



International
Rainwater Harvesting
Alliance
IRHA

2021

Training Program on Construction of Sri Lankan Pumpkin Rain Water Harvesting Tank at Nepal



Lanka Rainwater Harvesting Forum

1/1/2021

Training Program on Construction of Sri Lankan Pumpkin Rain Water Harvesting Tank to Kanchana Nepal Team

Introduction:

Request was made to Lanka Rain Water Harvesting Forum (LRWHF) by International Rain Water Harvesting Alliance (IRHA) to provide a trainer to teach Kanchana Nepal on how to construct the Sri Lanka Pumpkin shaped rain water harvesting tank. After much deliberation, Mrs R.D. Malkanthi, a female mason from Moneragala district in Uva Province situated in the South East of Sri Lanka was nominated to conduct the training in Nepal. Malkanthi is LRWHF's first women mason and have extensive experience in constructing different types of rain water harvesting system over the last 3-4 year. She has also trained other masons including another woman.

Malkanthi traveled to Nepal from Colombo on Sri Lanka airways direct flight on the 2nd December 2021. She conducted a training program on construction of 8m³ pumpkin shaped Ferro cement rain water harvesting tank to masons and technical team at Kanchan Nepal from 3rd to 10th December 2021 at Begnas in Pokhara. Malkanthi returned back to Sri Lanka on the 12th December 2021 having successfully completed the training.

Constraints and Solutions:

1. Malkanthi did not possess a passport. Passport was obtained through one day express service.
2. Due to Covid 19 pandemic situation, travel restriction more precaution need to be adhered both traveling within Sri Lanka and overseas. Travel insurance was obtained for oversea travel.
3. Frame needed for construction is 10 legs of iron bars, height 70 inched and weight 3 kg each. Sri Lanka airline has restriction on package size with maximum size of 62 inches. Four legs of the frame was cut into half and packed safely to be carried.
4. Malkanthi did not speak English: Use of Google translation and whatsapp calls support from LRWHF staff.

Recommendation for future

1. Invite other organization involved in RWH in the country to participate in the training.
2. Record/ review experience and opinion of trainees after the completion with online connection for translation.
3. Arrange more publicity both in print and electronic media for such exchange visits
4. Conduct more technology transfer l training program between the regional countries.

Malkanthi's Experience in the RWHS Construction Training Program, Nepal

(Copied from a conversation with Mrs. R.D Malkanthi)

Travel from Colombo to Nepal.

This was my first time visiting a foreign country. The biggest hurdle was the language. The Kathmandu airport staff were generous in helping me out, even though my communication ability was poor. A member of Kanchan Nepal came to meet me at the airport, and they looked after me throughout my time in Nepal. There was always someone available to assist and guide me.

Accommodation and food

I stayed at a hotel with beautiful scenery that had been arranged for me. The owner of the hotel was kind enough to provide me with everything I wanted. We communicated using the Google Translator app. During my stay, they served me different Nepalese foods, which were delicious and fresh.

Training Program

On the second day, I worked on reassembling the iron frames, which were brought with me from Sri Lanka. The frames were duplicated at a local ironworks.

The construction was conducted in a mountainous area in Begnas in Pokhara City, which has limited water availability.

The technical team of Kanchan Nepal participated in the training program. The participants quickly mastered the techniques I taught them. I was impressed by their excellent ability to understand instructions and their construction skills. Even though we communicated using the Google Translator app, the training sessions were extremely effective.

Challenges

In addition to the language barrier, I and the team faced difficulties in constructing because the sunlight exposure was not good enough. It took more days to dry out the tank than we would usually spend in Sri Lanka.

Pictures from the training program



Day 1 (2/12/21) : Malkanthi arrives in Kathmandu Nepal and on her way to Pokhara



Day 2 (3/12/21) :Getting the tank frame reconstructed and duplicated.



Day 3: Discussing with Kanchana Nepal technical team on tank design



Day 5 (6/12/21)Clearing the construction site at Begnas



Digging for the foundation of the tank



Laying the base foundation of the tank at Begnas



Pipe laying of the base foundation



Day 6 (7/12/21) Fixing the frame of the tank



Laying the chicken mesh on the frame



Applying the cement mortar to the tank



Day 9 (10/12/21) Completed tank with Kanchana Nepal technical team



Appreciation from the beneficiary household



Completed tank with participants of the training program



Completed tank with household beneficiaries



Receiving token of appreciation form Kanchana Nepal



Letter of Appreciation to LRWHF from Kanchana Nepal



Day 10 (11/12/21) Gettign the PCR test at Kathmandu before departure



Day 11 (12/12/21) Back in Colombo receiving a token of appreciation from LRWHF