



Rural installations of Rainwater harvesting



Rural background

India lives in its 600,000 villages. Almost 78% of the population is rural and agricultural related. A village will have around 900 families, no electricity, 1 main road through it. Almost 60% of the villagers do not own land. They get up every morning and hope to find a job. Most common job – breaking stones. Daily wage – Rs 50.



Typical village hut

A common village hut is about 300 sq.feet. It has 2 rooms and an outside bathing and toilet. The roof is usually a thatched roof. It is difficult to install urban RWH techniques in a village hut. In the first picture, you will see a metal gutter that collects water.



Community wells

The best and simplest method to harvest rain water in a village is to dig community wells (or restore existing wells). These wells could be spaced in the 4 corners of the village.



It is important to construct soak pits to control the flow of dirty water and prevent them from flowing close to the open wells.



Restore water bodies

Minnesota is known as the land of 10,000 lakes. The State of Tamil Nadu claimed 39,000 lakes (called 'eries'). Most of these 'eries' are now become garbage dumping places. Desilting, dredging and restoring these lakes is key to restoring the rural water supplies.



Check dams



"Check-dams" are small barriers built across the direction of water flow on shallow rivers and streams for the purpose of water harvesting. The small dams retain excess water flow during monsoon rains in a small catchment area behind the structure. Pressure created in the catchment area helps force the impounded water into the ground. Pics- Tarun Bharat Sangh (top), Sehgal Foundation in Haryana (Below)



Continuous Contour Trenching (CCT)

Construction of trenches on slope contours to detain water and sediment transported by water or gravity downslope generally constructed with light equipment. These are also known as contour terraces or contour furrowing. lined with geotextiles and filled with rock, stacked or placed to form an erosion resistant structure.



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The experience of Tarun Bharat Sangh in the past twenty years in Alwar region has been that the solution to the severe water crisis is in mobilization of rural communities to use their rich tradition of water conservation by constructing water-harvesting structures and managing their natural resources

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DHAN Foundation, Madurai, Tamil Nadu

DHAN Foundation works on water shed projects and micro-credit projects with the SHG groups. Pictured right: Vasimalai, Director.



The Rainfed agriculture plays an important role in Indian economy covering 68 per cent of the total net sown area spread over 177 districts.

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