

A WORKSHOP ON INTEGRATED RAINWATER HARVESTING (IRWH) MYSORE CITY CORPORATION, MYSORE

Two days workshop on Integrated Rainwater Harvesting was conducted by Mysore City Corporation in association with CMA, Karnataka on 22nd and 23rd of February 2010. The workshop was held at the Diamond Jubilee Hall, National Institute of Engineers, Mysore. At the inaugural ceremony, many dignitaries including Mayor, Dy. Mayor, Councilors, Superintending Engineer, MCC, Senior citizens and others spoke over the occasion and had put a stress on the need of Water conservation & Rainwater Harvesting at the moment. Many of them did say that they are intending to have RWH installations at their living place and then put efforts in propagating the technology.



Actual sessions were commenced with a documentary film on Rainwater Harvesting followed by ppt. presentations and interactions with the Citizens and gatherings by RWH experts like Sri.U.N. Ravikumar & Sri. Avinash Krishnamurthy from Rainwater Club. The entire program was anchored by RA, CMAK with the help of MCC.

During Question Hour, many citizens and audience interestingly participated and discussed with the issues as follows.

1. It was requested for conducting similar programs in ward clusters so as to reach residents of all wards
2. It was requested for the rebate in the water supply bill if RWH is installed
3. It was requested for a Bill or Rule by MCC, which makes RWH compulsory for all sorts of buildings
4. It was requested for establishing a Citizens' committee for the implementation & monitoring of RWH at residential lay outs

5. It was requested for the modification of Building byelaw so as to accommodate for compulsory RWH and for not to issue building completion certificate, without RWH installations.

6. As Citizens committees are already active in Mysore, it is requested to add RWH as one of the issue to be discussed during committees convention

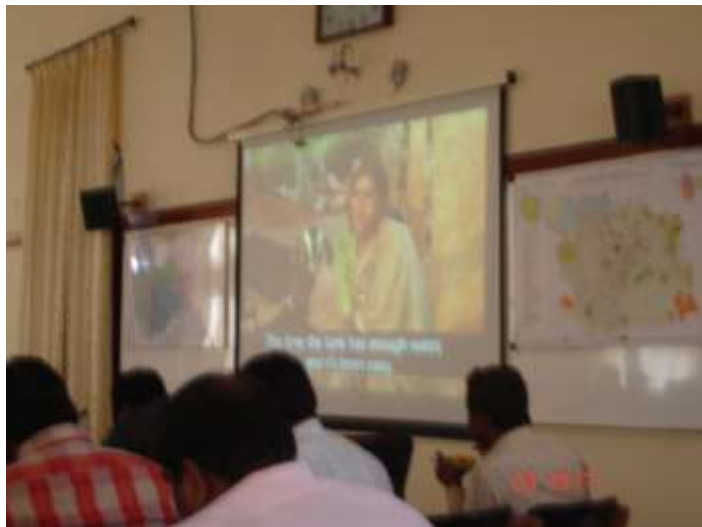


7. It was requested to conduct massive awareness programs & trainings on RWH at the moment either through Citizens Committee/ NGOs or City Corporation

8. It was equivocally suggested to have PP partnership in implementing the RWH in existing parks, gardens, open govt. lands, government buildings and palace connected buildings so as to promote and showcase the technology

9. Many citizens suggested for the revival of existing lakes namely Lingambudhi, Hebbal, Bhogadi & Kukkarahalli and store surface runoff up to the capacity for the improvement of surrounding ground water table

10. There was a strong demand for the practicing of RWH and other water conservation practices within the premises of Mysore Zoo, in which abundant catchment is available



11. There was also a voice that filter points and point recharge structures will be constructed in the vicinity of low lying areas & slopes if MCC gives NOC

12. Many participants request for the subsidy for RWH implementations, however it was rejected after thorough deliberations.

13. Many senior citizens felt that the need of RWH is imminent and shown interest to have installations with the assistance of MCC for expertise

14. Many participants strongly expressed their unhappiness about sewage joining the storm water drains and polluting all water bodies on their course and requested for taking strict measures in rectifying the anomalies



15. Even Citizens Committees were provoked to take up RWH activities independently, however the committees are looking at MCC for proper technical assistance

16. While discussing about present water supply scenario in Mysore, Citizens expressed their disenchantment on sending back the Leak Detection Devices under ADB project and requested for the installation of such devices so as to enhance the water revenue

17. The gathering was strongly opined and requested for RWH advertisements in local TV network, local news broadcastings, local news magazines, drawings & designs displayed in all public utilities & govt. buildings

18. The participants expressed their opinion to introduce RWH & Water conservation aspects in school curricula so as to encourage students potentially participate in such programs and put influence on parents for adopting the technology

19. The gathering endorsed the suggestions made by the Experts for creating of gaps at the bed of storm water drains to facilitate water percolation. Even the same concept was requested to apply while forming the footpath pavements in the city



20. The MCC and Citizens Committee in principle have agreed to utilize the services of local experts for further implementation of RWH and water conservation aspects

On 23rd of February, Technical Interactions, Training sessions and **Field visits took place exclusively for Engineers and Technical staff of MCC.** Later, the feedback of the participants was also collected in specific format for further process. The opinions, suggestions, views, ideas exchanged during 2nd day's workshop program are mentioned here under.



1. There must be a provision for incorporating (amendment) a new clause in building byelaw for compulsory adoption of RWH in all types of buildings
2. While issuing the building completion certificate to the owner, certifying authority has to concentrate and ensure the RWH implementation, otherwise penalty shall be imposed along with giving specific time duration for implementation
3. Even the UDD and DMA have to take initiative in appropriately amending the existing Act/ Rule/ Byelaw and enforcing the same for better understanding
4. Initially all government buildings require to be inter-connected for the massive collection of rainwater and compulsorily use it for all purposes except for drinking.

5. There must be some sort of incentives to the building owners, who have adopted RWH in the absence of any rule or legal bindings
6. City Corporation has to withdraw the water connection, if owner of the building is reluctant to adopt RWH. This type of action/ initiative would create a positive impact on the vicinity building owners to adopt the technology



7. It is very essential to CC to have frequent/ ward cluster level IEC programs to educate and promote the simple technology of RWH & Water conservation. Similar to that of SWM, CC should invest some amount for promoting RWH and Ground water recharge
8. Since Mysore is having number of big government buildings, MCC has to issue them a circular for the adoption of RWH techniques in such buildings failing to which, existing water connections will be withdrawn
9. Many of the technical staff have informed that they are taking instant initiative to introduce RWH technology in their own houses and buildings and then promote it by keeping such (their) buildings as model
10. It was requested to experts & resource persons including CMAK, for conducting awareness and interaction programs at regular intervals within the ward clusters
11. It was expressed that all existing parks & gardens require to be brought under water conservation & Rainwater Harvesting so that it could be showcased for effecting implementation
12. Majority of the technical staff suggested that all registered Plumbers with CC shall be trained up in Rainwater harvesting designs, so that they (plumbers) will put influence on the owners of the new buildings so as to have the rainwater harvesting system in place, and the additional expenditure for such designs can also be nullified



Recommendations made by CMAK to Mysore City Corporation

1. Rainwater Harvesting Cell (RWH Cell) should be constituted by incorporating MCC Technical experts, Local Resource persons, Plumbing agencies, Citizen Committees, Residential Welfare associations, NGOs, Sthree Shakti groups, Major educational Institutions, Hoteliers Association, Palace authorities, Major mutt & Temple committees, Mall owners etc. and it has to be convened at-least once in 4 months to understand the situation

2. We recommend CC to amend building byelaw by incorporating RWH as mandatory for all type of buildings, and Incentives & disincentives require to be introduced in the byelaw for encouraging the beneficiaries
3. Building completion certificate need to be issued only after ascertaining the RWH in place apart from other criterion
4. Like BBMP and BWSSB, RWH Rule/ policy should be framed and effected for the welfare of the administration as well as society
5. All Government buildings should adopt RWH structures first and then, sustainability require to be ensured
6. RWH techniques need to be adopted in all parks & gardens in the city limit so as to maintain the moisture and green pockets
7. All registered plumbers and plumbing agencies need to be trained up in RWH and instructed to put influence on new building owners so as to adopt the system without the additional expenditure
8. Surveillance committee need to be established for the monitoring of RWH fittings at various levels with different capacities
9. Stream lining of all open sewage system need to be thought of and collected at appropriate locations for treatment and reuse
10. Only storm water drains require to be connected to the ponds, tanks and lakes so as to maintain the serenity of the structures and also bottom of such drains should be devoid of concrete bedding and stone slabs, to facilitate maximum percolation
11. Frequent awareness campaigns, workshops, jathas etc. need to be organized in order to educate the society on importance of water conservation. School children should be the target for such programs
12. Some hoardings, display boards etc. on RWH structures, designs, drawings are worth to put up at public places, junction points, link road sections, assembly corners, convention halls and so on, to create awareness on the issue

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