

Water School Africa website

This is not my normal file which a Small Scale Farmer can save onto their phone, but is instead a link to another website. This is the website for Water School Africa where you can find different stories about how Communities throughout Africa have found ways to Harvest their Rainwater.

This is definitely what I would call an Advanced site, as one has to be very familiar with websites to be able to follow one's way around. However, although I do believe these ideas ARE important, especially ones that will also reduce Soil Erosion, I also think that building physical structures out of soil (like tied ridges or contours) is NOT a substitute for repairing our soils, by building the Soil Organic Carbon. I have recently been doing some work on trying to understand where does the moisture (that we receive as rain) go? I was surprised at how much we lose just to evaporation off the soil surface. These soil structures described in many of these stories could actually leave more moisture out in the sun, to be evaporated and therefore lost. It would be far better if, by means of higher Soil Organic Carbon (through NO burning, MAXIMUM Manure, Compost and Mulch) we could repair our soils to the extent that water would infiltrate the soil, and thus be safe from the sun, and remaining available to our crops, through any dry spells.

However, as most of our soils are in very poor health, they cannot absorb rainfall fast enough. Therefore, as a temporary measure to hold that precious rainfall (while we repair our soils) this website with ideas for rainwater harvesting is very useful. I have not had time to look at all the case studies, and one which is of interest to me (for my conditions) might not be suitable for your farm and your conditions.

<https://www.waterschools.org/index.html>

Should you find anything that you believe would be genuinely useful in your community then please share it within your community. I would say that anything you do find, which you believe is useful then that particular idea would be Compulsory – share it and do it!