

WATER IS SCARCE AND PRECIOUS

If too much water is pumped from the ground to feed the crops, and then the rains fail, the water stored in the ground will be used up and there may not be enough water for everybody to use. If people living up-river use more water for their crops, people living down the river may suffer shortages. You can read more about how people are working together to manage water in the **Water chapter**.

This is a farm in Zimbabwe. The farmer is famous for finding ways to catch and keep the rainwater, so he can use it to nourish his flourishing crops. Behind his farm is a hill. He built rocky contour ridges to stop the water rolling away with the soil, with a reservoir at the bottom of the hill to collect the water and send it to an underground storage tank. In his cropland, he digs infiltration pits to catch the rain and let it slowly seep away into the soil. This helps fill the wells and ponds lower down the hill so he can pipe water to his crops in the dry season. Even the rain falling on his roof is harvested.



ACTION SHEETS - 42: Saving Soil and Water on Sloping Land, 43: Drip Irrigation, 44: Buried Clay Pot Irrigation, 45: Rainwater Harvesting for Crops



Watch the film on Harvesting water on the Farm

