

Read the newspaper article below and summarize its contents in German. When writing the German summary, pay special attention to the following points:

a) Thema des Zeitungsartikels, b) Name und Einsatzmöglichkeiten des im Artikel beschriebenen Systems, c) Hauptbestandteile des Systems, d) Vorteile des Systems, e) Grenzen bzw. Nachteile des Systems, f) Anforderungen an die Installation des Systems.

Roofwater Harvesting: A Possible Solution for Low Income Countries?

Many water professionals are worried about the increasing difficulty of finding and improving water sources. Domestic roofwater harvesting provides an innovative solution to meeting water needs and can be implemented quickly and modularly. Renewed interest in the technology is reflected in the water policies of many developing countries, where it is cited as a source of household water.

The basic system consists of a tank to capture rainwater that falls on the roof and guttering to bring it to the tank. More sophisticated systems also have some filtering.



Rainwater systems are decentralised and independent of topography and geology. They deliver water directly to the household, relieving the burden of water carrying, particularly from women and children. Implementation is similar to managing the installation of on-site sanitation and once systems are in place they are owned by the householders who can manage their own water supply.

Roofwater harvesting does have limitations. It is not suited to being used as a stand-alone water supply solution in any but the most water-stressed situations as the increase in tank capacity necessary to bridge a long dry season can be prohibitively expensive. The storage provided by a tank does, however, give households good security against short-term failure of alternative sources.

[...]

For roofwater harvesting to be viable there are a number of environmental requirements:

- Rainfall should be over 50mm/month for at least half of the year (unless other sources are extremely scarce)
- Local roofs should be made from impermeable materials such as iron sheets, tiles or asbestos
- There should be an area of at least 1m² near each house upon which a tank can be constructed
- There should be some other water source, either ground water or (for secondary uses) surface water that can be used when the stored rainwater runs out

The implementation of domestic roofwater harvesting involves training, contracting and quality controlling a number of local craftspeople to undertake many small building works. This is very different from many other water supply modes where a large centralised project is the norm. It is, however, similar to providing on-site sanitation at the individual household level.

Maintenance of roofwater harvesting systems is usually passed on to the householders who, after a period of training and supervision, usually maintain the system well, motivated by their direct ownership of the system. This is in contrast to communal water supply systems which can prove difficult to maintain when responsibility is too diffuse and personal politics interfere.

(408 words)