RAINWATER HARVESTING

Rainwater harvesting (RWH) is broadly defined as the collection and concentration of runoff for productive purposes. It includes all methods of concentrating, diverting, collecting, storing, utilizing and managing runoff for productive uses. This provides water that can be used for domestic, livestock and irrigation or commercial purposes. Rainwater harvesting technologies and systems can be classified based on runoff generation process, size of catchment and type of storage. Runoff generation criteria yields two types of systems i.e. runoff based systems (runoff concentrated from a catchment) and insitu water conservation (rainfall conserved where it falls). The runoff storage criteria yield two categories i.e. storage within the soil profile and storage structures while the size of catchment yields two categories i.e. Macro catchments and micro catchments (within field). There are many promising indigenous water harvesting techniques used by farmers.

RWH technology is low cost and simple. RWH technologies have a high potential of contributing towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) with a view of eradicating poverty and hunger, provision of safe drinking water and sanitation, ensuring environmental sustainability, promoting gender equity and women empowerment. It is one way of improving the living conditions of millions of people, particularly those living in the dry areas. Water scarcity especially for domestic and agricultural purposes compromises the role of women in food production. Hence, provision of water by promoting rainwater harvesting and management technologies reduces the burden for rural women thus increasing their productivity.