

Rainwater harvesting at urban farming site in the Pienaar village Mbombela

Small holder farmers are cultivating the piece of land and are producing vegetables and fruit to supplement their income. The project is in a development stage and the farmers are using their indigenous knowledge to collect rainwater infield using basin furrows following the natural contour and making compost from organic matter. They use water and municipal water source.

The following will be considered as the project progress

1. Restoration of building structure to use as storage and rooftop water collection point
2. A central bulk water collection point at the point of the property and use of gravity to irrigation dripper system
3. Find an inexpensive way of pumping the ground water or stred water to the collection point-consider solar energy
4. Collection of runoff water from natural water drainage on the side of the property
5. Installation of low cost drip irrigation system

Practices: Currently mainly infield rainwater harvesting practices is used such as:

1. Water collection in the rows through trench beds
2. Creating basins to collect runoff water
3. Collection of ground water from a siphon pit
4. Contours
5. Mulching
6. Compost making



Future activities:

Measure out contours and diversions furrows using A frame

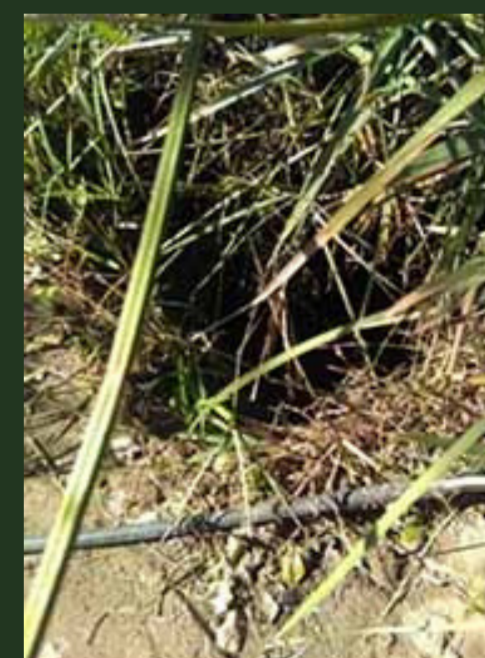


Rooftop water harvesting- repair and build roof



Collection of runoff water and siphon water in a collection pit or dam

Introduce mulching and crops



Sharing knowledge on the use and conservation of water for food production
Much more more information on this and many other rainwater harvesting practices can be found on the website:
www.amanziforfood.co.za