

Demi-lune method: Rainwater harvesting method

Catch the Rain, Grow with the Grain!

The Demi-lune (Half-moon) technology is a simple rainwater harvesting method for dry regions. Farmers dig semi-circular pits (2–3 meters wide, 15–30 cm deep) to trap rainwater and enrich the soil with compost. This boosts crop growth, restores degraded land, reduces erosion, and improves soil fertility, making drylands productive again.



INTERNATIONAL CROPS RESEARCH
INSTITUTE FOR THE SEMI-ARID TROPICS

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Commodities

Sorghum/Millet, Maize, Cowpea,
Common bean

Sustainable Development Goals



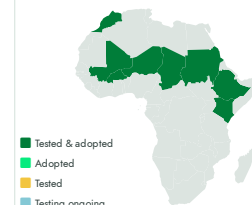
Categories

Production, Practices, Water management,
Soil fertility

Best used with

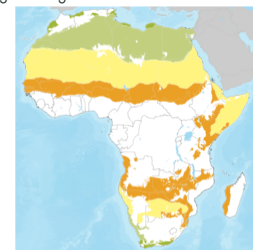
Water Harvesting and Soil Improvement,
Contour Bunds for Water Harvesting
See all 2 technologies online

Tested/adopted in



Where it can be used

This technology can be used in the colored
agro-ecological zones.



✓ This technology is **TAAT1 validated**.

9-9



Scaling readiness: idea maturity
9/9; level of use 9/9

Inclusion assessment

4

Climate impact

7

Problem

- Scarce and erratic rainfall limits crop growth and productivity.
- Severe soil degradation and erosion reduce land fertility.
- Low crop yields threaten food security and economic stability.
- Lack of irrigation infrastructure leaves farmers reliant on unpredictable rainfall.
- Nutrient-poor soils hinder healthy plant development.

Solution

- Captures rainwater to boost water availability during dry spells.
- Prevents soil erosion and restores soil fertility.
- Increases crop yields and farming resilience.
- Low-cost, accessible alternative to irrigation.
- Enhances soil nutrients with organic matter.
- Restores vegetation and supports biodiversity.
- Strengthens food security and farmer livelihoods.
- Promotes sustainable, eco-friendly farming.

Key points to design your project

The **Half-Moon Implementation Framework** offers a structured approach to scale the use of half-moon pits for land restoration and climate-resilient agriculture. It focuses on integrating financial, technical, and capacity-building strategies to ensure sustainable, community-driven interventions in dryland areas.

Key Steps:

1. **Define Objectives:** Align with national priorities such as land restoration and climate adaptation.
2. **Develop Financial Plan:** Mobilize resources and promote farmer-driven scaling.
3. **Assess Capacity:** Provide necessary training for efficient implementation.
4. **Conduct Needs Assessment:** Tailor solutions to local conditions.
5. **Implement Monitoring:** Track progress on yields, soil health, and water retention.
6. **Evaluate and Refine:** Regularly assess impacts and adjust based on feedback.

This framework helps promote sustainable, scalable solutions to improve soil fertility, food security, and climate resilience in vulnerable regions.



Open source / open access



Demi-lune method

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