

Paper 14

Experiences of Using and Drinking Harvested Rain Water in Vavuniya District

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BACKGROUND

I am from the village of Kudakachchakodiya in Vavuniya South Divisional Secretariat in Vavuniya District. There are hundred and seven families living in our village. We were facing difficulties in getting drinking water. Our present water sources have high concentration of ions so it is not suitable for drinking. Therefore we travel far away to get drinking water. Also at my village some people have kidney disease we think this is because of poor quality of drinking water.

Around one year ago the Lanka Rain Water Harvesting Forum funded by USAID implemented program through the Grama Niladari in our village. Initially they had an awareness program in our village about the benefit of rain water harvesting and said that they could construct rain water harvesting system in our village for some needy households.

After that around 30 of our villagers submitted application for rain water harvesting system. According to the request the Lanka Rain Water Forum (LRWHF) selected seventeen families from our village to construct RWH systems. I am also one of the beneficiaries in that project. The LRWHF considered the conditions below for the selection of beneficiaries.

- Distance to drinking water source and time spend to collect water
- Occurrence of water borne diseases
- Quality of current drinking water source
- Women headed households
- Number of Children
- People in special need

I was selected because I live with my two children and my father. Our dug well water is not suitable for drinking and go dry during the drought season. Therefore, I travel around 13 kilometers (from Kudakachchakodiya to Kepithigollawa "ULPATHUVATHURU") to get drinking water. It takes much time and I get tired with traveling. My father is seventy years old so cannot travel to get water.

RESULTS

I received a 8,000 liters Rain Water Harvesting System for which I contribute with provision of valance board, unskilled labour and food for the masons for 5 days. Initially I did not use the rain water for drinking for the feared about the water quality since it came from the roof. Then recently there was a water testing camp in our village. When they were testing water quality from different water sources, I took a bottle of water from the rain water system and gave it for testing without saying where it came from. After checking all water samples the officer who came for water testing told me that water sample I brought from the rain water system is hundred percent suitable for drinking. From that day on I use rain water for drinking and cooking purpose.

Benefits of rain water harvesting system

- Water at my premises
- Pure water for drinking
- No water disease now
- Save time, so I spend more time in home garden and family welfare
- Save money since traveling to Kebithigollewa, I had to spend money
- I use this water for cooking purpose. Tea and food taste are little different. But good taste.

RECOMMENDATION

Rain water is a pure water source. More people would benefit if they are made aware about the quality of water and the causes of poor quality of water.