

Animal-Built Embankment (ABE)

The main principle of building an ABE is that it may be made using resources available to local farmers. ABE uses farm animals, specifically carabaos and cows, instead of tractors in its construction.



The tools needed to construct an animal-built embankment are generally available in any local farmers' arsenal. ABE makes use of wooden animal-drawn scrapers (ADS) instead of other mechanical tools.



ADS is made with wooden planks.



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RESEARCH
PROGRAM ON
Forests, Trees and
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**How to Build a
Rainwater Harvesting Pond
Using an
Animal-Built
Embankment**



What is an Embankment?

Embankments are mounds of soil, mud, and stone with a basin-like structure that are usually used in building pans, ponds and dams. These embankments allow collection and storage of water.

Rainwater Harvesting Ponds

Ponds like these are used to gather and store rainwater for livestock. These ponds are helpful in conserving water and cutting cost on water supply in a farm. Rainwater harvesting ponds in the Philippines are usually built with animal-built embankments (ABE).



How do you build a Rainwater Harvesting Pond?



Step 1: Measure the desired area of the pond, and mark the parameters. Measuring tools are not required to do this; a stick or tree branch will do.



Step 2: Plough the land using any available conventional mouldboard plough.



Step 3: Scrape and mount the ploughed soil using the wooden animal-drawn scraper (ADS).



Step 4: Have the working animals, cows and/or carabaos, tramp over the bottom and the sides of the pond to compress the soil.



Step 5: Create an inflow canal from the roadside or any other catchment area to direct the water flow to the pond.