



SOUTH ASIA RAINWATER NETWORK
Supporting organisations in South Asia to
achieve SDGs with rainwater harvesting

NEWS BULLETIN

An eye opener on rain from South Asia and beyond



SARNET webinars; testimonials across the globe on rainwater harvesting

Webinars 15,16,and 17 hosted some of the best practices and experiences on rainwater harvesting joined by experts from Bhutan, Mexico and India.

Impacts of climate change on water resources in Bhutan was the focus of webinar 15. Tarayana Foundation joined to share experiences on enhancing the resilience of communities to access water resources amidst climate change. Mapping water sources, constructing, digging contour trenches to collect rainwater, recharge springs engaging communities were the key aspects of the intervention of Tarayana Foundation.

Meanwhile, webinar 16 presented by Dr. Arturo Gleason President of of the Mexican Rainwater Catchment Systems Association focused on the best practices of rainwater harvesting in Mexico. S Vishwanath a civil engineer and urban planner from Biome Trust of India joined webinar 17 to present design ideas for rainwater harvesting in urban areas.

Watch the entire webinar on:
<https://www.youtube.com/@southasiarainwaterharvesti4037>

What are the 6 taps for habitation in an Indian context?

Courtesy: S.Vishwanath,Biome Trust, on Webinar 17 of SARNET

- Piped water supply from afar – that comes from a faraway reservoir, dam or a river
- Rainwater
- Surface water- lakes, ponds, wetlands, rivers
- Ground water – Springs, shallow aquifer, deep aquifer that can tapped through an open well or a bore well
- Treated used water- Water that goes to a sewage treatment plant that can be treated to requisite standards. This water can be used for industrial, agricultural and non-potable use.
- Demand management – Limiting the control of the usage from the tap, metering, pricing, water education and water literacy
- Desalination/snow, ice

Young Rainwater Champions embarks on building water literacy



Winner Mr Saidur Rahman,(left) followed by the two runners up Ms Melina Khanal and Md Artik Mollick

Lack of water literacy could hinder the effective implementation of water management practices and approaches. The Young Rainwater Champions initiated a quiz on rainwater harvesting with the aim of increasing awareness on water literacy in the digital space. The first round successfully concluded on the 12th of December 2024 the 2nd,3rd and final rounds will be held January, February and March 2025. The Quiz competition was coordinated by YRC Steering Committee Member Ms Sony Pun, from Kanchan Nepal and supported by Md Fahad Rabid a YRC Steering Committee member and researcher from Bangladesh.

Sparking an interest to practice rainwater harvesting in Bangladesh

Melina Khanal



A successful day long training session on Introduction to Rainwater Harvesting was held in Bangladesh on Saturday, October 5, 2024. The training was organized by Onushandhani Creeds Limited. O. CREEDS Ltd. was established in Bangladesh in 2015, specializes in mathematical modeling, master planning, detailed design, and in conducts consultancies in environmental and water- related projects. The resource person of the training sessions were: Ms. Melina Khanal, an International Environmental and WASH expert from Nepal, Md. Shahadat Hossain, a WASH expert, Managing Director and CEO at O. CREEDS Ltd., and Mr. Subrata Biswas Bappy, a Senior Architect. The interactive session encouraged active participation and facilitated knowledge sharing among attendees.

Key sessions included:

- Understanding the Basics of Rainwater Harvesting: This session provided a foundational understanding of the principles and benefits of rainwater harvesting.
- Exploring Various Rainwater Harvesting Systems: Participants learned about different types of rainwater harvesting systems, their suitability for various applications, and their advantages and disadvantages.
- Designing and Installing Rainwater Harvesting Systems: This session focused on the practical aspects of designing and installing rainwater harvesting systems, including site selection, system components, and installation techniques.
- Effective Operation and Maintenance of Systems: Attendees gained knowledge about the proper operation and maintenance of rainwater harvesting systems to ensure their long-term efficiency and sustainability.
- Strategic Management of Rainwater Harvesting Systems: This session addressed the strategic aspects of rainwater harvesting, including water quality management, storage, and utilization.

Training program on Rainwater Harvesting (RWH) equipped participants with essential knowledge and practical skills. This session highlighted how rainwater harvesting can be a game-changer in addressing Bangladesh's water challenges. The training emphasized the importance of sustainable water management through well-designed RWH systems and proper maintenance. O.CREEDS Ltd, as a champion for impactful solutions, is committed to fostering collaboration for practical water management strategies.

Raah Foundations mission to reverse the damage by reviving and rejuvenating the lost biodiversity with rainwater



Planting Vetiver slips(left),ponds to drink water and boulders for water retention



Abundance of Lichens



Hyena pugmark

Raah Foundation focused its work on the Western Ghats in India a critical hotspot facing tremendous challenges due to anthropogenic pressures exacerbated by the impacts of climate change leading to loss of biodiversity, wreaking havoc through habitat loss, fragmentation, and alterations to environmental conditions.

The Western Ghats of the Sahyadri mountain range is estimated to be 100 million years old and is made up of mostly basaltic rock and is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This region is home to 30% of India's biodiversity, hosts over 325 globally endangered species and serves as a catchment for several rivers flowing through India including Godavari. Water is an integral part and lifeline for biodiversity. Raah foundation capitalized on the abundant rainfall in western Ghats to make the area water, biodiversity and planet positive.

Scientifically the impact of the intervention was observed based on ecological indicators. These included the project area, species diversity, and biomass estimation. Insects, birds, amphibians and reptile species, flora, fauna, monsoon and ground winter in Dari, Anjaneri and Mungsare regions were assessed prior to the intervention. The intervention started in June 2022, and the data was recorded between June 2022 until November 2023.

The intervention included creating over 170 loose boulder structures for water retention and ground water recharging, continuous Contour Trenches (CCTs) constructed 15 Wildlife Water ponds on hills to support regional wildlife and Vetiver slips were planted. Each pond has a capacity of up to 4000 liters of water, enhancing habitat sustainability.

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Among the immediate impacts of the intervention were: creating capacity to store 1.3 billion litres of rainwater, rejuvenating barren land by planting 1.84,000 native saplings and clearing invasive species, 2100 acres of agroforestry for 2100 farmers and training over 500 women and indigenous communities from the area to serve as stewards. The presence and abundance of lichens apex predators like leopards and hyenas, within the habitat indicate favourable atmospheric conditions and suggest a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions, further confirming the efficacy of the intervention measures.

A comparative study after four to five years from the intervention will provide an accurate impact of the intervention on eco system and the people.

Courtesy: Session presented by Dr Sarika Kulkarni, Founder Raah Foundation at the COPE 16 webinar organized by IRHA, Cinara Institute and Humbolt Institute in Cali Columbia on Rainwater Management and bio Diversity

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cartoon or poem
on or before the 15th of March 2025**

to: lrwhf.regionalcoordinator@gmail.com