

Seminar on Building common water assets in villages through MGNREGA – and water swaraj communities

**25th October, 2021
DHAN Foundation, Madurai**



Madurai Symposium 2021
Advancing Development: Community Swaraj

October 25-29, 2021

About DHAN Vayalagam (Tank) Foundation

DHAN Vayalagam (Tank) Foundation (DVTF) is a not-for-profit, professional and secular development organization working on water, agriculture and ecosystem regeneration. DVTF was promoted by DHAN Foundation for scaling-up community-led and invested water conservation and development across the nation. DVTF was founded on the Gandhian day of 2nd October 2006. As on March 2021, DVTF has facilitated promotion of 6273 association and reached 3.9 lakhs households. The community institutions have renovated over 3500 traditional water bodies (Tanks, Ponds, Ahar & Pyne and other Water harvesting Structures) and DVTF has a rich experience of implementing and guiding the implementation of watershed projects in India. At present DVTF is working in 7 States with the support of Government, National and International Corporate Philanthropies and other funding agencies.

Purpose of the Workshop

The GoI India has budgeted about Rs. 73000 core for generating employment under MGNREGs for the financial year 2021 - 22. There are 260 potential lists of works that can be implemented at the Panchayat level. About 1.3 billion person days of employment generated until July 2021, which is an important source of income for the poor households in India. It is one of the biggest programme in the world and flagship scheme GoI. About 25 lakhs assets were created in various parts of the Nation. The Act also mandates expenditure of 60% for creation of assets directly related to agriculture and allied activities through development of land, water and trees. In the current FY 2021-22, so far, 73% of the expenditure is incurred on agriculture and allied works (Source MoRD).

MGNREGA is bottom-up, people centered, demand-driven, self-selecting and rights-based programme. The nature of work can be decided in the Gram Sabha along with the involvement of the local communities and ratified by the Panchayat. Effective planning with the involvement of the community has a positive impact on farming livelihoods. MGNREGA is a boon for the farmers in drought prone areas. DHAN and the people institutions work along with mainstream to channelize resources for the works identified by the community. This has a dual impact of employment generation and water conservation of livelihood. This workshop is organized to pool and share the experience in leveraging resources under MGNREGs and scaling-up the collaboration along with effective community-planning in various parts of the nation.

Objectives

1. Sharing the experience of mainstream collaboration
2. Exploring and identifying the areas of collaboration
3. Promoting community-participation for planning MGNREGs

Expected Outcome

- ◆ Shared knowledge on best practices and impact.
- ◆ Scaling-up the collaboration in different States of India.
- ◆ Developing policy leads and practice changes for promoting community participated planning.

Participants

About 50 – 60 participants including farmer, elected representatives (Panchayat), development practitioners, academicians, government officials and other interested individuals will participate in this workshop.

Mode, Date of the Workshop:

The event is scheduled on 25th October 2021. The event will be organised on a digital mode considering the epidemiological situation. Very few participants will be invited to DHAN Central Office to share their experience.

Registration and contact

Kindly confirm your participation by sending your brief profile, papers for presentation and power point presentation (optional) to the email: dhantank@ghan.org. You can also contact:

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Programme Schedule

25th Oct 2021 Monday, 12 noon to 5:15 pm

- 12.00 – Registration
- 12:30 – Prayer
- 12.40 – Welcome Address
- 12.45 – Inaugural Address
- 01.00 – Lead Paper Presentation
- 01:30 – Lunch break
- 02.30 – Paper Presentation / Experience Sharing
- 03.15 – Chief Guest Address
- 03:30 – Subgroup Discussion on lead paper findings
- 04:30 – Plenary Sharing
- 05.00 – Action Plan / Resolution
- 05.15 – Vote of Thanks



About Madurai Symposium

Madurai Symposium is a “Unique” Knowledge Mart inviting Development Stakeholders and those interested in Development. The events are scheduled from October 25 to 29, 2021. This is the Tenth Biennial Madurai Symposium, where many stakeholders with diversity in development: Community Organisations, Civil societies / NGOs, Government, Banks, Insurance Companies, CSR Foundations, Donors, Philanthropists and Academia gather to share and learn from each other's experience and practices to serve the underprivileged community. The previous edition of 2019 saw participation of 10,000 stakeholders and deliberated on the approaches and mechanisms for building “Women Empowerment”.

The Madurai Symposium 2021 has a special significance as this year marks a century of Mahatma Gandhi's historic identification of with poor by renouncing the formal attire for the simple Dhoti (White Loin Cloth) leaving the torso bare. This year, also marks the DHAN's Silver Jubilee of its development journey. The communities are at the heart of development, their distinct identity is the process of development and with their active participation and ownership would lead to not only sustaining development, but also communities taking charge of the development. Hence, the 2021 Symposium is organized on the title “Advancing Development: Community Swaraj, which is the vision of Mahatma Gandhi and Vino Bhave.

