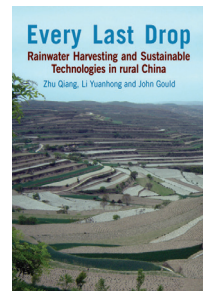


# Review

*Every Last Drop: Rainwater Harvesting and Sustainable Technologies in Rural China*  
Zhu Qiang, Li Yuanhong and John Gould  
2012, 176 pages  
ISBN 978-1-85339-738-7 paperback  
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In the western part of China, there is always a water shortage if not a water crisis. Campaigns to solve this problem have been conducted during recent decades. This book, *Every Last Drop: Rainwater Harvesting and Sustainable Technologies in Rural China*, provides an overview of such programmes and practice-oriented technical solutions for practitioners interested in rainwater harvesting. It presents some special methods for rainwater harvesting and utilization developed in Gansu province, which are demonstrated to improve crop production and provide households with a reliable domestic water supply.

In Part One, dedicated to rainwater harvesting and domestic rural water supply, different kinds of water cellar drawings for appropriate construction are included alongside a step-by-step guide to help users follow up rainwater-harvesting system design procedures. As stored/harvested rainwater should be appropriately treated before being used as drinking water, simple low-cost solar cookers are introduced for the boiling of rainwater.

Part Two, dedicated to rainwater harvesting and sustainable agriculture, describes the construction of low-cost greenhouses using UV-resistant plastic sheeting for the collection of rainwater and its use in efficient drip irrigation systems.

Part Three focuses on rainwater harvesting and environmental management. Small watershed management methods are presented, and some practical measures such as terrace construction, tree and grass planting are described.

Although the book is a valuable source of information about rainwater harvesting, and as such opens up a relevant additional source of rural drinking water, it needs to be emphasized that safe drinking water supply needs to be independent from rainwater harvesting, and – in worst cases – should be provided (or at least basically secured) by systems such as water supply kiosk public taps. Using only household-based filtration or disinfection may lead to high cost, and it further generates risks of irregular water quality.

In a nutshell, this book presents different practical methods integrated into different housing and agricultural systems, which can provide a model to be replicated in other regions.

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