වර්ෂා Varsha வர்ஷா

CONSTRUCTION OF DEMONSTRATION CALABASH CISTERN AND MASON TRAINING

INSIDE THE ISSUE

As part of a broader initiative to promote sustainable access to safe drinking water, a project was undertaken to construct demonstration Calabash cistern and train local masons in the Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu districts. This project focused on the installation of four Calabash-type rainwater harvesting systems, each with a capacity of 5,000 liters (5 m^3), benefitting selected households across the two districts. A Calabash cistern is a type of above-ground rainwater harvesting tank characterized by its rounded, gourd-like shape, inspired by the calabash fruit. Calabash cistern originates in Africa and supported by Clean Water Healthy Village organization in the Netherlands. It is specifically designed to collect and store rainwater effectively while being cost-efficient and durable for rural settings.

Each of the four systems included a well-constructed tank, two 26-foot gutters to capture roof runoff, valence boards for gutter support, a first flush system to divert initial dirty rainwater, a filtration unit, a washout outlet for cleaning.....

Continued on the next page

a secure lid, and a tap with a stand for convenient water extraction. These components ensure the harvested rainwater remains clean and safe for household use, particularly important for regions prone to water scarcity or contaminated sources.

To ensure sustainability and encourage local capacity building, four masons—two from each district—were selected to undergo six days of hands-on training. This comprehensive training covered planning, construction, and the functional operation of Calabash rainwater harvesting systems. Following the training, one mason from each district successfully constructed a Calabash cistern, demonstrating their practical skills and readiness to implement the technology independently. These trained masons are expected to continue offering their services within their communities, providing both a livelihood opportunity and a means of scaling up rainwater harvesting adoption in the region.

In addition to the masons, the beneficiary households received training on system operation and maintenance, ensuring they can manage the tanks effectively over the long term. Community involvement was a key aspect of the project, with beneficiaries actively participating by contributing materials such as 25 feet of valence boards, offering 12 man-days of unskilled labor, and providing food and accommodation for the masons during the six-day construction process.

A total of 21 individuals directly benefited from this project, including 6 men (two household members and four trained masons), five women, and 10 children. The active participation and training provided not only improved immediate water security for the selected households but also laid the groundwork for broader community empowerment and sustainable technology transfer.

INSTALLATION OF RAINWATER HARVESTING SYSTEMS FOR CKDU PATIENTS IN BADULLA DISTRICT

The “Installation of Rainwater Harvesting Systems for CKDu Patients in Badulla District” is a community-focused initiative funded by Dr. Sanath Ediriweera from the United Kingdom. This project was designed to support patients affected by Chronic Kidney Disease of unknown etiology (CKDu), by providing them with access to safe and clean drinking water through rainwater harvesting systems (RWHS). The first phase of the project involved the careful selection of suitable beneficiaries from CKDu-affected areas in the Badulla District, ensuring that those most in need received priority. Following this, an awareness program was conducted to educate the selected beneficiaries on the importance of safe water, the benefits of rainwater harvesting, and the proper use of the systems. As a core activity of the project, seven Ferrocement tanks with a capacity of 8,000 liters each were successfully installed in designated households. These tanks were constructed using durable, low-cost materials suitable for long-term use in rural environments. To ensure sustainability and .....

proper use of the RWHS, comprehensive training sessions on operation and maintenance were provided to the beneficiaries. These sessions equipped them with the necessary skills to maintain the systems efficiently, ensuring continuous access to clean water. This project not only addressed the immediate need for safe water but also empowered the community with knowledge and tools for long-term water security.

D.M. Abewardana in Badulla District

H.H. Disanayake in Badulla District

NEW YECO WATER FILTERS INTRODUCED TO IMPROVE RURAL RAINWATER QUALITY

A new water purification solution, the YEco Water Filter, has been introduced to improve the quality of harvested rainwater in rural communities. This filter is being deployed at sites where rainwater harvesting systems are already in place, with the goal of addressing common water quality issues such as suspended solids and harmful microorganisms that can enter the water during collection and storage.

The YEco Water Filter is designed as a point-of-use treatment system, providing an effective last line of defense to ensure clean and safe drinking water. It significantly reduces the risk of waterborne diseases by removing physical contaminants before the water is consumed. This technology is particularly valuable in rural areas, where access to advanced water treatment infrastructure is often limited.

At the heart of the YEco filter is a microfiltration (MF) membrane with pores smaller than 0.1 microns—small enough to block most bacteria and fine particles. As water passes through the membrane, contaminants such as dirt, rust, and disease-causing bacteria like E. coli are physically removed. This filtration method relies on natural pressure and does not require electricity, making it an efficient and sustainable solution for improving rural water safety. preliminary water quality testing of the water after filtration shows complete removal of E.Coli and Coliform of the samples where they were present. YEco filter is developed by School of Environment and Energy Engineering Yonsei University, South Korea. It is tested in Badulla District.

INTEGRATED RESOURCES MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND ECOSYSTEM IN KURUNEGALA DISTRICT IN SRI LANKA

Lanka Rain Water Harvesting Forum is pleased to announce launching of it new project Integrated Resources Management of Water and Ecosystem in Kurunegala District in Sri Lanka implemented in collaboration with International Rainwater Harvesting Alliance (IRHA) and local partners.

Location : Kurunegala District
Duration 36 months (June 2025- May 2028)
Funding Agency : Federation Genevoise De Cooperation

GENERAL OBJECTIVE:
Improve the general state of ecosystems, health, living conditions and resilience of rural communities living in the dry zone against climate change in Sri Lanka

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1:
Improve community resilience against climate change, health and livelihood by restoring ecosystem functionalities, enhancing water availability, consolidating agricultural practices and strengthening collective / sustainable management of natural resources by local actors in the focus areas.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

- Design and installation of **weather stations**
- Planning and construction of **rainwater harvesting facilities (household)**
- Planning and construction of **rainwater harvesting facilities in schools and health center R3-A3 -**
- Planning and construction of **well water recharging systems**
- Planning and construction of **recharging infrastructure (ponds and contour drains)**
- Planning and construction of **sanitation facilities at household level**
- Planning and construction of **family agro-ecological production systems**
- Establishment of **plant nurseries**
- Establishment **drip irrigation systems**
- Establishment of **bee keeping systems**
- Identification of marketing opportunities and support for the **commercialization of harvests**
- Training on integrated water resource management, sustainable land management and climate change adaptation strategies to community
- Training on construction and maintenance of rainwater harvesting systems infrastructures
- Training on Water, Sanitation and best Hygiene practices (**WASH**)
- Training youth on **Agro forestry home gardening**, weather monitoring, rainwater harvesting techniques and water quality and quantity monitoring
- Knowledge and experience sharing at a regional level
- **Webinar series** on the country overview, and experience
- Conduct water quality testing of wells and selected RWHS
- Conceptualization and implementation of a mobile rainwater awareness unit

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ACTIVITY UP TO DATE

- Collaboration with NWSDB ground water unit at Wariyapola
- Discussion and consultation with District Secretary/ Provincial Education Director/ Secretary Chief Ministry of Finance and Planning, Engineering Services, Law and Peace, Education, Local Government and Provincial Administration, Economic Development, Environment, Water Supply & Drainage and Tourism, Deputy Director Provincial Health, Divisional Secretary Ehetuwewa.
- Site visit and meeting with community at Divulgane, Ehetuwewa
- Meeting with Development officer of Ehetuwewa Divisional Secretariat
- Awareness to community member of Divlgane on project activities and rainwater harvesting

ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ කුරුණෑගල දිස්ත්‍රික්කයේ ජල හා පාරිසරික පද්ධති ඒකාබද්ධ සම්පත් කළමනාකරණය

"Lanka Rainwater Harvesting Forum" ආයතනය ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ කුරුණෑගල දිස්ත්‍රික්කයේ ජල හා පාරිසරික සම්පත් එකතුවේ කළමනාකරණය පිළිබඳව නව ව්‍යාපෘතියක් ආරම්භ කිරීම සතුටින් දැනුම් දෙයි. මෙම ව්‍යාපෘතිය ජාත්‍යන්තර වැසිජල රැස්කිරීමේ සමුළුව (International Rainwater Harvesting Alliance - IRHA) සහ දේශීය හවුල්කරුවන් සමඟ එක්ව ක්‍රියාත්මක වේ.

ස්ථානය: කුරුණෑගල දිස්ත්‍රික්කය
කාලය: මාස 36 (2025 ජූනි - 2028 මැයි)
අරමුදල් සැපයීමේ ආයතනය: Federation Genevoise De Cooperation

මූලික ඉලක්කය:

ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ වියළි කලාපයේ ජීවත් වන ග්‍රාමීය ප්‍රජාවන්ගේ පාරිසරික පද්ධති, සෞඛ්‍යය, ජීවන තත්ත්වය සහ දේශගුණික වෙනස්වීම්වලට ඔරොත්තු දිය හැකි හැකියාව වර්ධනය කිරීම.

ප්‍රධාන ක්‍රියාකාරකම්:

- ගෘහස්ථ වැසිජල එකතු කිරීම සඳහා පහසුකම් සැලසුම් කිරීම සහ ඉදිකිරීම
- පාසල් සහ සෞඛ්‍ය මධ්‍යස්ථාන සඳහා වැසිජල එකතු කිරීමේ පහසුකම් සැලසුම් කිරීම සහ ඉදිකිරීම
- භූගත ජලය පුණරාරේපනය පද්ධති සැලසුම් කිරීම සහ ඉදිකිරීම
- භූගත ජලය පුණරාරේපනය සඳහා පොකුණු සහ සමෝච්ඡ කාණු සැලසුම් කිරීම සහ ඉදිකිරීම
- ගෘහස්ථ මට්ටමින් සනීපාරක්ෂා පහසුකම් සැලසුම් කිරීම සහ ඉදිකිරීම
- ගෘහස්ථ මට්ටමින් කෘෂිකාර්මික පාරිසරික නිෂ්පාදන පද්ධති සැලසුම් කිරීම සහ ඉදිකිරීම
- පැල තවාන්ක් පිහිටුවීම
- බිංදු ජල සම්පාදන පද්ධතික් පිහිටුවීම
- මී මැසි පාලන පද්ධතික් පිහිටුවීම
- වෙළඳපල අවස්ථා හඳුනා ගැනීම සහ අස්වනු වෙළඳාම සඳහා සහාය සැලසීම

මෙතෙක් සිදුකළ ක්‍රියාකාරකම්

- වරියපොල පිහිටි ජල සම්පත් සංවර්ධන මණ්ඩලයේ භූගත ජල ඒකකය සමඟ සහයෝගය
- දිස්ත්‍රික් ලේකම්, පළාත් අධ්‍යාපන අධ්‍යක්ෂ, ප්‍රධාන අමාත්‍යාංශය ලේකම්, මූල්‍ය හා සැලසුම්, ඉංජිනේරු සේවා, නීතිය හා සාමය, අධ්‍යාපන පළාත් පාලන හා පරිපාලන, ආර්ථික සංවර්ධන, පරිසර, ජල සම්පාදන සහ ජලාපවහන හා සංචාරක සේවා, පළාත් සෞඛ්‍ය නියෝජ්‍ය අධ්‍යක්ෂ, සහ ඇහැටුව ප්‍රා. ලේකම් සමඟ සාකච්ඡා කිරීම සහ උපදේශනය
- ඇහැටුව, දිවුල්ගනේ ප්‍රජාව සමඟ ස්ථාන පරීක්ෂා කිරීම සහ සාකච්ඡා කිරීම
- ඇහැටුව ප්‍රාදේශීය ලේකම් කාර්යාලයේ සංවර්ධන නිලධාරී සමඟ හමුවීම
- දිවුල්ගනේ ප්‍රජාවට ව්‍යාපෘති ක්‍රියාකාරකම් සහ වැසිජල රැස්කිරීම පිළිබඳ අවබෝධනාවය ලබාදීම

இலங்கையில் குருநாகல் மாவட்டத்தில் நீர் மற்றும் சுற்றுச்சூழல் அமைப்பின் ஒருங்கிணைந்த வள மேலாண்மை

இலங்கை மழைநீர் சேகரிப்பு மன்றம், சர்வதேச மழைநீர் சேகரிப்பு கூட்டணி (IRHA) மற்றும் உள்ளூர் அமைப்புகளுடன் இணைந்து செயல்படுத்தப்படும் ஒருங்கிணைந்த நீர் வள மேலாண்மை மற்றும் சுற்றுச்சூழல் அமைப்பின் புதிய திட்டத்தினை இலங்கையில் குருநாகல் மாவட்டத்தில் ஆரம்பிப்பதாக அறிவிப்பதில் மகிழ்ச்சி அடைகின்றோம்.

இடம்:- குருநாகல் மாவட்டம்
காலம்:- 36 மாதங்கள் (ஜூன் 2025 - மே 2028)
கூட்டணி நிதி நிறுவனம்:- ஜெனிவோயிஸ் டீ கூட்டுறவு

கூட்டமைப்பு:-
பொது நோக்கம் - இலங்கையில் காலநிலை மாற்றத்திற்கு எதிராக வறண்ட மண்டலத்தில் வாழும் கிராமப்புற சமூகங்களின் சுற்றுச்சூழல் அமைப்புகள், சுகாதாரம், வாழ்க்கை நிலைமைகள் மற்றும் மீள்தன்மை ஆகியவற்றின் பொதுவான நிலையை மேம்படுத்துதல்.

பிரதான செயற்பாடுகள்

- வானிலை நிலையங்களை வடிவமைத்தல் மற்றும் நிறுவுதல்
- மழைநீர் சேகரிப்பு வசதிகளைத் திட்டமிடுதல் மற்றும் நிர்மாணித்தல் (வீடுகளில்)
- பாடசாலைகள் மற்றும் சுகாதார மையங்களில் மழைநீர் சேகரிப்பு வசதிகளைத் திட்டமிடுதல் மற்றும் நிர்மாணித்தல் மற்றும் கிணற்று நீர் மறுசீரமைப்பு அமைப்புகளைத் திட்டுமிடுதலும் நிர்மாணித்தலும்
- மறுசீரமைப்பு உட்கட்டமைப்பு (குளங்கள் மற்றும் சமமட்ட வடிகால்கள்) திட்டமிடுதல் மற்றும் நிர்மாணித்தல்
- வீடுகளில் சுகாதார வசதிகளைத் திட்டமிடுதல் மற்றும் நிர்மாணித்தல்
- குடும்ப வேளாண் சூழலியல் உற்பத்திக்கான அமைப்புகளை திட்டமிடுதல் மற்றும் நிர்மாணித்தல்
- தாவர நாற்றுமேடைகளை நிறுவுதல்சொட்டு நீர்பாசன அமைப்புகளை நிறுவுதல்
- தேனீ வளர்ப்பு அமைப்புகளை நிறுவுதல்
- சந்தைப்படுத்தல் வாய்ப்புகளை அடையாளம் காணுதல் மற்றும் அறுவடைகளை வணிக மயமாக்குவதற்கு ஆதரவளித்தல்
- ஒருங்கிணைந்த நீர்வள மேலாண்மை மற்றும் நிலையான நில மேலாண்மை மற்றும் சமூகத்திற்கு ஏற்றவாறு காலநிலை மாற்ற தழுவல் உத்திகள் குறித்த பயிற்சிகள்
- மழைநீர் சேகரிப்பு அமைப்புகளின் உட்கட்டமைப்புகளை நிர்மாணித்தல் மற்றும் பராமரித்தல் குறித்த பயிற்சிகள்
- நீர், சுகாதாரம் மற்றும் சிறந்த சுகாதார நடைமுறைகள் (கழுவுதல்) குறித்த பயிற்சிகள்
- வனவியல் வீட்டுத்தோட்டம், வானிலை கண்காணிப்பு, மழைநீர் சேகரிப்பு நுட்பங்கள் மற்றும் நீரின் தரம் மற்றும் அளவு கண்காணிப்பு குறித்து இளைஞர்களுக்கு பயிற்சிகள் அளித்தல்
- பிராந்திய மட்டத்தில் அறிவு மற்றும் அனுபவப் பகிர்வு
- நாட்டின் கண்ணோட்டம் மற்றும் அனுபவம் குறித்த இணையவழி கருத்தரங்குகள்
- மழைநீர் சேகரிப்பு அமைப்பினரினால் தேர்ந்தெடுக்கப்பட்ட கிணறுகளில் நீரின் தர சோதனையை நடாத்துதல்
- நடமாடும் மழைநீர் விழிப்புணர்வு கருத்தாக்கமும் செயற்படுத்தலும்

மேற்கொள்ளப்பட்ட செயற்பாடுகள்

- வாரியப்பொலவில் உள்ள தேசிய நீர்வழங்கல் வடிகால் அமைப்பு சபையின் நிலத்தடி நீர் பிரிவுடனான ஒத்துழைப்பு
- மாவட்ட செயலாளர், மாகாண கல்வி இயக்குநர் மற்றும் செயலாளர் ஆகியோருடன் ஆலோசனை, கலந்துரையாடல் மற்றும் நிதி திட்டமிடல், பொறியியல் சேவைகள், சட்டம் மற்றும் அமைதி, கல்வி, உள்ளூராட்சி, மாகாண நிர்வாகம், பொருளாதார மேம்பாடு, சுற்றுச்சூழல், நீர் வழங்கல் வடிகால் அமைப்பு சபை, சுற்றுலாத்துறை முதன்மை அமைச்சகம், மாகாண சுகாதார துணை இயக்குநர் ஆகியோருடனான எஹெட்டுவேவ பிரதேச செயலகத்தில் கலந்துரையாடலும் ஆலோசனையும்.
- எஹெட்டுவெவ பிரதேச செயலகத்தின் திவுல்கனே கிராமத்தினை பார்வையிட்டு கிராமத்தினருடனான சந்திப்பு
- எஹெட்டுவெவ பிரதேச செயலகத்தின் அபிவிருத்தி உத்தியோகத்தவர்களுடனான சந்திப்பு
- திட்ட நடவடிக்கைகள் மற்றும் மழைநீர் சேகரிப்பு குறித்து திவுல்கனே சமூக உறுப்பினருக்கான விழிப்புணர்வு

FEDERATION GENEVOISE DE COOPERATION
Mettons le monde en mouvement

International Rainwater Harvesting Alliance
IRHA

Discussion with Divisional Secretary Ehetuwewa
ඇහැටුවැව ප්‍රා. ලේකම් සමඟ සාකච්ඡාවක්
எஹெட்டுவேவ பிரதேச செயலாளருடனான சந்திப்பு

Discussion with Development Officers Ehetuwewa
ඇහැටුවැව සංවර්ධන නිලධාරීන් සමඟ සාකච්ඡාව
எஹெட்டுவேவ பிரதேசத்தின் அபிவிருத்தி
உத்தியோகத்தவர்களுடனான சந்திப்பு

Site visit and discussion with Community members
ප්‍රදේශය සංචාරය සහ ප්‍රජා සාමාජිකයින් සමඟ සාකච්ඡාව
கிராமமட்ட விஜயம் மற்றும்
கிராமத்தவர்களுடனான சந்திப்பு

CHILDREN'S CORNER

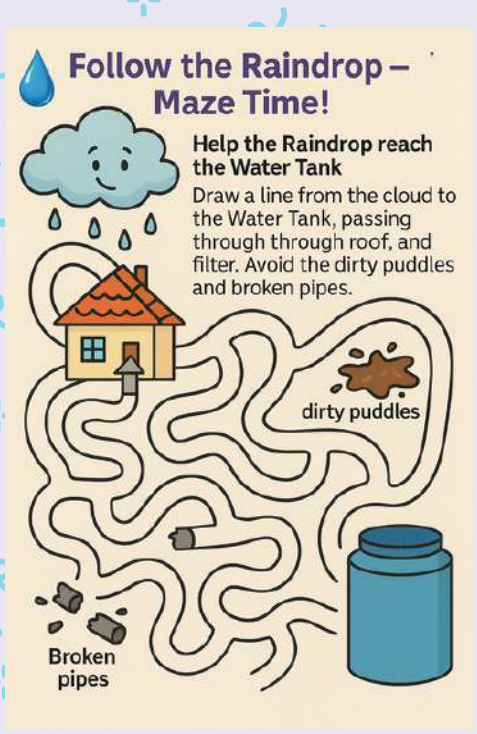
Word Search

Find the 10 hidden words related to rainwater harvesting in the puzzle below. Words can go up, down, sideways, or diagonally.

S	A	V	E	C	L	E	A	N	F
G	A	R	D	E	N	T	A	N	K
W	A	T	E	R	F	I	L	T	E
R	A	I	N	O	O	F	R	S	T
P	I	P	E	S	N	A	K	I	E
T	A	P	R	T	W	A	T	E	R
L	F	R	O	O	F	E	A	D	A

Words to Find:

- Rain
- Tank
- Filter
- Roof
- Pipes
- Water
- Clean
- Save
- Garden
- Tap



FUN WATER FACT!

DID YOU KNOW? JUST 1 INCH OF RAIN ON A 1,000 SQ. FT. ROOF CAN GIVE YOU OVER 2,000 LITERS OF WATER! THAT'S ENOUGH TO WATER A GARDEN FOR DAYS!

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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වැසිජල කේන්ද්‍රය
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පැලවත්ත, බත්තරමුල්ල,
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