

Convention on Restoring Sub-Basin Watersheds and Ecosystem through Community Governance

26th October, 2021
DHAN Foundation, Madurai



Madurai Symposium 2021
Advancing Development: Community Swaraj

October 25-29, 2021

Introduction

Water is a precious element in the universe for human, animals and other species survival, and also for Irrigation, Industrial uses, recreational, environmental activities. In the Arid and Semi-arid regions, the effective management of available water resources in the sub-basin has increased in importance due to limited water availability.

Watersheds face a range of degradation challenges associated with human activities, such as pollution, deforestation and changes in sediment generation. The way they are managed has a profound cascading effect on natural resources and communities in the wider basin. Although watersheds play a critical role as the basic hydrological unit within a river basin they are often neglected in river basin management. Over the past decade, principles and practices have evolved to ensure that integrated water resources management (IWRM) approaches used at the broader basin level to address sustainable development and management of land and water resources also apply at the smaller watershed level.

National Water Policy envisages that water resources planning, development and management will have to be planned for a hydrological unit such as drainage basin as a whole or for a sub-basin multi-sectorally, taking into account surface and ground water for sustainable use incorporating quantity and quality aspects as well as environmental considerations.

DHAN Foundation's River Basin Based Water Development through Community Governance

DHAN Foundation's water thematic collective DHAN Vayalagam (Tank) Foundation (DVTF) was initiated as a pilot focusing on community-owned tank rehabilitation project by collaborating with the mainstream institution at Madurai way back in 1992. This pilot project of “Tank Rehabilitation” to enhance livelihoods of poor and marginal farmers evolved into “Vayalagam Tank fed Agriculture Programme” during

1998. The DVTF has promoted the nested people institution model with primary institution for each water body and then cascade association at cascade and then federations at block or district level. Then all the federations in the sub-basin and basin level are pooled together and promoted the sub-basin and basin associations.

The DVTF implement water resources development with the perspectives of connecting individuals to Basin by preparing comprehensive work plans at each location in 17 more river basins. These basin level scalable programmes are getting support from CSR partners. The DVTF has demonstrated scalable CSR supported projects at Pambar basin with Axis Bank Foundation for around ten years, Gundar Basin programme with HUF support and Ganges Basin with ITC and few others in other Basins. In addition to water resources, DVTF includes few more water plus products to sustain the Vayalagam Nested People institutions with various development products.

The DVTF believes that the community governed water resource development based on the river basin approach is very much essential at macro and micro scales of watershed and tank levels for addressing the risks and vulnerabilities to create a resilient community for sustained use of water resources.

Convention on restoring Sub-Basin Watersheds and Ecosystem through Community Governance

Watershed management is a commonly known approach that has been practiced for many years by wide range of organizations. There are many successful models available on restoring sub-basin watersheds and ecosystem through community governance: The Lessons can be learned from those experiences for future actions. The linkages between watershed and the basin levels are still a challenge as is the engagement between watershed communities and higher planning levels at national scale. Exchange of knowledge and

experience that share a river basin can help to develop common policy frameworks. Hence, the DHAN Foundation organize a convention on restoring sub-basin watersheds and ecosystem through community governance on 26.10.2021 with the participation of various stakeholders under symposium 2021.

Objectives of the Convention

1. Exchanging the knowledge and experiences on restoring sub-basin watersheds and ecosystem through community governance
2. Bringing together all the stakeholders to develop common policy frameworks to restore the sub-basin watersheds and ecosystem through community governance
3. Implementing the development works in an integrated manner in the basin with the coordination of the line department.

Mode, Date of the Workshop:

The event is scheduled on 26th 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@dhan.org. You can also contact:

Mr. J. Mohan

Regional Coordinator (Mobile: 9943295985)

Mr. U. Vellaiappan

Regional Coordinator (Mobile: 9942651730)



DHAN Vayalagam (Tank) Foundation

No. 1A, Vaidyanathapuram East, Kennet Cross Road,
Madurai 625 016, Tamilnadu, INDIA.
Ph: +91-452-2302580. Email: dhantank@dhan.org
Web: www.dhan.org

Programme Schedule

26th Oct 2021 Tuesday, 9:30 am to 5 pm

- 09.30 am : **Registration**
- 10.00 am : **Welcome address: Mr.Poosari**,
President, Natham Vattara Vayalagam
- 10.15 am : **Brief about Purpose of the Convention**
Mr.N.Venkatesan, CEO, DVTF
- 10.30 am : **Lead paper presentation**
Mr.J.Mohan, Programme Leader, DHAN
Foundation.
- 10.45 am : **Chief Guest Address**
Dr.K.Palanisami, Ph.D (Agr. Eco), Post
Doc. Fellow, & Trustee of DVTF
- 11.15 am : **Special Guest Address**
Dr. S.Janakarajan, President, SaciWATERS,
Hyderabad.
- 11.45 am : **Community Swaraj – DHAN Foundation’s
Initiatives**
Mr.U.Vellaiappan, Team Leader, DHAN
Foundation, Gundar Region
Mr.Shankaraiah, DHAN Foundation, Kolar
Mr.Nishith, DHAN Foundation (Munger)
Mr.Eshwar, DHAN Foundation (Hydrabad)
- 1.30 pm : **Lunch Break**
- 2.30 pm : **Experience sharing by the Participants** on
community Governance at Tank, Cascade,
Watershed, Block and Sub- Basin level.
- 04.30 pm : **Declarations of the Convention**
Mr.A.Veluchamy, President, Vayalagam Mutual
Movement.
- 05.00 pm : **Vote of Thanks**
Mr.U.Vellaiappan, Team Leader, DHAN
Foundation, Gundar Region.

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.

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.