahiyanganaya
PAGE 05	சொரபோரா காலனி மற்றும் மஹியங்கனைக்கு சுத்தமான குடிநீரை கொண்டு வருதல்
PAGE 06	Success story - Sinhala
PAGE 07	SARNET Article
PAGE 08	Children's corner

Election of the LRWHF Board of Directors:

All LRWHF members present at the AGM unanimously agreed and appointed the following members to serve as the board of directors for the 2023/2024 period:

Board of Directors 2023/2024:

- Honorary Chairperson - Eng Deva Hapugoda
- Honorary Vice Chairperson – Prof. (Ms.) Aruni Weerasinghe
- Honorary Secretary – Mr. P. R. Attygalle
- Honorary Assistant Secretary – Mr. Rajindra de Silva Ariyabandu
- Honorary Treasurer – Dr. C. S. Weeraratna
- Honorary Assistant Treasurer – Mr. Emanuel Gunaratnam
- Honorary Non-Post Director – Mr. M. M. M. Aheeyar

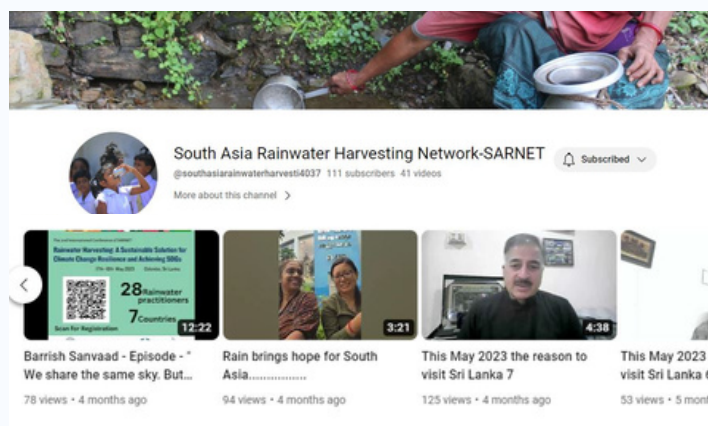
In his address to the forum members, the newly appointed Chairperson, Eng Deva Hapugoda, expressed his gratitude for their confidence in him. He pledged to continue working with the same dedication and commitment to elevate the LRWHF to new heights and continue the valuable work of the past 26 years. The AGM served as a forum for LRWHF members to identify and propose new avenues for expanding the practice of rainwater harvesting in the country. As LRWHF embarks on another year filled with dedication and innovation, extends its gratitude for the members and partners for their unwavering support. LRWHF is ready to make an even greater impact in the years that lies ahead.



The SARNET YouTube channel joins to share best practices and experiences on water conservation

SARNET YouTube channel has been operational since September 2021 with its first international virtual conference: “Looming water crisis and climate change; rainwater harvesting as an adaptation strategy”. At present SARNET YouTube channel has two ongoing program series “Rain in News” and “Baarish Sanvaad.” The SARNET YouTube channel within a short span of a year has attracted over 100 subscribers for 41 videos released on YouTube. Make sure to subscribe to be updated on new content:

<https://www.youtube.com/@southasiarainwaterharvesti4037>



Baarish Sanvaad

The term Baarish means rain in Hindi and Urdu two languages popularly spoken in South Asia and Sanvaad was coined using the Bengali word for discussion Sanlapa and the Sinhala word Sanvaada. Baarish Sanvaad is a program series featuring interviews engaging key personalities working in the water sectors shared online on the South Asia Rainwater Network (SARNET) YouTube channel. Creating awareness of water conservation and being an eye opener to the critical role of water in the development are the aims of the interviews of Baarish Sanvaad.

Meanwhile, Baarish Sanvaad has released 07 interviews on a range of topics involving development practitioners, researchers, and activists from South Asia. Rain and urban development, the importance of rainwater harvesting for providing safe WASH facilities, water, and education, rainwater harvesting to improve access to water for women, the importance of water and the environment, youth and green skills targeting the international youth day.

The first programme of Baarish Sanvaad featured Dr Suresh Kumar Rohilla the Programme Lead of IWA India on the theme that “Rainwater harvesting is a measure for mitigating the adverse environmental effects of rapid urbanization”. This followed several discussions on themes of the relevance of rainwater harvesting in water and sanitation, in providing access to water, improving access to water in schools through rainwater harvesting and empowering women. Several key water sector professionals, development practitioners, and water activists from South Asia have joined as speakers to share their knowledge and experiences in the Baarish Sanvaad program series. Mr. Zaheer Gardezi a retired senior public official engaged in social development for many years from Pakistan, Dr Sarika Kulkarni founder of Raah Foundation an entrepreneur, Pune, India, Dr. Jos Raphael, Director of Rainwater Harvesting Mission, Mazhapolima, Kerala, India, Dr Tanuja Ariyananda, CEO, Lanka Rainwater Harvesting Forum, Sri Lanka, water activist Pond man of India Mr. Ramveer Tanvar and representing the Young Rainwater Champions collective from Climate Action Network Fahad Rabid, Bangladesh and Akash Varia, Neerain, India were the speakers of Baarish Sanvaad.

Continuing off from page 7...

Bringing Clean Drinking Water to Sorabora Colony at Mahiyanganaya

Shortage of safe drinking water for many years in Sorabora colony at Mahiyanganaya. While the scarcity of clean water has affected on the community, numerous families in the village have been suffering from kidney diseases. Recognizing the pressing issue faced by Sorabora Colony, the LRWHF took the initiative to provide Rain Water Harvesting Systems (RWHS) ensuring a consistent and reliable supply of safe drinking water to the village. With financial support from USAID, this intervention became a lifeline for the residents of Sorabora Colony.

One resident, D.M. Heen Banda, had been battling Chronic Kidney Disease (CKDu) for nearly eight years. He lives with his wife and daughter, There daughter a 50 year old who had worked as a factory worker in the Katunayaka Export Zone shared her thought on the RWHS and it benefit. She recalled the situation before the RWHS installation, stating, "We relied on well water, but it was unsuitable for drinking due to its high salinity. We had no other option for obtaining clean drinking water.



K.K Dayapala' s wife with her granddaughters.



Discussion with Mr. Heen Banda's Family

Sharing her experiences with rainwater, she explained "Rainwater is the best water we've ever had in our lives, well water could not quench our thirst, but rainwater is lighter, and a small amount can satisfy our thirst." Most importantly, she noticed a remarkable improvement in her father's health, who suffered from CKDu and heart problems. She said, "Previously, my father experienced dizziness and anguish, but these symptoms disappeared after we started drinking rainwater." Furthermore, she used to suffer from urinary infections regularly, but after switching to rainwater, she had not experienced since. She emphasized, "The relief from illness is priceless to us. Rainwater is worth its weight in gold."

Moreover, the family is reserving to using rainwater for both cooking and drinking, allowing the collected rainwater in the RWHS to last a long time. As a result, they generously shared their surplus rainwater with neighboring households, ensuring access to good quality drinking water for others in their community. They had integrated rainwater into their daily lives, even carrying it with them when they leave home for town visits or hospital appointments.

Another success story came from K.K. Dayapala, a resident of Mahiyanganaya, who received a well recharge system. His family of seven, including his daughter's family, had long suffered with inadequate safe drinking water and the challenges of human-elephant conflicts. Before the installation of the well recharge system, their only source of water was well water, which had issues with high salinity and impurities. Dayapala's wife expressed the transformation brought about by the well recharge system, saying, "Two years ago, we received a well recharge system. Before that, our well water had a high salinity level, and we even noticed dust remains in our hair after bathing." LRWHF field officers recorded pH levels of 8.5, TDS levels exceeding 300mg/l, and an EC level of 800µS in the well before the system's installation. Two years later, the pH level had dropped to 7.4, the TDS level was a mere 92mg/l, and the EC level stood at 185µS. This marked improvement in water quality brought immense relief to the family.

These stories highlight the incredible impact of the LRWHF's interventions in Sorabora Colony at Mahiyanganaya. By providing clean, safe drinking water through Rain Water Harvesting Systems and well recharge systems, the LRWHF has improved the health and well-being of these communities.

சொராபோரா காலனி மற்றும் மஹியங்கனைக்கு சுத்தமான குடிநீரை கொண்டு வருதல்

பல ஆண்டுகளாக சுத்தமான குடிநீர் பற்றாக்குறை மஹியங்கனை பிரதேசத்தில் நிலவிவருகின்றது. இதனால் கிராமத்தில் உள்ள பல குடும்பங்கள் சிறுநீரக நோய்களால் பாதிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளனர். இந்த சவாலான சூழ்நிலையில் LRWHF ஒரு குறிப்பிடத்தக்க மாற்றத்தை ஏற்படுத்த முன்வந்தது.

சொராபோரா காலனி எதிர்கொள்ளும் நெருக்கடியான பிரச்சினைகளுக்கு LRWHF பாதுகாப்பான மற்றும் சுத்தமான குடிநீர் விநியோகத்தை உறுதி செய்யும் வகையில் மழை நீர் சேகரிப்பு அமைப்புகளை வழங்க USAID யின் நிதி உதவியுடன் முன்முயற்சி எடுத்து சொராபோரா காலனியில் வசிப்பவர்களுக்கு உயிரளித்தது.

D.M. ஹீன் பண்டா என்னும் குடியிருப்பாளர் கிட்டத்தட்ட எட்டு ஆண்டுகளாக CKDu உடன் போராடி வருகிறார். அவர் தனது மனைவி மற்றும் மகளுடன் வாழ்ந்து வருகிறார். அவர் LRWHF உடன் தனது அனுபவங்களை பகிர்ந்துகொண்ட வேளை, 50 வயதான இவர் கட்டுநாயக்க ஏற்றுமதி வலயத்தில் தொழிற்சாலை ஊழியராக கடமையாற்றியுள்ளார் எனவும். மழைநீர் சேகரிப்பு தாங்கியை நிறுவுவதற்கு முன்பு "நாங்கள் கிணற்று நீரை நம்பினோம், ஆனால் அதன் அதிக உப்புத்தன்மை காரணமாக அது குடிநீரிற்கு பொருத்தமற்றதாக இருந்தது இதனால் சுத்தமான குடிநீரை பெறுவதற்கு எங்களுக்கு வேறு வழியில்லை" என்றார்.



திரு.ஹீன் பண்டாவின் குடும்பத்தினருடன் கலந்துரையாடல்

மழைநீருடனான தனது அனுபவங்களைப் பகிர்ந்து கொண்ட அவர், "மழை நீர் எங்கள் வாழ்க்கையில் இதுவரை கிடைத்த சிறந்த நீர் எனவும், கிணற்று நீர் எங்கள் தாகத்தைத் தணிக்கவில்லை, ஆனால் மழை நீரின் ஒரு சிறிய அளவு எங்கள் தாகத்தைத் இலகுவாக தீர்த்தது" என்றும் கூறினார். மிக முக்கியமாக, CKDu மற்றும் இருதய நோயினால் பாதிக்கப்பட்ட தனது தந்தையின் ஆரோக்கியத்தில் குறிப்பிடத்தக்க முன்னேற்றம் இருப்பதாகவும். "முன்பு, என் தந்தை தலைச்சுற்றல் மற்றும் வலி வேதனையை அனுபவித்தார், ஆனால் நாங்கள் மழை நீரைக் குடிக்கத் தொடங்கிய பின் இந்த அறிகுறிகள் மறைந்துவிட்டன.." மேலும், தான் சிறுநீர் தொற்று நோயால் அடிக்கடி அவதிப்பட்டு வந்ததாகவும், ஆனால் மழைநீருக்கு மாறிய பிறகு, அவருக்கு எந்த பாதிப்பும் ஏற்படவில்லை எனவும், "நோயிலிருந்து நிவாரணமடைந்தது எங்களுக்கு விலைமதிப்பற்றது. மழை நீர் தங்கத்திலும் விலை உயந்தது" என வலியுறுத்தினார்.

மேலும், மழைநீரை தாங்கள் சமைப்பதற்கும் குடிப்பதற்கும் பயன்படுத்த பழகியுள்ளோம், LRWHF இன் மழை நீர் சேகரிப்பு தாங்கியின் மூலம் மழைநீரை நீண்ட நாட்கள் சேமிப்பதாகவும், இதன் விளைவாக, தமது அயல் வீடுகளுடன் தாராளமாக பகிர்ந்து கொள்வதன் மூலம் தங்கள் சமூகத்தில் உள்ள மற்றவர்களுக்கும் நல்ல தரமான குடிநீர் கிடைப்பதை உறுதி செய்கின்றனர் என தெரிவித்தார். பயணங்கள் அல்லது மருத்துவமனை சந்திப்புகளுக்காக வெளியேறும் போது கூட மழைநீரை எடுத்து செல்வதாக தெரிவித்தார்.

වැසිජලය රැස්කරමු - පණිවිඩය ගෙනයමු



යාය 10, අනුරාධපුර හරිස්වන්ද්‍ර විද්‍යාලයේදී, පාසල් සිසුන් සහ ශීෂ්‍ය සහ බසාලාස සාමාජිකයින් සමඟ පාසලේ විදුහල්පති.

රාජාංගනය යාය 10, ගැමුණුපුර ග්‍රාම නිලධාරී කොට්ඨාසය යනු ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ උතුරු මැද පළාතේ අනුරාධපුර දිස්ත්‍රික්කයේ පිහිටි දුෂ්කර කලාපයකි. පිරිසිදු පානීය ජලය ලබාගැනීම ඔවුන්ට සිහිනයක් විය. අ/හරිස්වන්ද්‍ර පාසල රාජාංගනය යාය 10 කලාපයේ ප්‍රමුඛතම පාසලක් වන අතර, ජල හිඟය හේතුවෙන් ප්‍රදේශයේ ගම්මාන සේම දැඩි දුෂ්කරතාවයකට පත්ව තිබිණි. මෙම පාසල ගුරුවරුන් 37 දෙනෙකුගෙන් සමන්විත වන අතර සිසුන් 650 ක් එහි අකුරු කරති. ජල හිඟය, අලි මිනිස් ගැටුම් මෙන්ම නියඟයෙන් සිදුවන වගා හානිවලටද ඔවුන් මුහුණ දෙති. ගැමියන් ප්‍රධාන වශයෙන් යැපෙන්නේ කෘෂිකර්මාන්තය සහ දෛනික ආදායම් මත ය. කණගාටුදායක ලෙස ගම්වල වැඩිහිටියන් මෙන්ම තරුණ පාසල් සිසුන් ද නිදන්ගත වකුගඩු රෝගයහි ගොදුරු බවට පත් වී ඇත. වැසිජලය රැස්කිරීමේ පද්ධති ලැබීමට පෙර පාසලේ ප්‍රධාන ජල සැපයුම වූයේ නල ලීදකි. RO ෆිල්ටරයක් තිබුණත් පසුව

එය ක්‍රියා විරහිත වී ඇත. ලංකා වැසිජලය රැස්කරන්නන්ගේ සංසදය (LRWHF) මෙම පාසලට 16 m³ ධාරිතාවයකින් යුත් වැසිජල රැස්කිරීමේ පද්ධති (RWHS) දෙකක් ලබා දීමට පියවර ගත්තේය. LRWHF කණ්ඩායම 2023 ජූලි මස පාසලේ ළමුන්, ගුරුවරුන් සහ දෙමාපියන් හමුවිය. විද්‍යාලයේ විදුහල්පති ජයලත් මහතා වැසිජලය රැස්කිරීමේ පද්ධති හි වැදගත්කම ඔවුන්ට පැහැදිලි කළේය. "මේ පාසලට කාලාන්තරයක් තිස්සේ අවශ්‍ය වූයේ මෙයයි, අපට නළ ලීදක් තිබුණත් බීමට සුදුසු නෑ, RO යන්ත්‍රය දැනට ක්‍රියා විරහිතයි, දරුවන් නිවෙස්වලින් ජලය රැගෙන එන අතර සනීපාරක්ෂාව සඳහා ජලය ප්‍රමාණවත් නොවීම ගැටළුවක්" ඔහු සඳහන් කළේය. වැසි ජලය එක්රැස් කිරීමේ පද්ධති ඉදිකිරීම සඳහා තම පාසල තෝරා ගැනීම සම්බන්ධයෙන් දෙමාපියන් සහ සිසුන් LRWHF වෙත කෘතඥතාව පළ කළ අතර ප්‍රදේශයේ අනෙකුත් අවශ්‍යතා ඇති පාසල් පිලිබඳ සලකා බලන ලෙස ඉල්ලා සිටියහ.

වැසි ජලය රැස්කිරීම ශ්‍රී ලංකාවට අලුත් සංකල්පයක් නොවුණත් බොහෝ දෙනා තුළ ඒ පිළිබඳව දැනුවත්භාවයක් නොමැතිවීම හේතුවෙන් වැසිජලය භාවිතයට නොගෙන අපතේ යැවීම කණගාටුවට කරුණකි. රාජාංගනය යාය 12 හරිස්වන්ද්‍ර පාසලේ මෙම වැසිජලය රැස්කිරීමේ පද්ධති ය ඉදිකිරීම සමග සිසුන් ගේ දෙමව්පියන් හා අවට ගම් වාසීන් තුළ වැසිජලය රැස්කිරීම පිළිබඳව විශාල උනන්දුවක් ඇතිවී ඇත. වැසි ජලය රැස්කිරීමේ වැදගත්කම හා තාක්ෂණය පිළිබඳව පාසලේ පැවැත්වූ දැනුවත් කිරීමේ වැඩසටහන් වලට සහභාගී වීමෙන් හා වැසිජලය රැස්කිරීමේ පද්ධතිය ඉදිකරන අවස්ථාවේ ශ්‍රම දායකත්වය දක්වමින් දෙමව්පියන් මෙම කාර්යයට සම්බන්ධ විය. වඩාත් උනන්දු වෙමින් ඔවුන් ගෘහස්ත වැසිජලය රැස්කිරීමේ පද්ධති නිවෙස් වල ඉදිකර දෙන මෙන් බොහෝ ඉල්ලීම්ද අප වෙත යොමුකර ඇත. "වැසිජලය රැස්කිරීම හොඳ වැඩපිළිවෙලක් බව අපිට දැන් හොඳින් වැටහෙනවා අපේ ගමට වැසිජලය රැස්කිරීමේ පද්ධති 10ක් වත් ඉදිකරදීමට හැකි නම් පිරිසිදු පානීය ජලය ලබාගැනීමට අපට හැකිවේවි." දෙමව්පියන් සිය අදහස් දක්වමින් පැවසීය.

ධනාත්මක වෙනස්කම් ඇති කිරීම සඳහා පාසල හොඳම ස්ථානය බව මෙය කදිම නිදසුනකි. අර්ථවත් සමාජ වෙනසකට දැනුවත් භාවය ඇතිකිරීම වැදගත්වන ආකාරය මෙමගින් අපට වඩාත් පැහැදිලි වේ. පාසල් වල වැසිජල රැස්කිරීමේ පද්ධති ඉදිකිරීම පිරිසිදු ජල විසඳුම් ලබා දෙනවා පමණක් නොව පාසල් ප්‍රජාවට හා දෙමාපියන්ට වැසිජලය රැස්කිරීම පිළිබඳ ඉගෙනීමට ස්ථානයක් ද සපයයි.

The upcoming Baarish Sanvaad episode 08

The 08th episode of Baarish Sanvaad discusses water as a public good and the information sought, imparted, and received about water to the public. Mr. Ranjith Weerasinghe is currently an advisor to the government of Sri Lanka and former CEO of the United Nations Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council in Switzerland. The International Day for Universal Access to Information the focus of the program is that the public can have access to information on water for the public to make informed choices. The informed choices include making the general public aware of the processes and cost of supplying clean water to households, conservation, being conscious and maintaining a low water footprint, and practicing rainwater harvesting.



Respect mother earth as eco systems support us from first day on earth to the last day

Rain in News

The “Rain in News” is a news program on rain and water to capture positive and negative developments reported from South Asia. So far 02 programs released on “Rain in News” featured the floods from incessant rain in Lahore, Pakistan, joined by Dr Khalid Mahmood, from the University of Punjab. The 2nd episode featured the inspired efforts of Resham Jung Singh Director of Nepal Water for Health (NEWAH) taking the recommendations being a participant of the 2nd SARNET conference to construct and promote rainwater harvesting in the NEWAH head office in Kathmandu in Nepal.

First-hand narratives of best practices on water conservation

This is a news series that will be released soon on the SARNET YouTube channel. The aim of this programme series is to feature success stories and learning experiences on effective and efficient water use, conservation of water from across the world. The first program will feature flood irrigation systems of Iran with the title “Floods a disaster or an opportunity?” presented by Dr Javad Yazdi Tabatabae a retired professor at Watershed Management Research Institute attached to the Ministry of Agriculture in Iran and Founder and member of Iran Rainwater Catchments System Association.



What is the relevance of youth and green skills for a sustainable world?
#internationalyouthday



U.S. Ambassador Julie Chung's Visit to MN/Gowry Ambal G.T.M. School

During her visit to northern Sri Lanka U.S. Ambassador H.E. Julie Chung had a wonderful time visiting the MN/Gowry Ambal G.T.M. school. She met with lots of students and their teachers. USAID Sri Lanka gave the school two rainwater harvesting tanks ensuring safe drinking water at the school.



වර්ෂා
වර්ෂා varsha வர்ஷா

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

මෙහි අදහස්, යෝජනා, නිර්මාණ සහ ලිපි මෙම ලිපිනයට එවන්න

உங்கள் ஆக்கங்களையும் ஆலோசனைகளையும் கட்டுரைகளையும் பின்வரும் முகவரிக்கு அனுப்பி வைங்கள்.

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