

A Precious Resource!

The Harvesting and Storage of Water, at Sawe Community Primary School

Key Words:

Tropical: very hot/ countries south of the Equator.

Drought: a long period with little, or no, rain.

Market garden: a plot of land used for growing crops.

Entrepreneurs: people who use business skills to make profits.

Agricultural: connected to farming and the growing of crops.

Babati, in Tanzania, has a **tropical** climate, with wet and dry seasons. The wet season occurs between November and May. March, April and May are the wettest months - the 'long rainy season', with November and December being known as the 'short rainy season.'

The dry season begins in June and continues until October. It is important to prepare for the months when rainfall is at its lowest. Sawe Community Primary School harvests and stores its own water supply for the months when **drought** can be a problem.



Water storage containers at the side of each building.



The buildings have corrugated metal roofs, to catch the rainwater.

How is the rainwater harvested?

The buildings have steeply angled roofs, made of ridged, corrugated metal. The rainwater flows down the smooth metal surfaces into gutters that collect it. It is an efficient method of collecting water and not a drop is wasted.

Connected to the gutters are downpipes, which feed into the huge plastic containers that store the rainwater.



The two containers store 20,000 litres of rainwater.

The school uses the water that is harvested for cleaning, flushing the toilets and for watering the crops, in their market garden.



LTT Facts!

Water is vital to the success of crops: the school has its own **market garden** and grows different types of vegetables, which are sold to the local community. The students at Sawe Community Primary School are learning to become **entrepreneurs**: they are using their initiative and business skills to make money for their school.

The money is used to buy resources for the school, furnishing the classrooms, with desks, chairs and cupboards, and equipment, such as textbooks and writing materials.

For this reason, the children of Babati are encouraged to develop their **agricultural** skills: this protects future sustainability, by making sure that crop production is successful and there is enough food to feed the community, as well as selling produce for profit.

LTT is also helping to educate the farmers of Babati in sustainable farming methods, through a scheme known as 'Smallholder Farmer Training' - so adults, too, are '**thriving through education!**'



Crops thriving in the school's market garden.

Activities:

Write your answers in **full sentences**, using correct punctuation.

1. What type of climate does Tanzania have?



Sawe Community Primary School, in Babati, Tanzania.

2. Look at the photograph. What is the land like?
3. Why is it important to harvest the water that falls during the wet seasons?
4. List **3 ways** in which the water is used.
5. Crops need a regular supply of water, to grow successfully. What happens if they don't get it?

Extension Activity:

6. Research: look on **Google Images**, for a **bar chart of rainfall month by month in Tanzania**.

Draw the chart, using a pencil and ruler.

Use 2 different crayons, to colour in the months of the wet and dry seasons.

Add a title and a key to your chart.