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ARTICLE

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SAFE DRINKING WATER FOR RURAL SCHOOLS IN WESTERN MAHARASHTRA

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Access to safe drinking water remains a persistent challenge in many rural schools of India, particularly in drought-prone regions such as those of western Maharashtra. This article presents a simple, low maintenance, sustainable and replicable solution for ensuring availability of safe drinking water in rural schools. This is done through the integration of Rainwater Harvesting (RWH) with Solar Water Purification (SWP) and is termed as Drinking Water Technology (DWT). Thus, DWT combines rooftop rainwater collection, simple filtration, and solar purification. Following a successful one-year pilot study conducted at the Nimbkar Agricultural Research Institute (NARI), the technology was implemented in two rural schools of Phaltan Taluka situated in Nandal and Adarki villages. Details have been given of the system design and microbiological quality of drinking water. DWT offers a practical and scalable model for delivering safe water to similar schools across the region and it is hoped that this article may induce people to set up this technology all over India.

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