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Tankaa

Rationale

In drylands, inhabitants often rely on rainwater runoff for drinking water, agriculture, and livestock water needs. Agricultural practices are typically rainfed, while rainwater is harvested and stored in ponds for human and livestock use. However, there is an understanding to separate storage for human and livestock uses. The traditional rainwater harvesting technique, *Taanka*, is used for drinking water purposes for humans. It is a covered, underground, impermeable tank built in low-lying areas to collect rainwater. Constructed with brick masonry plastered with cement or lime mortar, its catchment area is artificially prepared to ensure erosion-free runoff. *Taankas* are built near settlements to reduce the distance people need to walk to fetch water. They are commonly used in the Thar desert, which spans Pakistan and India.



Rainwater harvesting
taankas

