

**Discover Newssheet
for colleagues in Africa
January 2021**



Water conservation

Sometimes we suffer flooding, and sometimes drought.

To cope during periods of drought, we must plant drought resistant crops, but we still need some water.

Judith Bakirya of Busaino Fruits and Herbs in Jinja, Uganda, has kindly shared her technique of collecting water. She has the good fortune that her land is on a hillside.



1. She dug channels at the side of the tracks above the hole which channel rainwater into a big hole in the ground.
2. The hole has three sections. In the first section, where the water lands, there are many stones. These stones slow the flow of water down, and some of the mud and debris is deposited here.
3. The second section of the hole is deeper, and more sediment is deposited.
4. Finally the water moves into the third section, which is deeper still. As the water stands there, more sedimentation takes place and the brown water becomes clear. The second and third sections of the hole are lined with polythene to prevent water from seeping into the ground.
5. An overflow allows any excess water to leave the hole safely without causing any damage below.
6. The roof over the hole prevents evaporation. It also catches extra rainwater and is shaped so that the water is directed into the hole.

Judith says that from this reservoir in the dry season she can give the animals water and can grow vegetables which, in the dry season, fetch a good price.

Members of the Kasese Network have used bricks and cement to build water tanks to store rainwater that falls on the roofs of their houses.

Do you have other ideas?

With my best wishes

Keith Lindsey

