Water Harvesting and Conservation

Water harvesting activities involve collecting water for use by families, farmers or animals. It can involve capturing rainwater from roofs or catching and storing water in the soil.

Harvesting and conserving water will increase the amount of water available for people, animals and farming. Some activities try to slow down the flow of rainwater and floods that can carry away soil and damage land.

It keeps water in the soil and available to plants, so can help plants survive for longer without rain. This means plants can provide more food for families. Water harvesting and conservation help people to withstand the shocks and stresses of the unpredictable rainfall and changes in climate and weather.

Get started

Water harvesting is the first step to increasing stored water. Water conservation reduces water wastage or loss. Traditional and local knowledge about water harvesting and water and soil conservation is often a good first step to gain an understanding of what has worked well in the past.

✓ Rainwater is really easy to capture with simple homemade structures like a plastic sheeting.

To get started, get advice and support from experienced people to identify and prioritise the problems related to water shortage and soil loss, and gather information about rainfall patterns and land conditions (water channels, drainage areas, flood and erosion areas, dry areas). Discuss which method is most suitable for your area such as surface water harvesting for farming, rainwater run-off capture and erosion control activities, roof rainwater harvesting, or safe water storage and community water management.

Find the full guidance in the Easy Volunteer Actions Handbook at: www.livelihoodscentre.org