

Madurai Symposium 2025

Advancing Development: Enabling Development Partnership

Seminar on Collaborative endeavours in demonstration and dissemination of agriculture technologies with Vayalagam community: Proven propositions

20th September, 2025

DHAN People Academy, Madurai



Organised by



Supported by



DHAN Vayalagam (Tank) Foundation





About Madurai Symposium 2025

Madurai Symposium is a “Unique” Knowledge Mart inviting Development Stakeholders and aspirants to showcase and appreciate the success stories in development arena. DHAN Foundation has hosted 11 Symposiums in Madurai so far involving many stakeholders with diversity in development: Community Organizations, Civil societies / NGOs, Government, Banks, Insurance Companies, CSR Foundations, Donors, Philanthropists and Academia. The deliberations have envisaged sharing knowledge & experience, shaping future actions, contributing to policy and practice change and developing mechanisms to work collectively.

The “Twelfth Edition” of Madurai Symposium is being organized at Madurai from September 17-21, 2025. Every Symposium is hosted on advancing a specific development theme and this symposium theme is “Enabling Development Partnership”. To celebrate and honour the development contributions and partnerships through DHAN Foundation and its collective by the Government, Corporates, Banks and financial Institutions, Academia and Research, Networks, Individuals and communities, the forthcoming Symposium is an ideal place for co-creating Knowledge from the experiences of our valued partnership. The Symposium

would encompass more than 50 simultaneous events viz. People Conventions, Seminar, Workshop, Round Table, Development Exhibition etc.

About the Seminar

The core focus of the seminar is to build knowledge around partnership journeys held with agriculture (extension) platforms including KVK, departments, etc especially the success stories. Your valuable insights and leads will be helpful for the prospective partners to evolve new line of extension strategies in their development journey with grassroots.

Strengthening agriculture requires not only technology but also collective action to ensure its reach and relevance. Through collaborative endeavours, farmers' institutions such as Vayalagams act as platforms for sharing and adopting proven agricultural technologies, while lead farmers become the forerunners of innovation within their communities. Partnerships with research institutions, government agencies, and development organisations enhance the credibility and accessibility of these technologies, ensuring that they are tailored to local contexts. Such development partnerships bridge the gap between knowledge generation and grassroots application, creating pathways for scaling up sustainable practices, improving productivity, and securing



livelihoods. By combining farmers' experiential wisdom with institutional support, collaboration becomes the key driver for resilient and inclusive agricultural transformation.

The event is primarily focused on knowledge building and dissemination led by our lead farmers. Over the years, we have built strong partnerships with the Agriculture Department, KVKs, and research institutions, enabling us to introduce and spread agricultural technologies effectively through our programmes. Village Agriculture Development Centres have been promoted at each location and cascade, fostering strong rapport between members and institutions. Basin-level lead farmers have demonstrated key practices in both catchment and command areas, including farm pond creation, application of tank silt, crop diversification, and SRI methods. These initiatives have been showcased at basin and sub-basin levels, becoming models of agricultural innovation. Lead farmers, promoted at Vayalagam and cascade levels, not only excel at the local level but also scale up these practices across entire villages through institutional support. Going forward, we aim to further strengthen our collaboration with lead farmers and members to scale up agricultural technologies, ensuring broader adoption and generating significant economic and livelihood impacts through our interventions.

Objectives of the Event

- Disseminate new knowledge, skills, and improved methods to farmers, particularly the poor and illiterate, enabling them to enhance their farming practices.

- Introduce technologies and practices that increase crop yields, optimize resource use, and improve farming efficiency.
- Improve farmers' livelihoods by enhancing incomes and creating additional on-farm employment opportunities.
- Promote sustainable farming practices and climate-smart agricultural technologies that conserve natural resources and build resilience to climate change.

Expected Outcome

- Consolidation of experiences and practices in adopting agricultural technologies by Vayalagam members through the tank-fed agriculture programme.
- Showcasing of lead farmers for effective dissemination of agricultural technologies within the Vayalagam programme.
- Assessment of the economic, social and Environment impact generated through technology transfer among small and marginal Vayalagam farmers
- Exploring opportunities for scaling up by strengthening institutional linkages and developing more lead farmers to disseminate agricultural technologies within Vayalagam communities.

Participants

The seminar invites partners from various institutions including development practitioners, government, academia, CSR units, Research institutions, department, etc. The lead

farmers from Vayalagam nested institutions in basins will be participating.

Venue and Date of the seminar

The event is scheduled on 20th September 2025 and organized at DHAN People Academy, Madurai.

Program Schedule

10.00 am	Reflections and Lighting of Lamps	
10.10	Welcome Address and an overview about the Seminar – Mr. J.Mohan , <i>Chief Operating Officer, DV(T)F, Madurai</i>	1.30
10.20	Inaugural Address – Mr. U.Vellaiyappan , <i>Regional Coordinator, Pambar Region</i>	2.30
10.40	Lead Paper – Mrs. B.Saral Nauroji , <i>Regional Coordinator, Vaippar Region</i>	4.30
	Keynote address – Dr. K.Palanisami , <i>Trustee, DHAN Vayalagam (Tank) Foundation</i>	4.45
	Special address - Dr. K. Yella Reddy , <i>Vice President, Hon., ICID</i>	5.00
11.25	Reflections from the Research and Department	
	• Participatory Technology Transfer - Dr. J.Vasanthakumar , <i>Former Dean, Faculty of Agriculture & Former Registrar, Annamalai University</i>	
		Lunch
		Sub Group Discussion
		Resolution and way forward for Seminar
		Valedictory Address – Mr. Kannan , <i>Federation Coordinator, Gundar Lower Region</i>
		Vote of Thanks – Mrs. Angeleswari , <i>Federation Coordinator, Kalayarkovil</i>

The event is scheduled on 20th September 2025 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Most of the participants will be invited to the **DHAN People Academy, Madurai**. For exceptional cases, the Virtual mode is facilitated based on the request.

Coordinators:

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